

film releases

Critic's choice

Kate Muir



Searching for Sugar Man

Malik Bendjelloul, 12A
(86min)

★★★★☆

New
release

A revelatory documentary about "the lost Bob Dylan", the American singer-songwriter Rodriguez, who disappeared after making two cult albums in the Seventies. In the meantime, his music became an anthem for the liberal anti-Apartheid movement in South Africa. It's worth seeing for the soundtrack alone.

The Dark Knight Rises

Christopher Nolan, 12A
(164min)

★★★★☆

The last in Nolan's Batman trilogy is as ambitious and bombastic as blockbusters get, with widescreen mayhem, thousands of extras, hyper-kinetic effects, and a roiling, twisting plot. Christian Bale, once again, plays Bruce Wayne, Tom Hardy is his nemesis Bane, and Anne Hathaway is Selina Kyle.

Magic Mike

Steven Soderbergh, 15
(110min)

★★★★☆

Lip smackin', crotch grabbin', lady pleasin' entertainment, set in a male dance establishment in Florida. The comedy stars Channing Tatum and Alex Pettyfer as builders turned male strippers, with a terrific performance by Matthew McConaughey as the joint's leatherclad King of Sleaze. So the lack of plot doesn't really matter.

The Genius of Hitchcock

The BFI continues its long celebration of one of the most influential and iconic British film directors of all time, Alfred Hitchcock, with screenings of his restored silent films, and some classics. The tense and terrific silent *Blackmail* shows on August 1; its sound version later the same day. Other treats include *The 39 Steps*, *Frenzy* and *North by Northwest*.