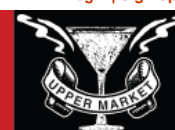


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Friday, Apr 10th

## Film listings

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Film listings are edited by Cheryl Eddy. Reviewers are Kimberly Chun, Michelle Devereaux, Max Goldberg, Dennis Harvey, Johnny Ray Huston, Louis Peitzman, Lynn Rapoport, Ben Richardson, Jason Shamai, and Matt Sussman. The film intern is Natalie Gregory. For rep house showtimes, see Rep Clock. For first-run showtimes, see Movie Guide.

## OPENING

**Dragonball: Evolution** The manga series hits the big screen in this live-action film directed by James Wong (2000's *Final Destination*). (1:24)

**Gigantic** *Gigantic* recalls the gimlet-eyed, halcyon days of '90s indie filmmaking, when "quirky" was just another word for every reason to commit your painfully awkward coming-of-age tale to celluloid. Its perspective is tightly circumscribed; its family-centered world, contracted — and hey, the Pixies tune of its title doesn't even surface in the soundtrack. Yet this quietly yet proudly strange romantic comedy has charm to spare, thanks to an impressive cast of comic vets and a relative newbie. At 28, the sweet, seemingly hapless Brian (Paul Dano) appears to be sleepwalking toward a dead end, selling pricey Swedish mattresses in downtown New York City, being eclipsed as the last, accidental child of aged bohemian parents (Ed Asner and Jane Alexander), trying against all odds to adopt a baby from China, and regularly being attacked by a mysterious homeless man (comedian Zach Galifianakis). Then one day a brash, booming loud, well-heeled customer (John Goodman) sweeps into the showroom, leaving his cute but scattered daughter Harriet (Zooey Deschanel) in his wake. Will Brian stir himself, rise to action, and grab for the brass ring of maturity and opportunity? Compelling players like Dano, Goodman, and Asner take *Gigantic's* conceit to the next level, while director and co-writer Matt Aelton has a genuine knack for off-center visual compositions — as well as an affection for his off-balance characters. (1:38) *Lumiere, Shattuck*. (Chun)

**Hannah Montana: The Movie** Can't stop the Cyrus. (1:38) *Oaks*.

**The Mysteries of Pittsburgh** It's taken 21 years for local author Michael Chabon's beloved first novel to reach the screen — and some might argue it still hasn't. A bland Jon Foster plays Art, a new college grad determined to enjoy his last summer of "freedom" before the dreaded, seemingly inevitable fate of joining the family business of fond yet fearsome dad Joe (Nick Nolte), which happens to be organized crime. But what's intended to be a quiet last hurrah becomes anything but once he's whisked into the orbit of beautiful aspiring violinist Jane (Sienna Miller) and her boyfriend, the charismatic, thrill-happy, somewhat mysterious Cleveland (Peter Sarsgaard). Adaptor-director Rawson Marshall Thurber effectively translates a fair share of the book's tension and charm, but its fans might justifiably take great exception to several changes made: Notably the complete elimination of one major character, and the considerable downplaying of the triangle's bisexual aspects. So these *Mysteries* are a whole lot less gay than they were in 1988. Significantly compensating are fine performances by Nolte and Sarsgaard, the latter doing a scruffier version of the English Pied Piper he plays in soon-to-be-released Sundance hit *An Education*. (1:35) *Embarcadero, Shattuck*. (Harvey)

**Observe and Report** Seth Rogen, mall cop. (1:25) *California, Four Star, Presidio*.

**\*Paris 36** *Paris 36* immediately reminded me of *Moulin Rouge!* (2001) It's about a theatre in Paris (Fauborg to be exact), and the misfits who try to save it — except this time around, it's 1936, and times are tough, despite hope for the Popular Front government. The story centers on three men recently canned from the Chansonnia music hall. Personality differences notwithstanding, Pigoil (Gérard Jugnot), Milou (Clovis Cornillac), and Jacky (Kad Merad) join together and "occupy" the Chansonnia in hopes of buying it back from the cruel, mob-boss-type owner, Galpiat. There's also a cute, accordion-playing son and a beautiful singer (enter love interest) Douce (Nora Arnezeder). These characters all contribute to the fate of the theater. It actually isn't a musical, though show business is the backdrop and you do catch a few musical numbers. Directed by Christophe Barratier, *Paris 36* is cute. It feels old-fashioned. While the beginning seemed slow, I was hopeful for Chansonnia in the end. Mission accomplished. (2:00) *Albany, Clay, Smith Rafael*. (Gregory)