

Film Scene

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- The Prodigy (Orion) — Taylor Schilling, Brittany Allen. Directed by Nicholas McCarthy.
- Under the Eiffel Tower (Orchard) — Matt Walsh. Directed by Archie Borders.
- What Men Want (Paramount) — Taraji P. Henson. Directed by Adam Shankman.

Feb. 15:

- Alita: Battle Angel (20th Century-Fox) — Live-Action & CG Animation. Rosa Salazar, Jennifer Connelly, Mahershala Ali. Directed by Robert Rodriguez.
- Birds of Passage (Orchard) — Carmina Martínez, José Acosta, Natalia Reyes. Directed by Cristina Gallego and Ciro Guerra.
- Fighting with My Family (MGM) — Florence

Pugh, Dwayne Johnson, Lena Headey. Directed by Stephen Merchant.

- Happy Death Day 2U (Universal) — Jessica Rothe, Israel Broussard, Ruby Modine. Directed by Christopher Landon.
- Isn't it Romantic (Warner Bros.) — Rebel Williams. Directed by Todd Strauss-Schulson.
- This One's for the Ladies (Neon) — Michele Moore. Directed by Gene Graham.

Feb. 22:

- How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World (Universal) — CGI Animation. Voices of Gerard Butler, Cate Blanchett, Jonah Hill. Directed by Dean DeBlois.
- The Rhythm Section (Paramount) — Blake Lively, Jude Law, Sterling K. Brown. Directed by Reed Morano.
- Run the Race (Roadside) — Mykelti Williamson, Frances Fisher, Kristoffer Polaha.

Directed by Chris Dowling.

- The Turning (Universal) — Mackenzie Davis, Finn Wolfhard, Brooklynn Prince. Directed by Floria Sigismondi.

DVD/Blu-ray Releases

Feb. 5:

- The Girl in the Spider's Web. R
- A Private War. R
- The Sisters Brothers. R
- Dr. Seuss' The Grinch. PG

Feb. 12:

- Bohemian Rhapsody. PG-13
- The Front Runner. R

Feb. 19:

- A Star Is Born. R
- Overlord. R
- Robin Hood. PG-13

Feb. 26:

- The Possession of Hannah Grace. R

HISTORY LESSONS

Harvey Girls of El Paso — The Harvey Girls of El Paso Texas meet at 2 p.m. Monday, **Feb. 11**, at Union Depot Passenger Station, 700 San Francisco. Program is "History of Railroad Police Protecting Passengers and Freight" presented by Woody Bare. Visitors welcome. Admission is free. Information: 591-2326.

Southwest Chapter of Railway & Locomotive Historical Society — The society meets at 6 p.m. Wednesday, **Feb. 13**, at El Sarape Restaurant, 5103 Montana. Program is "History of Relocated 1880s Express Car." Visitors welcome. Information: 591-2326.

El Paso Corral of the Westerners — The monthly dinner program is 6 p.m. Friday, **Feb. 15**, at Holiday Inn El Paso-West 900 Sunland Park Drive at I-10. Program is "Smelertown Archaeology and History" by Mark Howe. Cost: \$20. Visitors welcome, but RSVP needed by Feb. 11: 759-9538.

Lost El Paso Paranormal Tours — The group specializes in original historical El Paso ghost tours. Tours listed are hosted by "Weird Texas" author Heather Shade or other costumed guides. Information: 503-8960, lostelpasoparanormal@gmail.com, lostelpaso.com or on Facebook. Tickets at squareup.com.

A Haunted Hearts Downtown Ghost Walk is Saturday, **Feb. 16**, starting at 311 E. Franklin.

Fort Bayard Tours — Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society host walking tours of the historic fort beginning at each Saturday at Fort Bayard National Historic Landmark, six miles east of Silver City, N.M. off U.S. 180. Tour begins at Commanding Officer's Quarter and museum (House 26). Museum hours are 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Saturday. Tour takes about 90 minutes; call for time. Admission is free, but donations appreciated. Information, group tours: (575) 956-3294 or (575) 574-8779.

Fort Bayard served as an army post from 1866 to 1899 and army tuberculosis hospital from 1899 to 1920.



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Disney's 'Newsies' based on real story

When people hear Disney musical, they think of classics like "Beauty and the Beast" or perhaps "Lion King."

A more contemporary show like "Newsies" doesn't seem like typical Disney fodder, but the award-winning show has one similarity — it's based on a 1992 Disney movie of the same name. But unlike other more fairy-tale or cartoon Disney movies, "Newsies" is based on a true story.

It creates memorable characters around the 1899 New York City newsboys (and girls) strike. And although it did not win the top prize as best musical, it did win 2012 Tony's for Best Original Score (by Disney regulars Alan Menken and Jack Feldman) and Best Choreography.

As soon as it was released, UTEP Dinner Theatre grabbed the rights, and its debut in El Paso fell into the capable hands of director Jaime Barba, who has been involved in the El Paso theater scene for almost 30 years working as a performer or designer in basically every theater in town.

"I wasn't really familiar with the show until last summer when we were choosing a season," said Barba, now Costume Designer for UDT and a lecturer for UTEP Department of Theatre Arts and Dance. "I knew it was a Disney show. I knew some of the songs, but that was about it. I found out the rights were just released, and I saw a clip of the Broadway show, and it piqued my interest. I felt that the UDT should be the first to mount 'Newsies' locally. Plus, I thought the design elements of the show would be something challenging (in a good way) for our staff."

The central character of the tale is charismatic newsboy Jack Kelly, who leads a band of teenaged "newsies."

"When the titans of New York City publishing, led by Joseph Pulitzer, raise distribution prices at the newsboy's expense, Jack, with the help of new friend, Davey, rally newsies from every borough of New York City to strike for better pay," Barba said. "In the end, Pulitzer caves in and offers the newsies a better deal."

The cast is a mix of familiar faces and newer performers.

Derrick Cintron (Paul in last season's "A Chorus Line") plays Jack Kelly. Jorge Blakely (Mike in last season's "A Chorus Line"; Billy Crocker in "Anything Goes"; Charlie Brown in "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown") plays Davey. Alyssa Donnelly (Maggie in last season's "A Chorus Line") plays



Katherine Pulitzer. Greg Thompson (Captain Brackett in last season's "South Pacific") plays Joseph Pulitzer. Jensen Springer (Connie in last season's "A Chorus Line") plays Les. John Levick (Schroeder in "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown"; Cliff Bradshaw in "Cabaret") plays Crutchie. And of course, Tanisha Lewis (narrator in last season's "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat") is playing Medda Larkin.

Even with the stellar cast, Barba said the biggest challenge of putting together the show was finding enough men for the male-heavy cast.

"Luckily, after some research, I learned that there were newsies who were girls. So, I was able to fill the holes in the cast with talented ladies who will be playing some of the newsie roles.

"The second challenge was getting large moving sets and that fantastic choreography on our 'intimate' stage. I think Mike Spence and the set construction crew did an excellent job getting everything we needed onto our little stage. The choreographers Josey Pickett and Betsey Tinajero also did great work in creating choreography that fits onto our stage. The dance numbers are fantastic."

Barba said he believes the audiences will be entertained.

"The performances are great. The sets, costumes, sound, music, choreography and lighting are great," he said. "Many times, I think our regulars are unsure about a newer musical. You know, something that is not a 'West Side Story' or 'Cabaret.' Although, 'Newsies' is a fairly new musical, it has all of the elements of a classic musical, but it has an edge to it. I feel our regular audiences, although not familiar with the title 'Newsies,' are going to love it."

Carol Viescas is a veteran of community theater and teaches journalism at Bel Air High School.

UTEP Dinner Theatre presents "Disney's Newsies" through Feb. 10 (check for extended dates). Information: 747-6060 or utep.edu/udt.