

Date delivers familiar premise

FILM
Due Date
GENRE: Comedy
STARRING: Robert Downey Jr., Zach Galifianakis
DIRECTOR: Todd Phillips
RATING: R
RELEASE DATE: Nov. 5
OUR TAKE: <<<<<<

By Andrew Ho
Contributing Writer

Tell me if you've heard this story before: A high-strung, caustic fellow has to get home in time for a critical event in his life but is forced to pair up with a good-natured but clueless weirdo in order to do so.

This is pretty much the plot of *Due Date*, the latest film from director Todd Phillips of *The Hangover* and *Old School*, where an unlikely pair of travelers ends up trekking across the country while enduring a series of mishaps and disasters.

The movie starts out with a morning monologue by Peter Highman, played by the perpetually scruffy and sarcastic Robert Downey Jr., who is an architect traveling away from Atlanta.

He is set to return to his home in Los Angeles so he can witness the birth of his first child. Though his life is on the cusp of something new, things take a decidedly bizarre and difficult turn for him once he hits the airport and runs into fellow traveler Ethan Tremblay.

Wannabe thespian Ethan is played by the especially fuzzy (figuratively and literally) and round Zach Galifianakis. A senseless turn of events puts both men

on the no-fly list and leaves Peter without any money or ID. This then sets into motion a greater chain of events when he reluctantly decides to go cross-country with Ethan and his bat-eared French bulldog Sunny.

For those of you who missed out on the opening humor, the basic plot has quite a resemblance to director John Hughes's *Planes, Trains and Automobiles* from 1987.

The only difference is that it has been updated to the modern day and feels very much like *The Hangover* going on tour. Much of the story and comedy focuses on the tension that inevitably arises between the two very different men, leading to moments that are anywhere from incredibly hilarious to particularly awkward. The disasters that occur are often a result of their separate flaws.

While there are a good number of laughs to be had throughout the movie, it feels like they are sometimes spaced far apart from one another or fail to elicit much amusement.

A certain level of zaniness is expected from this movie given the director, but some of the scenarios that occur feel forced and unnatural like some especially unreasonable airport security measures that hopefully do not exist in real life.

To their credit, Downey Jr. and Galifianakis play into their roles and are funny to watch together, with the former sometimes exploding out of his usual cool and sarcastic self into expletive-ridden rants and threats, and Galifianakis fitting the oblivious loser quite well.

There are also cameos from Jamie Foxx, Danny McBride and the rapper RZA, though they are small parts. If they had been bigger parts in the movie, like Mike Tyson in *The Hangover*, the movie



Image courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures

might have been able to get even more laughs.

Even though *Due Date* has a fitting soundtrack and numerous beautiful, sweeping shots of the American landscape that all fit in with the road trip plot device, it is a pity that more time is not spent exploring these places or getting the character relationships better developed.

It is certainly worth noting that for Atlanta natives that watch this film, familiar sights such as the Hartsfield-Jackson Airport, the skyline of Atlanta and a nondescript Waffle House make an appearance.

The laughs are plenty, though uneven, and the main characters manage to keep the audience's attention the whole time. However, the lack of character development and the familiar premise of the film's plot detract from the experience.

Due Date would most certainly be worth watching with some friends for a source of amusement, but do not expect anything thrilling or especially noteworthy.

Enchanted *Fable* innovates franchise

GAMES
Fable III
CONSOLE: Xbox 360
GENRE: Action RPG
DEVELOPER: Lionhead Studios
RATING: M
RELEASED: Oct. 26
OUR TAKE: <<<<<<

By Andrew Akker
Contributing Writer

The *Fable* series has enchanted players since the first game appeared on the Xbox and PC back in 2004.

Over the course of the past six years, Lionhead Studios has continued to bring us quality titles in the *Fable* franchise and *Fable III* is no different. The newest game in the series takes an already good game and puts a few twists on it to surprise and wow players.

The story of *Fable III* is slightly similar to the first two games but with a few twists added in. You

play as either the prince or princess of the kingdom of Albion where the story takes place. The player happens to be the child of the protagonist from *Fable II*.

The previous hero has left the kingdom to your older brother, Logan. After seeing the terrible things Logan does to the people of Albion, you set out with your servant Walter, your butler Jasper and your trusty canine companion to start a revolution.

The combat system of *Fable III* is very similar to that of *Fable II*. The player wields both a melee weapon and a ranged weapon in combat.

However, there are differences to how the ability system in the game works.

In *Fable II* players got certain orbs that corresponded to strength, will and skill. In *Fable III*, all of the orbs have been combined into one type that corresponds to acquiring "Guild Seals."

Guild Seals can be spent on the "Road to Rule," which is a place in another dimension that con-

See *Fable*, page 16



Image courtesy of Lionhead Studios

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Festival presents subpar art pieces

EVENTS

Chastain Park Arts Festival

PERFORMER: Local Artists

LOCATION: Chastain Park

DATE: Nov. 6 - 7

OUR TAKE: <<<<<<

By Hank Whitson
Contributing Writer

The Chastain Park Arts Festival was starting to wind down when I arrived just after 4 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 6. The few signs posted didn't provide any detailed directions or directional arrows. Better signage would have been nice, but I arrived in a reasonably good mood, ready for art.

And what art there was. All of the tents were still open for business and the little sprawl of culture covered every physical medium you could imagine. There were ceramics, metal sculpture, jewelry, embroidery, knitted goods, woodcrafts, glass work, pottery and every variation of painting and photography known to man. One booth was selling music CDs, but everything else was physical media.

The quality of the art varied wildly. There were a couple pieces that I would have liked to own myself, finances permitting, while others looked like grade-school art projects gone horribly wrong.

Most of the offerings fell into a void of mediocrity, however. The pieces were pleasant to look at while passing by, but not striking enough to claim a permanent space in your head or on the wall of your living room. Other pieces were great fun at the festival, but hard to imagine bringing home, like the industrial metal sculpture.



Photo by Hank Whitson / Student Publications

tures.

While browsing the tents, I kept an eye out for potential Christmas gifts, though it quickly became apparent that the wares were not priced with student budgets in mind.

You could find a few trinkets and a couple prints were under \$20, but most of them were the sort of items that would fetch confused expressions followed by forced smiles after the wrapping paper came off. Food and drinks were slightly more reasonable, but by no means cheap.

You could not ask for a more appropriate fall backdrop for a festival than Chastain Memorial Parkway. A brown sea of fallen leaves surrounded the tree-lined path, with chill air that was still fresh with the moisture of yesterday's rain.

But beyond taking in the environment and gazing at the tents, there was very little to do. The festival lacked the volume and

energy of the larger Inman Park Festival.

Maybe I arrived too late in the day, but as far as I could tell, the live acoustic entertainment consisted of one artist playing a wooden panpipe flute with CD accompaniment.

There was face painting, sling-shot swings, inflatable castles for the kids but decidedly less entertainment options for adults. It was a soothing experience, even if it approached the border of boredom at times.

As I paced the sprawl and took notes, I struck up a conversation with a few of the artists. It was interesting to learn how pieces were created or what they were inspired by.

This is really the heart of what a small arts festival has to offer: an opportunity to engage artists as much as their art. Keep an eye out for the Chastain Park Art Festival when it comes around again next year.

Fable from page 15

tains upgrades for melee damage and magic as well as expansions to your interaction skills with people.

The most interesting change in *Fable III* is that the Sanctuary is the game's pause screen. When the player presses the start button, he or she is instantly taken to the Sanctuary.

Inside the Sanctuary, players can do all sorts of things. He or she can customize what clothing the character should wear, what weapons and magic to wield, view pacts made for alliances and find companions online for co-op play.

The Sanctuary also contains a map of Albion in the middle of the main room so that the player may find quests around the kingdom or set targets to certain quests. The map also lets players fast-travel to any city that the player has explored.

Game options such as sound settings can be changed here as

well. To prevent this being game-play feature from being abused, items cannot be used to heal and healing items cannot be purchased in the Sanctuary.

Another interesting change is that during the game, the player has almost no heads-up display (HUD).

There's no health bar for the player to see. There are only visual indicators for low health.

The screen will eventually start to become darker with red around the edges. Health potions and food pop up to use on the bottom left corner when the player is low on health.

Fable III is a brilliant addition to the Fable franchise. Its unique style of non-player character interactions makes it one of the most interesting games to play if you like a game that is open and adventurous. New players as well as those who are familiar with the previous two games will be thrilled with it and all it has to offer.

Conan from page 13

pened since leaving NBC. While O'Brien was unemployed, he spent most of his time tweeting and portraying, but in the video, he is doing various other jobs with his late night talk show host skill set. This opening is really the only reference to his wildly publicized departure from NBC, which he retells as not bitter, hostile or dramatic at all.

The format of the show should not seem unfamiliar. There is an opening monologue followed by celebrity and musical guests. Andy Richter followed O'Brien to the new *Conan*. However, the band on *Conan* is now helmed by Jimmy Vivino.

With all these familiar faces, O'Brien almost seems not to have missed a beat and he is still as hilarious as ever. It almost seems like his old show is back. The set

may have changed, the channel may be different, and the time is not quite the same, but O'Brien is no different. Everything anyone loves about O'Brien has stayed. O'Brien is witty and fast, always interacting with Andy, the audience, himself and the camera. He keeps the audience engrossed because he never stagnates; there is always something interesting happening.

Everyone who knows and loves O'Brien will like his new show. He has a few jabs about being stuck on basic cable and having poor job security, but he is always in good humor.

His frenetic personality and snappy wit are as charming as ever, especially to the just-off-mainstream Adult Swim crowd that populates most college campuses. O'Brien definitely has a showman's personality, which is easy and entertaining to watch.



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By Robert Zimmerman
United Features Syndicate

ACROSS

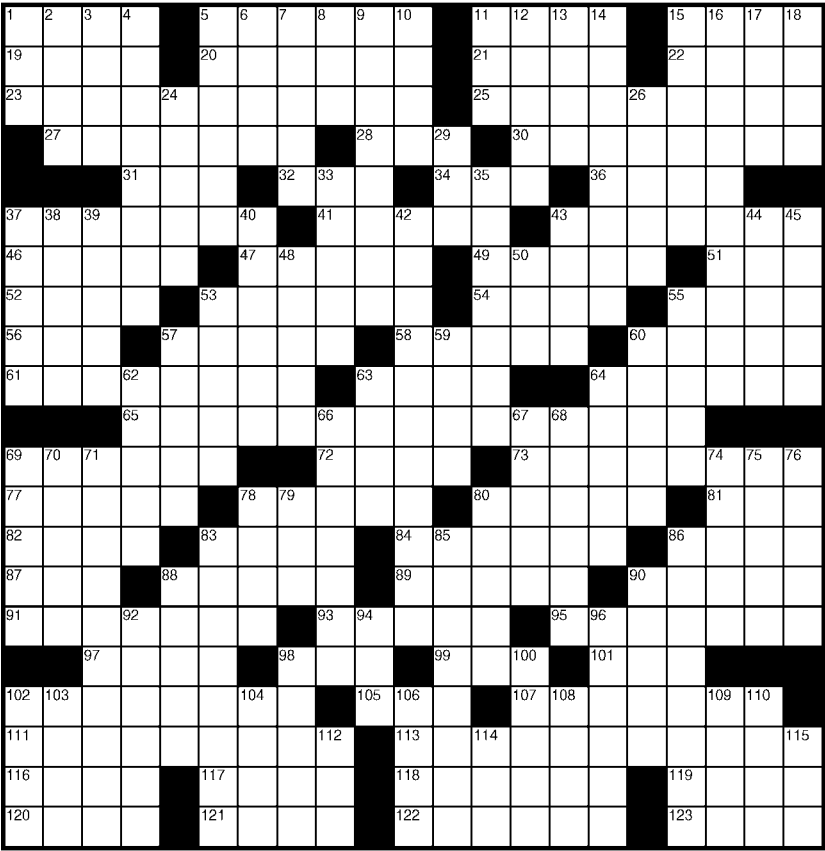
- 1. Like a sleepyhead
- 5. Trifolium
- 11. Shank part
- 15. The Buckeye State
- 19. Huffy
- 20. Entertain
- 21. Jelling agent
- 22. Part of YMCA
- 23. Perfunctory
- 25. Gain courage: 2 wds.
- 27. Prepared statement
- 28. Browbeat
- 30. Line of descent
- 31. Hgt.
- 32. Positioned
- 34. Senesce
- 36. Part of QED
- 37. The Olympians
- 41. Actress -- Swinton
- 43. Grapple
- 46. Take by conquest
- 47. Red River city
- 49. Sober
- 51. Lesser actor

DOWN

- 1. Kind of blond
- 2. Wild animal
- 3. Perry's creator
- 4. Empties of air
- 5. Devise
- 6. Grasslands
- 7. Brutish ones
- 8. Tank
- 9. Campaigner's concern
- 10. Change the decor
- 11. Tabby
- 12. Wide open
- 13. Tarn

- 52. Cargo carriers
- 53. City in Lombardia
- 54. Grape-press residue
- 55. Container
- 56. Cover with buttercream
- 57. Favorite things
- 58. Approaches
- 60. Asserted, in a way
- 61. Colander
- 63. Advanced degrees
- 64. Jewish month
- 65. Elvis' first No. 1 hit: 2 wds.
- 69. Within reach: 2 wds.
- 72. Actor -- Neeson
- 73. Rigorous appraisal: 2 wds.
- 77. Cloth workers
- 78. Gladden
- 80. Getz and Musial
- 81. "-- kingdom come ..."
- 82. Toward the mouth
- 83. Garden tools
- 84. Most tractable
- 86. Man
- 87. Block

- 88. Conditions
- 89. Lyric poem by Horace
- 90. White-wine variety
- 91. Old East German money
- 93. Duck
- 95. Hankered
- 97. Koran chapter
- 98. Blvds.
- 99. Kinswoman: abbr.
- 101. Marquee sign
- 102. Southeastern Indian
- 105. Doily
- 107. Look with suspicion
- 111. Callous
- 113. Bravery award: 2 wds.
- 116. -- Minor
- 117. First Olympics site
- 118. Classroom need
- 119. Singing group
- 120. "--'s Anatomy"
- 121. Dec. 31 word
- 122. Starts again
- 123. Lather



- 66. Like one beatified
- 67. Loathed
- 68. Irish playwright
- 69. Stew in the Philippines
- 70. TV's Banks and others
- 71. Wild pansy
- 74. "-- Frome"
- 75. Tonsorial event
- 76. Classified
- 78. Plug
- 79. Do a sewing job
- 80. Marshmallow treat for campers
- 83. Greek hero: var.
- 85. Opening
- 86. Crowns
- 88. Kind of magical card
- 90. Vaughan or Bernhardt
- 92. "Groundhog Day" star
- 94. Belief
- 96. Osar
- 98. Copal or elemi, e.g.
- 100. Backslide
- 102. Engine sound
- 103. Mister, in Munich
- 104. Like a moray
- 106. Mimic
- 108. Did in
- 109. Wagon
- 110. Cleveland's waters
- 112. Dir. letters
- 114. Tried for office
- 115. Pull

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION FROM PAGE 17

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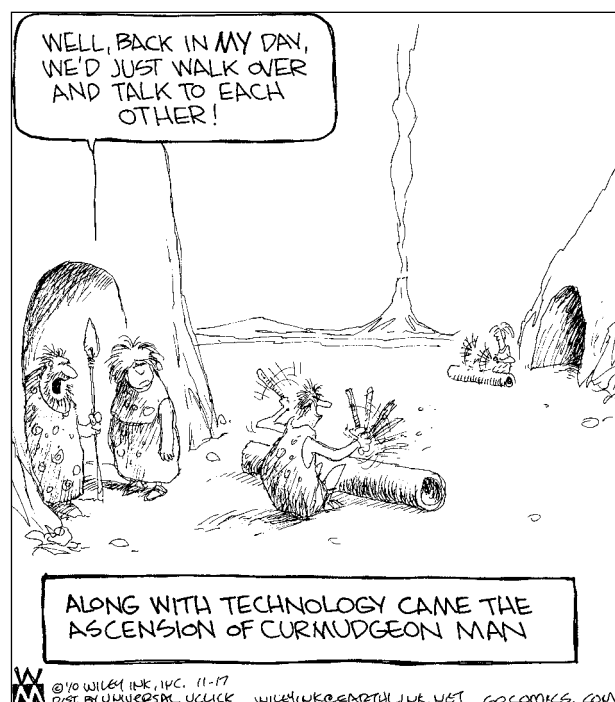
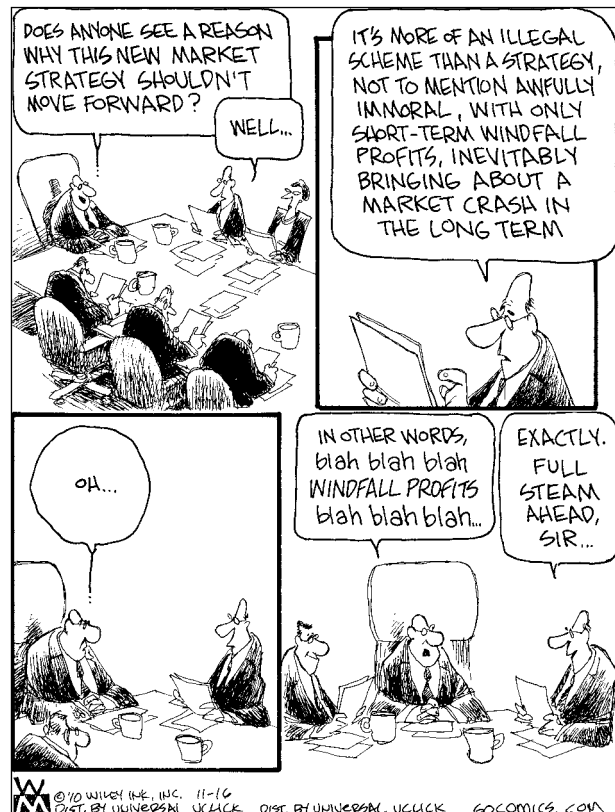
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