

# my 10 cents

**Sometimes just one story isn't enough. So this month I take a look at a host of topics that have been on my mind. First up... time to get Expendable again.**

## Expendable?

The cast for the Expendables 2 gets better and better. Statham! Arnie! Willis! Van Damme! Jet Li! Sly! Chuck Norris! It truly has become one of THE great action casts.

That said I hope this time they put as much effort into the story as they have the cast because, for the most part, The Expendables Part 1 was a bit of a letdown.

## Hall Of Fame

Although I couldn't attend the evening, I was honoured to be inducted in the Combat Martial Arts Hall Of Fame for Services To The Martial Arts Industry. A massive thanks to Paul and the team.

## 3D Or Not 3D?

Not. Okay so it hasn't been quite the fad that most 3-D haters have assumed it would be (thanks in part to a relentless push by manufacturers and studios) but I have yet to see a 3D movie at the Cinema that has blown me away. Okay so I haven't yet seen Scorsese's Hugo as I write this but still even if that is as good as everyone says I'm not convinced one film can make a medium.

That said I know for sure that neither the upcoming re-release's of Titanic or Star Wars: the Phantom Menace in retro fitted 3D will tip me over the edge of liking the medium.

I'm not the only one. Slowly the balance between people seeing 3D of a movie to 2D versions is slowly coming back in favour of 2D and at home sales of equipment have stagnated. Maybe glasses free 3D is the answer but I'd rather watch movies without a headache.

## Khhhhhhhan!

Is he... isn't he? That's the big question... will JJ Abrahams have Khan in Star Trek 2 as the main villain? With rumours (now squashed) of Benico Del Toro cast in the eponymous role it was looking possible but honest I hope they don't.

The thing I loved about Abrahams Star Trek was that it set a new course. Bring back Khan (especially in the similar numbered sequel) would be a huge mistake.

## What? Really?

Senna, the touching and brilliantly made look at the career of one of racings racing drivers AND one of THE best films of 2011 will not be in the running for the Academy Award for Best Documentary after not making the short list. Yes that's right it won't even be on the short list on the night.

Surprised? Well not really after all it took Scorsese years to finally nab an Oscar, they gave 11 of them to Titanic and awarded Best Film to Dances With Wolves over Goodfellas and Forrest Gump over Pulp Fiction. Idiocy like this seems par for the course

## Podcast!

You can now hear me alongside my co-host Richard Blanchette (formally if the insanely popular AMR Movie Show) every two weeks on the Filmsploitation Podcast, available on I-Tunes (search "Filmsploitation ") and via [www.thefilmpodcast.co.uk](http://www.thefilmpodcast.co.uk).

Films, TV, Cult... it's all covered alongside our guest hosts which so far have included filmmaker Ross Boyask, writer Mike Fury and AMR host Andrew Mackay to name but 3. Find us, download us, listen and rate!

## 2012 - What to look out for

2012 looks like a pretty promising year all in all for action and superhero films. Here's a few I'm looking out for: Prometheus, the Ridley Scott directed Alien prequel that is but isn't but is. The Amazing Spiderman - Spiderman rebooted with the Social Networks Andrew Garfield and hot as a volcano Emma Stone. The Avengers - The culmination of years of super hero films all thrown into one. Thor! Hulk! Capt America! Iron Man! Nick Fury! The Hobbit Part 1 - More Peter Jackson Hobbiting his way around New Zealand. LOTR was superb, this could be even better. The Dark Knight Rises - Bane is back and this time he's not being played for dumb by a Wrestler and a director with a neon fetish. Early footage looks amazing. Expect much. Total Recall - Yes it's a remake but this one COULD just work. Colin Farrell stars.

# COMPETITION

We have 3 Blu-Ray copies of the rather good independent Troll Hunter to give away. All you have to do is answer this simple question:  
*Which of these films is NOT a mockumentary?*

- a) Blair Witch
- b) REC
- c) Quarantine 2

Send your name, address and answer on an email to [trollhunter@martialartsinprint.com](mailto:trollhunter@martialartsinprint.com)



We have 3 Blu-Ray copies of the Jason Statham, Robert DeNiro starring Killer Elite to give away. All you have to do is answer this simple question:  
*Which of these films does not star Robert DeNiro?*

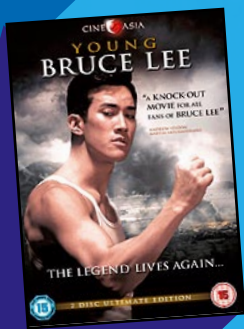
- a) Goodfellas
- b) Meet The Fockers
- c) American Pie

Send your name, address and answer on an email to [killereelite@martialartsinprint.com](mailto:killereelite@martialartsinprint.com)



**The Thing** Reviewed by Phil Hobden

Sigh. It has to be said I'm getting more than a little bored of this remake craze. Not that The Thing is meant to be a remake. But as a prequel it manages to tread almost the exact same ground as it's 80's cousin, even often recreating the same set pieces and key moments, but with much worse CGI and a lack of tension and fear that makes you wonder if the director had ever actually seen the original or just read the script. It's not that the Thing is a particularly bad film. On its own it would be a serviceable, if unspectacular, horror thriller. The problem comes in the name. Because as much as you want to try and forget Carpenter's original you can't. And it's those comparisons that in the end cripple this version of The Thing.

**Film 2/5 Action 2/5****If you liked this try: The Thing (Original), They Live****Young Bruce Lee** Reviewed By Daniel Gibberd

This biopic addresses Bruce Lee's early years in Hong Kong. Aarif Rahman certainly looks the part, and there are excellent performances from the supporting players. My chief criticism would be that the film is extremely unbalanced, with all the action being shoehorned into the final reel. It feels like you've watched two thirds of an excellent biopic, and one third of a martial arts movie. What's there is absolutely fantastic, I'd just have preferred it if it was mixed up a little more. Whoever did the subtitles deserves a one inch punch though...the unforgivable misspelling 'Big Bother' is repeated throughout. That's a minor quibble though, and doesn't detract from what really is a superbly executed piece of cinema. Here's hoping for a sequel!

**Film 4/5 Action 2/5****You May Also Like: Ip Man 1 & 2, Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story****Direct Contact (18, DVD)** Reviewed by Matt Duddy

Dolph Lundgren stars in this by the numbers action film as former US Special Forces operative Mike Riggins. We first meet Riggins in a Balkans prison where he is offered a chance to leave prison with a clean record if he fulfils an assignment to rescue a kidnapped woman from a ruthless warlord. After successfully rescuing the woman, Riggins learns that this was just a ruse to get the woman into the open; soon enough, Riggins finds himself and his charge being hunted by paramilitaries and corrupt government officials. Direct Contact is not as good as the films directed by Lundgren himself but there is action aplenty including a decent car chase and shoot outs galore.

**Film 3/5 Action 4/5****If you liked this, try; Icarus, Missionary Man, The Mechanik****Phil's Quick Capsule Review****SPY KIDS 4-D (DVD & BR)** 12th Dec

Yes another Spy Kids film.

Yes in 3D. And 4D (smell-o-vision). It's not that good.

The 3D is pointless and the smell-o-vision is a waste of time.

Other than that...

**CONAN THE BARBARIAN (DVD/BR)** 12th Dec

A few people I know loved this. Most others didn't.

Yup Conan returns to the cinema for another slaying, with Game of Thrones star Jason Momoa.

