

Racheltjie De Beer, Maleficent and Light of My Life



By [Daniel Dercksen](#)

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Films opening at South African cinemas, this week, include *Die Verhaal Van Racheltjie De Beer*, *Maleficent: Mistress Of Evil* and *Light of My Life*.

Die Verhaal Van Racheltjie De Beer

Set in the South African wilderness in the 1800s, the film tells the story of Afrikaans family, the De Beers, who are forced to find shelter on a local farm in the Eastern Free State of South Africa. Winter has arrived and, as dark clouds laden with snow start to roll in over the Drakensberg mountains, tragedy strikes. When Jamie goes missing in a freak blizzard, Racheltjie braves the storm to look for her little brother.

Adapted for the big screen by writer-director Matthys Boshoff, based on the best-selling novel of the same name by Brett Michael Innes, who co-wrote the screenplay.

Boshoff hopes that this adventure-drama will have audiences in awe of nature's beauty and power, show them the fortitude of a young girl facing mortal danger and tug at the heartstrings. "Hopefully it will leave them pondering their relationships with those whom they love most."

The film recently won Best Actor (Stian Bam), Best Production Design and a Special Award for VFX at the 2019 Kyknet Silwerskerm Festival.

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Maleficent: Mistress Of Evil

A sequel to the 2014 global box office hit, Maleficent (Angelina Jolie) and her goddaughter Aurora (Elle Fanning) begin to question the complex family ties that bind them as they are pulled in different directions by impending nuptials, unexpected allies and dark new forces at play.

The years have been kind to Maleficent and Aurora. Their relationship, born of heartbreak, revenge and ultimately love, has flourished. Yet the hatred between man and the fairies still exists.

Aurora's impending marriage to Prince Phillip is cause for celebration in the kingdom of Ulstead and the neighbouring Moors, as the wedding serves to unite the two worlds. When an unexpected encounter introduces a powerful new alliance, Maleficent and Aurora are pulled apart to opposing sides in a Great War, testing their loyalties and causing them to question whether they can truly be family.

Directed by Joachim Rønning. With a story by Linda Woolverton and a screenplay by Linda Woolverton and Noah Harpster and Micah Fitzerman-Blue.

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Light of My Life

Casey Affleck's narrative feature filmmaking debut, based on his script, mixes a survivalist drama, a coming-of-age story, and a powerful metaphor of parenting, letting concern for a single child serve as both eulogy and hope for a species facing its greatest challenges.

In the desperate atmosphere of a post-pandemic, dystopian landscape following a plague that killed nearly all the world's females, a father (Casey Affleck) and daughter (newcomer Anna Pniowsky) survive on rations in American Midwestern towns while they forage in the woods, far from the danger men present.

This beautiful dramatic thriller is also a meditation on parental love in broken times, a dissection of the precariousness of society and a complex, compelling parable of letting go.

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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 www.writingstudio.co.za

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