



IRON MAN 2

*Sequel thrills
comic film fans
with action,
humor*

By Chris Ernst
Staff Writer

Iron Man 2, the sequel to the 2008 blockbuster, *Iron Man*, had the seventh-highest opening day ever and with good reason. Among so many movies based on comic books, the *Iron Man* franchise is a breath of fresh air. It combines action, comedy and charisma in a way that pleases fans and raises the bar for other summer blockbusters.

Iron Man 2 starts almost immediately after Tony Stark announced he was in fact Iron Man at the end of *Iron Man*. There is nothing in the sequel that cannot be inferred, so watching the original recently or even at all is not all together necessary. Throughout the film, Tony Stark and Pepper Potts try to handle the situation and the company now that the cat is out of the bag. The two constantly butt heads and war with words to get the other to see just how ridiculous they are being.

The cast is really quite fantastic. Robert Downey Jr. brings so much to Tony Stark, making him someone the audience can actually sympathize with. Gwyneth Paltrow also breathes life into the typical "over-stressed assistant," as Pepper Potts. She is the voice of reason, saying the things the audience wants to scream at Stark. Sam Rockwell as Justin Hammer is so easy to dislike and feel sorry for at the same time. It is a pleasure to hate him. Watch out for his dance moves and spray-tan-hands, both of which are sources of several laughs.

The cast is really alive and is one of the main reasons *Iron Man 2* is so enjoyable. No actor gives the impression of just doing it for the money (but if they are, then they are great actors) but rather for the greater good of the story. Each actor fits into the plot perfectly, neither feeling like the sole focus of the movie nor ignored.

What is definitely not ignored is the action; there is plenty of action and excitement and all of it is presented well. There is never confusion over what the audience is watching.

Thinking back to *The Bourne Supremacy*, which also had a lot of action (but made it very difficult to focus and understand what was going on) or *Transformers II*, which presented many vague, shiny figures, *Iron Man 2* has clear, easily understood and exciting action. It is very pure and matter-of-fact with the way several scenes are presented. There is no fancy camera work or mind-bending angles. It is just the good guys versus the bad guys.

Iron Man 2 is a great movie, but it does not quite live up to its predecessor. It was almost hurt by the success of *Iron Man*, which had the advantage of having no expectations attached to it. *Iron Man 2* only falls short when compared to its predecessor, which was slightly more funny and original. However, this comes with the territory of introducing a new superhero. Once the honeymoon is over, it will not be quite as good as when it was new.

Iron Man 2 is a fantastic blockbuster, especially when compared to many other similar comic book summer movies. It is exciting, funny and wholly entertaining. Extant fans and newbies alike can enjoy the film.

HTC Droid Incredible blends function, fun

TECH REVIEW

Droid Incredible

MANUFACTURER: HTC

SERVICE PROVIDER: Verizon Wireless

DIMENSIONS: 4.6 x 2.3 x 0.5

OUR TAKE:

By Andrew Akker
Contributing Writer

Six months after Verizon released a new line of smartphones headlined by the HTC Droid Eris and the Motorola Droid, there is a new addition to the Droid family: the HTC Droid Incredible. The previous two Droid models have brought success to the Android market, allowing those on Verizon to experience the evolving world of the Android mobile operating system. The Droid Incredible

has built upon this foundation and is the best Android phone to date.

There are two hardware components that set this phone apart from most other Android devices on the market. The first is the processor. Like the Nexus One by Google, the Droid Incredible has a one gigahertz Qualcomm Snapdragon processor, which is much faster than the ones found in other smartphones on the market. This means that the phone is faster than the Droid and much faster than older generation Android phones like the T-Mobile G1 and Sprint Hero.

The second is the camera. The Droid Incredible has an eight megapixel camera with dual LED flash. It takes very stunning and bright photos.

Other hardware improvements the Incredible has over other phones include having 512MB RAM, double the amount of the Motorola Droid. The screen is a 3.7 in. AMOLED capacitive touch screen that includes multi-touch gestures like pinch-zoom. There is a MicroUSB port on the side along with volume rocker, as well as a 3.5mm head-

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LOST finale leaves questions unanswered

TELEVISION

LOST: the final season

NETWORK: ABC

RUN TIME: Feb. 10 - May 23, 2010

OUR TAKE:

By Yameen Huq
Contributing Writer

After six years of having their brains scrambled and contorted by misdirection and numerous twists and surprises, viewers finally witnessed the end of the ABC television series, *Lost*. A show known through the years for its chaotic storyline, multiple timelines and alternate universes, its finale was hoped by many to provide long-awaited answers to some of the show's biggest questions.

Alas, a show that raises so many questions and twists can only expect to do so much in its 150-minute conclusion. While providing the emotional closure that will leave long-time view-

ers satisfied, the show failed to provide the casual viewer or the twist-seeker with any meaningful resolution.

For the uninitiated, here's a quick synopsis of the show's past six seasons. *Lost* begins with survivors of a crashed commercial flight waking up in a seemingly uncharted island. Early episodes of the first season carried the tone of a standard survival series with characters handling their day-to-day lives and surviving while attempting to understand and coexist with one another.

Then, in a plot twist, the island is revealed to have its own pre-existing inhabitants, people who were a part of some previous colony. In addition, an unknown force known only as the "Smoke Monster" seemingly murders many existing characters. The first few seasons served to lay the framework of this seemingly inspired and unusual show, which not only concluded what was mentioned above, but also conspiracy theories, alleged "magic," underground laboratories and polar

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Image courtesy of Gear Live

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phone jack along the top.

Looking at the exterior design of the phone, there are a few things worth mentioning. Born from what HTC calls a “race car inspired design,” the first thing anyone notices is the contoured layering on the back. HTC also decided to add some red accents (following the race car inspiration), such as around the camera on the back and on the earpiece on the front.

When the battery casing is open, the inside has a bright red interior. It does not add any function or usability to the phone, but it adds a level of flare and looks cool. Although a MicroSD card is not included, the phone does include an 8GB onboard storage location for things like music and pictures, and a MicroSD card up to 32GB can be added for a total space of up to 40GB. This makes the phone perfect for those who also want to use the phone as an MP3 player.

The software on the phone is also a big part of the Droid Incredible experience. It runs the latest widespread release of Android,

2.1 (Android 2.2 having just been announced at Google I/O). However, it does not run a completely plain look of the operating system like the Motorola Droid.

HTC Sense includes many useful features, the most important one being useful widgets that integrate well into the text messaging, stocks and music applications.

However great the Droid Incredible is as a device, there are a few shortcomings. The major thing is battery life. Typical use, normal internet browsing every so often, a few texts and emails here and there and music for about two to three hours in the day, will power the phone for most of the day.

The Droid Incredible is a perfect mix of enterprise features for power users and social features for casual users. It is great for those who are looking to transition to a smartphone but still want the easy-to-use functionality of most other phones. If anyone in the market is looking for an upgrade on Verizon, look no further than the HTC Droid Incredible, which is \$199 on a new two-year contract or upgrade.

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bears.

As the seasons deepened, so did the narrative. The story had always been sprinkled with flashbacks. These bits of insight served to heighten the viewer's relationship with characters and provide a greater sense of depth to actions in the story. However, the third season finale turned this concept on its head when it was revealed that the episode's flashbacks were actually flashforwards. This narrative choice, while certainly creative, added an extra layer of confusion and intrigue.

To further add to that, this final season included flashsideways, another innovative storytelling technique that displayed a world seemingly like the original, but with the characters never becoming stranded on the island. This alternative timeline actually becomes the crux of the finale, taking precedence over the actual action.

Now, the finale itself starts off well enough. The characters are forced to fight the major antagonist, the “Smoke Monster”, who has now taken on the appearance of the deceased character John Locke.

For a show with one of the highest budgets, the room where much of the action takes place is rather ridiculous. A cross between a family pool and one of Nickelodeon's old kid's game shows, the main protagonists look terribly goofy frolicking around in the pool as they attempt move around giant rocks and shut off the island's power. At times, this seems almost reminiscent of something out of a video game.

After shutting off the island's power, it is revealed in a minor twist that the Monster has lost his immortality, rendering it possible for Jack, the hero, to kill him. The fight scene was relatively short and surprising because the finale was



Image courtesy of ABC

only half way over.

It all went downhill from here. After more frolicking in the island play pool, Jack shuts off the system and saves everyone at the cost of his own life.

The viewers are now left to speculate as to exactly what the island was, what the island hieroglyphics mean, why pregnant women die on the island, who the smoke monster is, etc. The unanswered questions are seemingly endless and leave the viewer coming out of the show feeling the same way he did coming into it.

As for the flashsideways, it turns out it is not an alternative universe at all, but a quasi-Purgatory, somehow created by the characters in order to meet after they're all long deceased. In fact, the final episode's flashsideways narrative seemingly consists of heartwarming moments of all the characters gathering together in happy reunion. Why the writers chose to include random plot points with characters that ap-

peared only in the Purgatory and, thus were never real, is a mystery as unanswered as every other mystery in the story.

Ending the story in a terribly politically correct conception of heaven that featured symbols from all major religions ultimately seemed like a feel-good copout that skirted having to answer questions raised during the last six years of the show.

With its random bursts of action and intrigue throughout a fuzzy and feel-good narrative, the Lost finale proves itself to be what most long-running mystery shows tend to be all along: a giant pyramid scheme. By attempting to latch onto its viewers by answering a previous season's questions with more questions, the show backs itself into a corner where it ultimately cannot provide a reasonable resolution.

Lost ends with this feel-good ending as if to say, “Yes, we never had a plan for what we did, but at least the ending is happy.”

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Thanks for blocking off every Skiles alternative so that I'm forced to be solicited.

I've known Victor for three years and he still radiates stranger danger.

ANAK members unvailed, they're all SGA goons. Conspiracy? dude in library east commons: what are you doing playing WOW in the library at 5 PM on a Saturday?

dude: what am I doing in the library east commons at 5 pm on a saturday?

Ivi likes men.

49ers, NFC West Champions 2010-2011

Eagles, last place

Raiders, Super Bowl Champs

Can the Ravens get any worse?

LLUULLZZ at your mom

49ers > Bills > Ravens

Is there a guinness world record for slivers?

Guinness is soooooo good!

Is it sad that I looked up the patent for the widget that releases nitrogen in the guinness bottle?

Sliver what?!

For real college sweetheart. I need my room cleaned.

Wallace for president. Oh wait! Elections are over :(

Ah! Push it!

This is for all my out-of-states in the struggle!

It hailed on Saturday. Georgia weather are you kidding me?!?

I'm tired. Can't we just be deatheaters.

she's so cute!!!!

meet me in outer space...we could spend the night, watch the Earth come up

Dr. J says "Don't eat at Woodies"

Yay Corey Boone!

I'm slivering because I like to read the slivers on Friday and y'all stopped writing them.

THEME CROSSWORD: THE SIZE OF IT

By Robert Zimmerman
United Features Syndicate

ACROSS

1. Crowds
5. Name in Genesis
9. Recipe direction
13. Declines
17. Writer -- Wiesel
18. All-night dance parties
20. Firth or Farrell
21. Old instrument
22. Russian duchess
23. Prairies of America: 2 wds.
25. Brute
26. Galvanized vessels
28. "-- Today"
29. Canvassed
31. Openings
32. Dieter's concern
34. Seasoning plant
35. Offerings at theaters
37. Favoring
38. Special showing for focus groups
42. A flower
43. Spume

DOWN

1. Catty remark
2. Stew pot
3. High roller: 2 wds.
4. Marine creature
5. Remonstrates
6. Insults
7. Arden and Queler
8. Farmland
9. Anaconda
10. "The Greatest"
11. Folks
12. Surround, in a way
13. Develop

45. Netsuke material
46. Card game
47. Roughly made
48. Spinnaker
49. Kind of skiing
51. -- -and-peck
52. Stout
53. Pitchman's pitch
54. Reckoning
55. Bout
56. Jawbreakers and lemon drops: 2 wds.
58. Word in a palindrome
59. Thicker
60. A cont.
61. "-- -- Blue?"
63. Plant bristle
65. Roll of dough
66. Noisy group
69. Contribute
71. Unorthodox
76. Of country life
77. Ardent lover
79. Gems
80. Ironstone is one
81. Lupino and namesakes
82. American prophet
83. Collins or Silvers
84. Answer of a kind
85. Max. opp.
86. Sauce rich in basil
87. Poplar
89. Whistle sounds
90. Avant-garde artists
93. Cut
94. Armor plate
95. List of candidates
96. Backpacker
98. Old Greek city-state
99. Last syllable
101. Thicken
102. On schedule
105. Mackinaw
106. Enjoying the lap of luxury: 2 wds.
111. "La -- Bonita"
112. Solitary
113. Appearance
114. Guide
115. Nothingness
116. Connectives
117. Christmastime
118. Settles on (with "for")
119. Salamanders

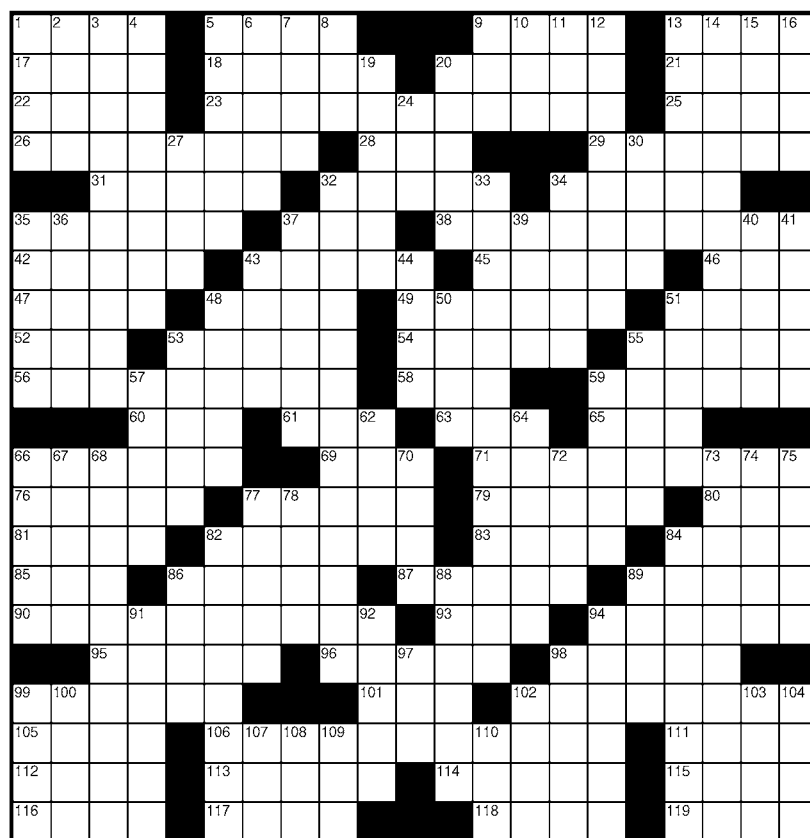
14. The majors: 2 wds.
15. Caliber
16. Komatik
19. Royal house of Scotland
20. Buckle
24. Greek letter
27. Cheeseboard
30. Too suave
32. Ice Age animal: 2 wds.
33. Fast-food order: 2 wds.
34. Pal

35. TV superstar
36. Deen or Zahn
37. Feminine name
39. Nefarious
40. Slight burn
41. Keyboard key
43. Happily
44. Kind of unwanted mail
48. Lean
50. Pasternak's
- Antipova
51. Indic language
53. Racing boat

55. Spaces for ticketholders
57. French painter
59. Stay
62. Notion: prefix
64. Member of a family
66. Name in children's literature
67. Broadcast signal
68. Show off
70. Spanish title
72. Pour
73. -- -- Rhodes

74. Sharp ridge
75. Slightest
77. Noted WWII riveter
78. Table scraps
82. With the intellect
84. Upbeat
86. Kiddie carriage
88. Bombards
89. Soapy mineral
91. Privileged ones
92. Symptoms

94. Printer cartridge
97. Firkin
98. Washington's -- Sound
99. Western campus
100. Crackpot
102. Make ready for surgery
103. Dismounted
104. Youths
107. Certain promise
108. -- -au-vent
109. Presidential nickname
110. From -- -- Z



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PILED HIGHER & DEEPER BY JORGE CHAM

I TRY NOT TO THINK ABOUT WHERE OUR FUNDING COMES FROM.

TAXPAYERS, CHARITABLE FOUNDATIONS, INDUSTRY...

IN ACADEMIA, IT ALL GETS CHOPPED UP AND GROUND UP AND IN THE END, OUT COMES RESEARCH.

LIKE A SAUSAGE.

A RESEARCH SAUSAGE, YES.

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ARE TAXPAYERS GETTING THEIR MONEY'S WORTH WITH OUR RESEARCH?

THAT'S A DANGEROUS QUESTION TO ASK. IT'S CALLED RESEARCH FOR A REASON.

WE'RE AT THE CUTTING EDGE! WE CAN'T GUARANTEE RESULTS!

I DON'T HAVE TO GUARANTEE RESULTS?

ONLY TO ME.

WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

TECHNICALLY, WE'RE NOT PAID TO DO RESEARCH. WE'RE GIVEN GRANTS.

THERE'S A DIFFERENCE?

OF COURSE!

IF YOU'RE "PAID", IT MEANS YOU WORK FOR SOMEONE. A GRANT IS A GIFT. YOU CAN'T TAKE IT BACK.

WHAT IF YOU'RE PAID VERY LITTLE?

I'LL GRANT YOU THAT.

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WHATCHA DOIN', DANAE?

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

REALLY? ON WHAT?

WHERE THE SUN SETS

UM...WHY?

'CUZ THERE'S BIG BUCKS IN RESEARCHING STUFF WE ALREADY KNOW...THE TRICK IS MILKING IT AS LONG AS YOU CAN

OH...WAO'S FUNDING IT?

UMM... I WAS COUNTING ON A BIDDING WAR

FIRST PRINCIPLE OF SCIENCE, DANAE... GET THE FUNDING SECURED BEFORE YOU CONDUCT THE RESEARCH

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IS YOUR TIME MACHINE WORKING, JEFFREY?

YES, IT IS

GREAT! I WANNA GO ON A TRIP

OK...

WHEN DO YOU WANT TO GO?

RIGHT NOW!

BUT YOU'RE ALREADY THERE

WHERE?

NOT WHERE...WHEN. RIGHT NOW IS NOW

THIS IS WHY I HATE TALKING TO GEEKY SCIENCE BOYS!!

SOMETIMES IT'S JUST TOO EASY...

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OK...SO JUST WHEN IN HISTORY DID YOU WANT TO GO, DANAE?

I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE, JEFFREY.

...BUT I WANT TO GO BACK AND SEE WHAT THE WORLD WAS LIKE WHEN PEOPLE WEREN'T SO STUPID AND ANNOYING!

AND THAT TIME WOULD BE...?

I DON'T KNOW... CAN'T THIS THING DO A TIME TRAVEL GOOGLE SEARCH?

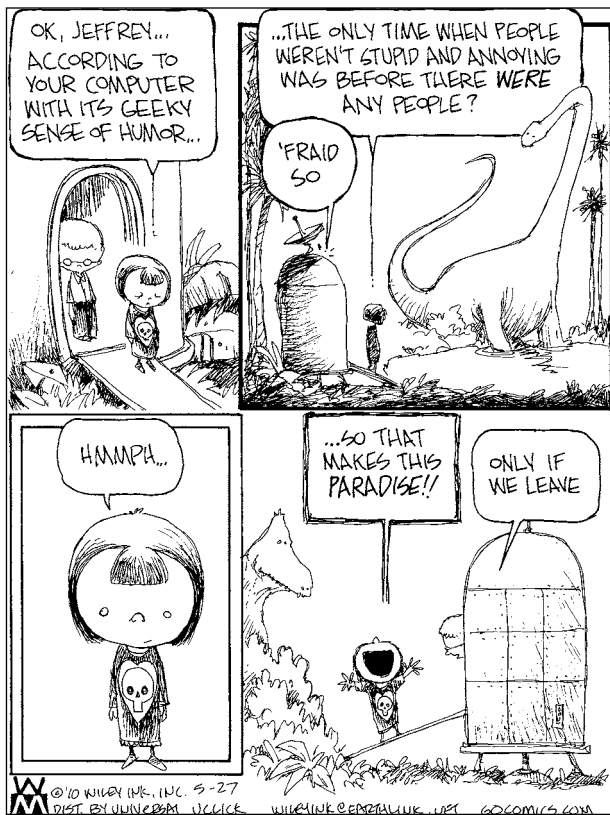
ONLY FOR REALITY

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION FROM PAGE 11

MOBS		ABEL			BAKE		EBBS
ELIE		RAVES			COLIN		VIOLE
OLGA		GREAT	PLAINS				OGRE
WASH	TUBS		USA			POLLED	
	PORES		WAIST		CHIVE		
OPERAS		FOR		PRERELEASE			
PANSY		FROTH		IVORY		GIN	
RUDE		SAIL		ALPINE		HUNT	
ALE		SPIEL		TALLY		SIEGE	
HARD	CANDY		ERE		DENSER		
	EUR		AMI		AWN		WAD
GAGGLE			ADD		HERETICAL		
RURAL		ROMEO		OPALS		ORE	
IDAS		MORMON		PHIL		PLEA	
MIN		PESTO		ASPEN		TOOTS	
MODERN	ISTS		HEW		TASSET		
	SLATE		HIKER		POLIS		
ULTIMA			GEL		PUNCTUAL		
COAT		LIVING	LARGE		ISLA		
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ANDS		YULE		OPTS		EFTS	

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