



FILM REVIEW

J.P. Mestanza
editor2@classactmedia.co.th



TRANSFORMERS: AGE OF EXTINCTION

“For as much of a spectacle *Transformers: Age of Extinction* is, no film with that much action and explosions should be just under three hours.

What do you think director Michael Bay thinks when he gets a whopping US\$250 million budget to make a new film? From the looks of his latest movie, *Transformers: Age of Extinction*, Bay is trying to see what he can get away with.

It's not that this is a terrible film, but when people start walking out of the cinema for "bathroom breaks" and don't come back then your blockbuster is just way too long.

The film starts out in prehistoric times, when ancient *Transformers* detonated something called the "seed" which killed all life on earth. Then we're back in present-day rural Texas, where Cade Yeager (Mark Wahlberg) and his friend Lucas Flannery (TJ Miller) buy an old semi-truck they hope to sell for parts to help Cade's daughter pay for college.

Little do they know that the semi-truck is a beaten down Transformer that is being hunted by the US government. A corporation led by Joshue Joyce (Stanely Tucci), figured out how to create Transformers of their own in an effort to "protect themselves" after the "Battle of Chicago" in the previous film caused so much destruction.

Using a newly-discovered metal, ("transformium", the lifeblood of the Transformers), KSI scientists created Galvatron – a Transformer created from data inside Megatron's severed head. At the same time, an elite CIA unit called "Cemetery Wind" is formed



by agent Harold Attinger (Kelsey Grammer), which hunts down Transformers with the aid of Lockdown, a Transformer bounty hunter.

Yes, the plot is convoluted and hard to follow within the film's narrative. The only thing audience's need to know is that, while it is difficult

to keep up with, the film is not as metallicly-bland as you may think.

Without a doubt, audiences will find themselves laughing at the unique situation in which Wahlberg's character finds himself: meeting his daughter's boyfriend for the first time. A nice touch.

Shane Dyson (Jack Reynor) is introduced during a chase scene early in the film and shows off his skills as an Irish rally-racer. This is the only thing that comes close to resembling normal day-to-day human interaction. Throughout the movie, this tension between father and boyfriend is heightened to humorous levels and helps bring the film to a relatable place.

This film needed that because, well, there are tons of metallic aliens fighting.

For as much of a spectacle *Transformers: Age of Extinction* is, no film with that much action and explosions should be just under three hours. Bay's notorious over-produced, ultra-polished look is not enough to keep anyone entertained for more than that (save for *Armageddon*). It's a shame, since this installment of the *Transformers* film franchise had the potential to become a bit more fleshed-out. *Transformers: Age of Extinction* could have been told in a smaller dose.

Starring:
Mark Wahlberg,
Stanley Tucci,
Kelsey Grammer,
Nicola Peltz, and
Li Bingbing

Director:
Michael Bay

Running Time:
165 minutes



IN BRIEF

Brisbane Film Fest gets makeover

The Brisbane International Film Festival has teamed up with the Asia Pacific Screen Awards to create the new Brisbane Asia Pacific Film Festival.

Running from November 29 to December 14, the new festival will include screening of 60 films from the APSAs, which will hold their ceremony in Brisbane on December 11.

Bringing these events together will make the films of Asia Pacific region more accessible for locals and visitors," said APSA executive chairman, Michael Hawkins.



World Cup frenzy sparks potential remake

With World Cup action becoming more tense by the day, Warner Bros. have begun discussions with director Doug Liman (*Edge of Tomorrow; Go*) to remake the 1981 film *Escape To Victory*.

The film is about a group of allied POWs who plan their escape during a football match against their German captors and stars Sylvester Stallone, Pelé, Bobby Moore, and Michael Caine.

According to reports, Gavin O'Connor (*Warrior; Mr & Mrs Smith*) is working on a script for the potential film.



Ridley Scott to direct The Martian

Matt Damon is set to star in Ridley Scott's next directorial project, a film adaptation of Andy Weir's ebook *The Martian*, set for a 2016 release date.

The film will tell the story of an astronaut who was caught in a major dust storm after landing on the red planet. His crew sets off back to earth, thinking he is dead.

Director Drew Goddard (*World War Z; Cloverfield*) was previously attached to the project but had to step away due to scheduling conflicts.

US BOX OFFICE TOP 10

	Film	Weekend	Gross
1	<i>Transformers: Age of Extinction</i>	\$100M	\$100M
2	<i>22 Jump Street</i>	\$15.4M	\$139.8M
3	<i>How to Train Your Dragon 2</i>	\$13.1M	\$121.8M
4	<i>Think Like a Man Too</i>	\$10.4M	\$48.2M
5	<i>Maleficent</i>	\$8.2M	\$201.9M
6	<i>Jersey Boys</i>	\$7.6M	\$27.3M
7	<i>Edge of Tomorrow</i>	\$5.2M	\$84.2M
8	<i>The Fault in Our Stars</i>	\$4.8M	\$109.5M
9	<i>X-Men: Days of Future Past</i>	\$3.3M	\$223.4M
10	<i>Chef</i>	\$1.7M	\$19.4M

SFX Coliseum Phuket (Central Festival)

How To Train Your Dragon 2 (3D/E)	10:50
Maleficent (3D/T)	12:50, 17:10
Maleficent (E)	15:00
Transformers: Age of Extinction (3D/T)	11:50, 15:05, 18:20, 21:35
Transformers: Age of Extinction (E)	11:15, 12:20, 14:30, 15:35, 17:45, 18:50, 21:00, 22:05
Transformers: Age of Extinction (F)	12:00, 15:15, 18:30, 21:45
Transformers: Age of Extinction (T)	10:50, 12:50, 14:05, 16:05, 17:20, 19:20, 20:35, 22:35

SFC Jungceylon Phuket (Patong)

Edge of Tomorrow (E)	14:30, 19:20, 21:50
How To Train Your Dragon 2 (3D/E)	12:00, 21:20
Maleficent (3D/E)	14:20, 19:10, 21:20
Maleficent (E)	12:20, 17:00
Transformers: Age of Extinction (E)	11:30, 12:30, 14:45, 15:45, 18:00, 19:00, 21:15, 22:15

As some movies and movie times change every Thursday morning, after *The Phuket News* has gone to press, the accuracy of the following information cannot be guaranteed. For up-to-date information, visit sfcinematicity.com, or call the cinemas directly: SFX Coliseum Phuket 076-209-000 and SFC Jungceylon Phuket 076-600-555.