

Assassins and local love

By Daniel Dercksen

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This week's latest films include Assassin's Creed, Jou Romeo and Sing.

Assassin's Creed

Prepare for a visionary new take on the action-adventure genre. Assassin's Creed is a worlds-spanning tale of one man who finds himself at the center of an ancient battle between two powerful sects - only by harnessing the memories of his ancestor, which are contained within his own DNA, can he end the conflict and claim his own redemption. Marked by tragedy at an early age, Cal Lynch (Michael Fassbender) is a convict facing capital punishment when he gains an unexpected second chance at life thanks to the mysterious workings of Abstergo Industries. Through a revolutionary technology that unlocks the genetic memories contained in his DNA, Cal is sent back across the centuries to 15th Century Spain. There, he lives out the experiences of his distant relative, Aguilar de Nerha, a member of a secret society known as the Assassins who fight to protect free will from the power-hungry the Templar Order. Transformed by the past, Cal begins to gain the knowledge and physical skills necessary to topple the oppressive Templar organisation in present day. The film is based on the blockbuster video game series from Ubisoft.

Jou Romeo

Marko Marais (Ruan Wessels) is the most popular guy in High School Monument, not only because he's a jock, but he's also a cricket champion and heartbreaker. He and drama nerd Yvette (Elani Dekker) couldn't be more different, but true love is on a collision course in this movie about romance, Shakespeare, cricket, friendship, and unconditional acceptance. When Romeo and Juliet, the play that Yvette and her best friend Tyler (Christopher van der Westhuizen) have been planning since grade eight, is threatened because the sports obsessed principal, Mister Kirby Potgieter (Pierre Breytenbach) cuts the arts and culture budget, Yvette decides to ask for Marko's help. But her intentions aren't pure... Yvette's in for the shock of her life when she discovers there's much more to the jock than a beautiful smile and loads of fans – and suddenly Marko realises he likes this pretty redhead more than he could have imagined... Could Marko actually be Yvette's real-life Romeo and she his Juliet? Diaan Lawrence, Dirk Stoltz, Row-Lean, Sarahann Doherty and Carmin Coetzer also star in the film. Jou Romeo explores interesting themes of belonging, valuing others and discovering unusual qualities about people. Add a dash of romance and a sprinkle of love and this is the perfect summer film in which to

Sing

Sing is an animated musical comedy about finding the shining star that lives inside all of us. Set in a world like ours but entirely inhabited by animals, the film stars Buster Moon, a dapper koala who presides over a once-grand theatre that has fallen on hard times. Buster is an eternal - some might even say delusional - optimist who loves his theatre above all and will do anything to preserve it. Now faced with the crumbling of his life's ambition, he has one final chance to restore his fading jewel to its former glory by producing the world's greatest singing competition. Five lead contestants emerge: Mike, a mouse who croons as smoothly as he cons; Meena, a timid teenage elephant with an enormous case of stage fright; Rosita, an overtaxed mother run ragged tending a litter of 25 piglets; Johnny, a young gangster gorilla looking to break free of his family's felonies; and Ash, a punk-rock porcupine struggling to shed her arrogant boyfriend and go solo. Each arrives under Buster's marquee believing that this is their shot to change the course of their life. And as Buster coaches each of his contestants closer and closer to the grand finale, he starts to learn that maybe the theatre isn't the only thing that is in need of saving. Featuring more than 85 hit songs, Sing is written and directed by Garth Jennings (Son of Rambow, The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy).

For more information on these films visit www.writingstudio.co.za

ABOUT DANIEL DERCKSEN

Daniel Dercksen has been a contributor for Lifestyle since 2012. As the driving force behind the successful independent training initiative The Writing Studio and a published film and theatre journalist of 40 years, teaching workshops in creative writing, playwriting and screenwriting throughout South Africa and internationally the past 22 years. Visit

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