

In the Heights, Spirit Untamed and The Misfits

 By [Daniel Derksen](#)

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Films opening at South African cinemas, this weekend, include *In the Heights*, *Spirit Untamed* and *The Misfits*.

In The Heights

The creator of *Hamilton* and the director of *Crazy Rich Asians* invite you to a cinematic event, where the streets are made of music and little dreams become big. *In the Heights* fuses Lin-Manuel Miranda's kinetic music and lyrics with director Jon M Chu's lively and authentic eye for storytelling to capture a world very much of its place, but universal in its experience.

Lights up on Washington Heights. The scent of a *cafecito caliente* hangs in the air just outside of the 181st Street subway stop, where a kaleidoscope of dreams rallies this vibrant and tight-knit community. At the intersection of it all is the likeable, magnetic bodega owner Usnavi (Anthony Ramos), who saves every penny from his daily grind as he imagines, hopes and sings about a better life.

Director Jon M Chu directed *In The Heights* from a screenplay by Quiara Alegría Hudes, based on the multiple-Tony-winning musical stage play, music and lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda, book by Quiara Alegría Hudes and concept by Miranda.

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Spirit Untamed

Spirit Untamed is the next chapter in DreamWorks Animation's beloved franchise that began in 2002 with the Oscar-nominated film *Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron* and includes an Emmy-winning TV series.

Lucky is a fish out of water in the raucous railroad town, but she has a change of heart when she meets Spirit, a wild Mustang who shares her independent streak. When a heartless horse wrangler and his team capture Spirit and his herd and plan to auction them off to a life of captivity and hard labour, Lucky enlists her new friends to stop them. Together, the girls bravely embark on the adventure of a lifetime to rescue the horse who has given Lucky freedom and a sense of purpose and has helped her discover a connection to her mother's legacy and to her Mexican heritage that she never expected.

The film is directed by Elaine Bogan and co-directed by Ennio Torresan, Jr from a screenplay by Aury Wallington.

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The Misfits

Even a federal maximum-security prison can't hold Richard Pace (Pierce Brosnan), a brilliant international thief. But his daring escape and high-octane car chase, eluding the FBI and police, ends with him being scooped up by The Misfits, a band of modern-day Robin Hoods. The skilled group convinces Pace to join them to pull off the heist of the century: stealing millions in gold bars kept under one of the most secure prisons on Earth, owned by rogue businessman Schultz (Tim Roth), and used for funding terrorist groups worldwide. Aside from the money, Pace wants revenge against Schultz, the man behind his incarceration. From LA to Abu Dhabi, it will take supercharged engines, forged identities, multiple cons, camels, nitro and massive explosions to succeed.

Directed by Renny Harlin (*Die Hard 2: Die Harder*, *Cliffhanger*).

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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 www.writingstudio.co.za

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