

POPculture

online

Issue004 - April 2011

POP Carpet

Walk the carpet
with Hop, Rango
and Morning Glory

Rachel McAdams

Our babe of the month

All the latest reviews

POP Retro

Robocop

J-Obession

At The Cathay

POP of the Month

Sweet dreams are made of
Emily Browning, Abbie Cornish,
Jena Malone, Vanessa Hudgens
and Jamie Chung

Cover art courtesy
of Warner Bros Singapore

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FANTASY WORLD

Editor's Note



We've had 3 covers before our latest issue and they have been pretty impressive from the likes of Olivia Wilde of *Tron Legacy*, Seth Rogen and Jay Chou of *The Green Hornet* and Alex Pettyfer of *I am Number Four*. But I gotta say this month is my favorite because we are finally able to put so many beautiful women on the cover.

It's all about babe talk and *Sucker Punch* this April as we preview and review the movie that's all about the limits of your imagination. I think the part about the film I really appreciate was the training that the girls went through, especially the navy seal style of combing areas were awesome.

Here's a question. What would you want to do if you could live in a dream or fantasy world like *Baby Doll* in *Sucker Punch*?

First thing I'd wanna do is fly. No seriously I'm a big Superman fan and I've always wished I could fly just like him. It's kind fitting if you think about it because the director of *Sucker Punch* Zack Snyder will be directing *Superman: Man of Steel*, a reboot of the original film in the 70s and completely ignoring *Superman Returns*. Poor Brandon Routh. I actually thought he was a great Superman.

With the tone of Snyder's previous films like *300*, *Watchmen* and now *Sucker Punch*, I'm guessing Superman will be darker and the graphics more stunning. I think maybe he's the right man for the job. After all Superman is fantasy and you really need to feel like your in a fantasy world.

Ok we've strayed from the topic....

Editor's Note

In POP Retro we really go old school as we profile Robocop and with talk about a reboot that was actually supposed to be released last year. I wonder, is there really a need for reboots? Is Hollywood running out of ideas? There are so many reboots these days, heck next year we will have a Spiderman reboot and the last one wasn't too long ago.

We've also added a new feature that's called POP Carpet and in it you'll find pictures of red carpet premieres of the latest movies around the world. We go to Berlin, London and Los Angeles for the premieres of Hop, Rango and Morning Glory and we have pictures of the stars looking all dolled up and extremely good looking.

Well the babe of the month is the lovely Rachel McAdams from Morning Glory and her charming personality just sits wonderfully in this magazine. I wish we could talk about her every month.

And last but not least I want to show you my inspiration for a photoshoot i did recently



Jamie Chung as Samurai Girl...



Elliott Danker as Samurai Boy??? Hahahaha!

As always thank you for your support and don't forget to keep spreading the word and tell everyone to read POPCulture Online.

E.Danker

We would like to thank the following for their support

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POPCULTURE NEWS ROUND UP

POP Press



NBC's WONDER WOMAN COSTUME FIRST LOOK

The first image of Adrienne Palicki in the Wonder Woman costume has been released by Warner Bros. Television. Although receiving criticism with Fox News claimed in July 2010 that the outfit lacked patriotism and with the Los Angeles Times running a poll to ask if the new outfit was a good representation of the Amazon princess, Linda Carter (the star of the 1970s television series) thinks otherwise.

She told the Hollywood Reporter, "What's not to like? Adrienne [Palicki] looks gorgeous and I'm really looking forward to seeing David E Kelley's new series."

The new NBC pilot "Wonder Woman" is written by David E. Kelley who also serves as executive producer with Bill D'Elia. Jeffrey Reiner will be directing the pilot which is based on DC Comics characters.

Source: [ABC News](#)

MATTHEW MORRISON & GWYNETH PALTROW DUET

It is no surprise that Glee star Matthew Morrison will be releasing his self-titled album later this year in May and the latest news reported by Entertainment Weekly is that one of the tracks on the album will be a duet with Gwyneth Paltrow.

Gwyneth Paltrow is no stranger to Glee with the already proven onscreen chemistry together with Morrison as lovestruck teachers Will Schuester and Holly Holliday (with news that she will appear again on the April 19 episode).

Morrison commented that he asked Paltrow to sing on the album during her work on Glee and while the conversation was slightly awkward, choosing the song was much easier. EW reports that the duet will be for the song "Over the Rainbow" which the actor used during the auditions for Glee.

source: [EW.com](#)



POPCULTURE NEWS ROUND UP

POP Press

NEVER SAY NEVER TOPS THIS IS IT



The latest Paramount movie, *Never Say Never* starring teen sensation Justin Bieber has taken top box office honors in America for concert-themed movies, just passing Michael Jackson's *This Is It*.

Never Say Never has earned a good \$72.2million at the box office through Sunday which edges out *This Is It* by \$0.1million as the Michael Jackson movie recorded an earning of \$72.1million.

Although concert movies don't do that well overseas with the Jonas Brothers earning only \$4million and Hannah Montana/Miley Cyrus earning \$5million, Paramount insiders believe this might be different for Justin Bieber with the estimated figure at \$20million.

Justin Bieber: *Never Say Never* will be distributed locally by United International Pictures this April and [LAMC Productions](#) will be bringing in the star as well on the 19th for his concert at the indoor stadium.

Source: [The Hollywood Reporter](#)

Get the latest POP Press at www.popcultureonline.net

MORNING GLORY RED CARPET PREMIERE LONDON

Photos courtesy of
United International Pictures Singapore

POP Carpet



RANGO

RED CARPET PREMIERE LOS ANGELES

Photos courtesy of
United International Pictures Singapore

POP Carpet



HOP

RED CARPET PREMIERE BERLIN

Photos courtesy of
United International Pictures Singapore

POP Carpet



SWEET DREAMS ARE MADE OF THIS

POP of the Month

Set in the 1950s in the vivid imagination of a young girl placed at a mental institution by her step-father some time after her mother died, with only her dreams providing the ultimate escape from her darker reality. Unrestrained by the boundaries of time and place, she is free to go where her mind takes her, and her incredible adventures blur the lines between what's real and what is imaginary.

Sounds pretty amazing but yet when you make a film, which is not tied to any boundaries, but your imagination the possibilities are limitless. This month our POP of the month story takes a look at the fantasy film *Sucker Punch* and more importantly gets to know the 5 hotties that star in it a little better.



Sucker Punch first gained attention in March 2007. Snyder put the project aside to work on *Watchmen* first. The film is co-written with Steve Shibuya, who is the author of the original score that the story is based on. Snyder will also direct and produce with his wife and producing partner, Deborah Snyder, through their Cruel and Unusual Films banner. Wesley Coller is executive producing.

"I already did the all-male cast with 300, so I'm doing the opposite end of the spectrum"

Zack Snyder

SWEET DREAMS ARE MADE OF THIS

POP of the Month

Casting

Before casting started in March 2009, Snyder revealed his ideal cast for the feature film. Snyder decided to go with an all-female cast with this film saying "I already did the all-male cast with 300, so I'm doing the opposite end of the spectrum", contradicting the "no female leads" stance Warner Bros. took in 2007.

Where you've seen these 5 hotties before

Emily Browning as Baby Doll



Emily Browning hails from Australia and not only does she act, she is also fashion model, known for her role as Violet Baudelaire in the 2004 film Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events and as Anna Ivers in the 2009 film The Uninvited.

She won the 2005 AFI International Award for Best Actress for her role in A Series of Unfortunate Events. During filming, Browning was terrified of being fired for breaking character to laugh at co-star Jim Carrey's jokes.

Browning played the lead in the 2009 horror film The Uninvited, an American remake of the 2003 South Korean film A Tale of Two Sisters. However, citing exhaustion, she then turned down a request to audition for the role of Bella Swan in Twilight, despite an endorsement from series author Stephenie Meyer.

SWEET DREAMS ARE MADE OF THIS

POP of the Month



In 2009, she was cast as Baby Doll in Zack Snyder's action film *Sucker Punch* as a replacement for Amanda Seyfried, who dropped out due to scheduling conflicts (She was filming *Red Riding Hood*). She also sings the track *Sweet Dreams (are made of this)* on the official *Sucker Punch* soundtrack



Browning turned down a request to audition for the role of BELLA SWAN in *Twilight*, despite an endorsement from author STEPHENIE MEYER

SWEET DREAMS ARE MADE OF THIS

POP of the Month

Abbie Cornish as Sweet Pea



The other Australian Chic in this film. She began her career in TV in 2001 landing the role of Reggie McDowell, a character on the Australian TV show "Outriders".

In 2004, Cornish appeared in the award-winning short film Everything Goes with Hugo Weaving. She received the Australian Film Institute Award for Best Actress in a Leading Role, Best Actress at the FCCA and IF Awards and Best Breakthrough Performance at the 2005 Miami International Film Festival for her role in 2004's Somersault, the film which raised her to international prominence.

Abbie Cornish began her career at the age of thirteen, when she began taking jobs as a model after reaching the finals of a Dolly Magazine competition

SWEET DREAMS ARE MADE OF THIS

POP of the Month

Jena Malone as Rocket



Actress and musician Jena has been mainly in independent films, and she has acted in theater. She made her cinema debut with the movie *Bastard Out of Carolina* (1996), and has appeared in films including *Contact* (1997), *Stepmom* (1998), *Donnie Darko* (2001), *Saved!* (2004), and *Into the Wild* (2007).

Malone progressed to professional acting with the 1996 film *Bastard Out of Carolina*. She was nominated for the Independent Spirit Award for Best Debut Performance and a Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance in a TV Movie or Miniseries for this role. From there, her roles have grown to include several Hollywood features. In 1997, she was nominated for a Golden Globe, Best Actress in a Mini-Series or TV Movie, for her role in *Hope*.

After working on various TV projects, and as a supporting actress in films such as *Contact* and *Stepmom*, Jena Malone had her first cinematic leading role in the 2001 cult hit *Donnie Darko*. She displayed a dry sense of humor as Gretchen Ross, the new girl in town who becomes the girlfriend of Jake Gyllenhaal's title character.

Jena Malone lived in 27 locations by the age of nine, including Lake Tahoe, California, Las Vegas and Los Angeles

SWEET DREAMS ARE MADE OF THIS

POP of the Month

Vanessa Hudgens as Blondie



Photos courtesy of Warner Bros.

Vanessa Hudgens is of a mixed cultural background, her father is of Irish and Native American descent, while her mother is a native of Manila, Philippines.

All of her grandparents were musicians.

Vanessa Hudgens is best known for her portrayal of the character Gabriella Montez in the High School Musical series. She also earned critical acclaim for her role in the 2009 film *Bandslam*.

As an actress, Hudgens has appeared in several television programs including *Quintuplets*, *Still Standing*, *The Brothers García*, *Drake & Josh*, and *The Suite Life of Zack & Cody*. She made her screen debut in the 2003 drama film *Thirteen* as Noel. She got her first starring role in the 2004 science-fiction-adventure film *Thunderbirds* as Tintin.

Hudgens' debut album *V* was released on September 26, 2006. The album entered the *Billboard* 200 at number twenty four, and was later certified Gold. Hudgens released her second album, *Identified*, on July 1, 2008 in the U.S.

SWEET DREAMS ARE MADE OF THIS

POP of the Month

Jamie Chung as Amber



Known to reality television audiences as a cast member on the MTV reality television series, *The Real World: San Diego* and its spin-off show, *Real World/Road Rules Challenge: The Inferno II*, and for her appearances in TV and films, such as *I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry*, *Sorority Row*

Since her stint on *The Real World*, she has appeared in various television and film roles, including as Cordy Han in ten episodes of *Days of our Lives*, as a Hooters girl in the 2007 comedy *I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry*, and in episodes of *CSI: New York* and *Veronica Mars*.

She starred in the ABC mini series *Samurai Girl* in September 2008. She also had a role in the 2009 feature films *Sorority Row* and *Dragonball Evolution*, in the latter as Goku's love interest, Chi Chi, as well as *Burning Palms*. Chung also stars as Chelsea Barnes in Disney Channel's 2009 TV movie, *Princess Protection Program*, and as Amber Hilliard in the 2010 film *Grown Ups*. Chung will appear in the upcoming film *Premium Rush*, directed by David Koepp.

Jamie Chung was born in San Francisco, California and is a second-generation Korean-American

SWEET DREAMS ARE MADE OF THIS

POP of the Month

Training

Prior to filming, the cast had trainings and fight evaluations. Training lasted for 12 weeks. It started June 2009 in Los Angeles and continued through filming. The main girls in the film were told to deadlift up to 210 pounds (95 kg) for their roles.



Photos courtesy of Warner Bros.

Damon Caro, the stunt coordinator from 300 and Watchmen, Snyder's previous films was hired for the stunts, training and fight choreography in the movie. The other cast members started training without Hudgens while she was filming other films, including Beastly. Snyder tells that when the girls are fighting, "[like] they're on their way to kill a baby dragon, they've killed all of these orc-like creatures and they're entering a door [and] it's this classic, real Navy SEAL style room clearing.

Abbie Cornish reveals that the rest of them were training, prior to filming, six hours a day, five days a week, and were oriented with martial fighting, swords and choreography. Damon Caro, known for choreographing stunts from films like 300 and the Bourne film series, worked with Snyder again for Sucker Punch as he has previously worked on all of Snyder's past films.

Sucker Punch opens in cinemas 24 March

All photos courtesy of Warner Bros.

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***Sucker Punch is reviewed
on page 29***

J-OBSESSION

POP Stage



Held over the 18th & 19th March weekend, J-Obession returns again this year at The Cathay with a full line up of popular Japanese culture showcase.

From local bands playing favorite Japanese songs from famous bands and popular anime to an even bigger cosplay competition turn out compared to last year, POPCulture Online was down to check out all these sights and sounds.

18TH & 19TH MARCH
THE CATHAY

J-OBSESSION

POP Stage



Even on a Friday evening where the expected crowd was not as much compared to Saturday, the bands performing did not disappoint with tunes such as Sorairo Days by Nakagawa Shouko from the Tengen Toppa Gurren Lagann series.



Saturday was a full day of activities starting early in the afternoon with the Subarashi Cosplay Competition starting things off. Cosplayers both veterans and newcomers took turns to wow the audiences and impress the judges on stage for a top prize of a Sony 3D Bravia LCD TV.

J-OBSESSION

POP Stage



Not forgetting the bands line up with a total of 8 performances to trill the audience with songs like the PLANiTB Acoustica Mix version of Utada Hikaru's Beautiful World from the recent Evangelion movie series and also 4th Avenue Cafe by L'Arc en Ciel.

And on a special note, one band even had its lead singer and keyboardist cosplay while performing on stage which really added value to the idea of popular Japanese culture. I definitely enjoyed myself at this year's J-ObSESSION and look forward to next year's one.

More photos available at www.popcultureonline.net

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SLASH'S BIG NIGHT OUT

POP Stage



Few guitarists in the entertainment industry commands as much respect as Slash and fans were thrilled when LAMC Productions announced that the guitarist will back again to Singapore for another concert together with Myles Kennedy.

SLASH'S BIG NIGHT OUT

POP Stage



Performing at the indoor stadium as part of Big Night Out 2011, Slash started off his setlist with "Ghost" followed by songs from Snakepit and Velvet Revolver. Classics from Guns 'n' Roses were up next followed by new songs from his self-titled album such as "Doctor Alibi", "Nothing to Say" and "Starlight".

SLASH'S BIG NIGHT OUT

POP Stage



With Myles Kennedy on the vocals, tunes such as "Night Train", "Rocket Queen", "My Michelle", "Mr Brownstone" from the Guns 'N' Roses as well as "Mean Bone" and also Myles Kennedy's Alterbridge song, "Rise Today" were next on the list to wow the audience over.



Not forgetting hits like "Sweet Child 'O Mine" as well as "Slither" and plus the classic "Paradise City" for the encore in closing, Slash has once again brought the house down in style only he is capable of.

Photo credits: nicholas@dnkstudios.net

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN:ON STRANGER TIDES

POP Art



Everyone's favorite Captain is back again for the fourth installment of Disney's theme park ride turned movie, Pirate of the Caribbean.

This time Captain Jack Sparrow finds himself on an unexpected journey to the fabled Fountain of Youth when a woman from his past forces him aboard the Queen Anne's Revenge, the ship of the formidable pirate Blackbeard.

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN:ON STRANGER TIDES

POP Art



Filled with a starstudded cast and definitely a multi-million dollar budget, Producer Jerry Bruckheimer and Director Rob Marshall looks to thrill audiences once again with the latest installment of the Pirates of the Caribbean movie to hit cinemas this May.

Here at POPCulture Online, with thanks to Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures Singapore, we have some movie stills to wet your appetite before the movie opens.

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES

POP Art



"PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES" Captain Jack Sparrow (JOHNNY DEPP) and his old nemesis Captain Barbossa (GEOFFREY RUSH) are thrown together by fate in the search for the Fountain of Youth. Ph: Peter Mountain ©Disney Enterprises, Inc. All Rights Reserved.



"PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES" Johnny Depp Ph: Peter Mountain ©Disney Enterprises, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES

POP Art



"PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES" Blackbeard (Ian McShane) Photo: Peter Mountain
© Disney Enterprises, Inc. All Rights Reserved

Official Movie Synopsis:

Produced by Jerry Bruckheimer and directed by Rob Marshall, "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides" captures the fun, adventure and humor that ignited the hit franchise—this time in Disney Digital 3D™. Johnny Depp returns to his iconic role of Captain Jack Sparrow in an action-packed adventure. Crossing paths with the enigmatic Angelica (Penélope Cruz), he's not sure if it's love—or if she's a ruthless con artist who's using him to find the fabled Fountain of Youth. When she forces him aboard the "Queen Anne's Revenge," the ship of the legendary pirate Blackbeard (Ian McShane), Jack finds himself on an unexpected adventure in which he doesn't know whom to fear more: Blackbeard or Angelica, with whom he shares a mysterious past. The international cast includes franchise vets Geoffrey Rush as the vengeful Captain Hector Barbossa and Kevin R. McNally as Captain Jack's longtime comrade Joshamee Gibbs, plus Sam Claflin as a stalwart missionary and Astrid Bergès-Frisbey as a mysterious mermaid.

All photos courtesy of Walt Disney Motion Pictures Studio Singapore

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MORNING GLORY

POP Reviews

Produced by J.J. Abrams and written by Aline Brosh McKenna. *Morning Glory* is this month's MUST SEE and it stars Rachel McAdams, Harrison Ford, Diane Keaton, Patrick Wilson and Jeff Goldblum.



The Plot

Aspiring news producer Becky Fuller (Rachel McAdams) just got laid off of her job at Good Morning New Jersey. She sends many different resumes out and gets a call from a national network morning show called DayBreak, a program that struggles because it is competing with the Today Show, which is the biggest morning show in the country.

Becky is hired by Jerry Barnes (Jeff Goldblum) to be the executive producer and her first act as EP is to fire the current self absorbed co-host Paul McVee (Ty Burrell). All this on her first day at work.

The other workers at DayBreak applaud her but she desperately needs a new co-host for Colleen Peck (Diane Keaton) and finds a reluctant one in Mike Pomeroy (Harrison Ford), a veteran television journalist. Pomeroy is under contract to DayBreak's network IBS, but has managed to mostly escape being utilized while still getting paid.

MORNING GLORY

POP Reviews



Becky finds a clause in his contract by which he is obliged to accept an official job offer or lose his salary. Pomeroy ensures that he only do serious news stories by making use of a clause in his contract allowing him to refuse certain assignments, like cooking segments, that he considers beneath him.

Of course there's a little romance on the side as Becky begins to date Adam (Patrick Wilson), also an IBS producer.

The Verdict

One of the assets of the film was the performance of its all-star cast, especially Rachel McAdams. Looking at the trailer or even seeing the movie posters you'd think that she was in the company of some big names and wonder if she could cope.

Well McAdams's energy shine through so well that it allows Ford and his fellow news anchor Diane Keaton to craft beautifully timed comedic performances. That's pretty much the tone of the movie. It's somewhat a very snappy script with good punch. It's more than just a goofy comedy but an enjoyable life comedy.

***Find out more about our
Babe of the Month: Rachel McAdams
on page 36***

MORNING GLORY

POP Reviews

I've worked on the morning show for 3 years and it's kinda like that, coming early yawning before you go on air. Bitching or mouthing off but once the mic is on you put on a fake smile and carry on with your performance. (Something Diane Keaton did very well in the film).



I loved it and I found myself inspired by it, the way Becky really wanted to first be an EP and then grow the show and she had so much belief in it. Us media folks ought to learn a lesson or two from it because it's that passion that makes a great show.

Harrison Ford was his best and funniest role in years, there was that iconic Han Solo glare and that Indiana Jones macho wannabe that showed real comic chops as Mike Pomeroy

I have to put in special mention for Jeff Goldblum's performance. I thought he was great as the network boss and there was a little bit of his Jurassic Park character style coming through.

Rating: 4 out of 5 stars

Well as Pomeroy would put it....."It's quite fluffy!"

Morning Glory opens in cinemas March 24

All photos courtesy of United International Pictures

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SUCKER PUNCH

POP Reviews

Imagine your mind as a place to escape to from reality to fantasy and how deep your fantasy goes is all up to you. Sounds like Inception doesn't it. Well this month's Action Fantasy movie of the month, Sucker Punch has all that. It's Inception meets 300 meets Alice in Wonderland....well sort of.

"Sucker Punch" is an epic action fantasy that takes us into the vivid imagination of a young girl whose dream world provides the ultimate escape from her darker reality. Unrestrained by the boundaries of time and place, she is free to go where her mind takes her, and her incredible adventures blur the lines between what's real and what is imaginary.



The Plot

Babydoll (Emily Browning) has been locked away against her will, but she has not lost her will to survive. Determined to fight for her freedom, she urges four other young girls-the reluctant Sweet Pea (Abbie Cornish), the outspoken Rocket (Jena Malone), the street-smart Blondie (Vanessa Hudgens) and the fiercely loyal Amber (Jamie Chung)-to band together and try to escape a terrible fate at the hands of their captors, Blue (Oscar Isaac) and Madam Gorski (Carla Gugino), before the mysterious High Roller (Jon Hamm) comes for Babydoll.

Led by Babydoll, the girls engage in fantastical warfare against everything from samurais to serpents, with a virtual arsenal at their disposal. Together, they must decide what they are willing to sacrifice in order to stay alive. But with the help of a Wise Man (Scott Glenn), their unbelievable journey-if they succeed-will set them free..

Prior to filming, the cast had trainings and fight evaluations.

Training lasted for 12 weeks

SUCKER PUNCH

POP Reviews



The film includes an imaginary brothel that the five girls enter in the alternate reality, where singing and dancing take place. Hudgens was featured in a lush dancing scene and does a techno-belly dance musical number in the cavernous night club set while the character of Browning is tangling with a mutant German officer. It also includes dragons, aliens and a scenario of World War I due to the time setting of the film.

The Verdict

Well firstly I need to help set the tone right. Have you ever gone through the feeling like you have been told off by a colleague or someone you don't like and it affects you so much that when you go home while you're alone in the shower you imagine that you are telling your colleague off or retaliating to that person you don't like.

Sort of your own way of dealing with the problem in the form of an escape.

That's kind of how it's like with this movie. Drop logic, drop sense of time, Babydoll retreats into a fantasy world while she takes the steps to escape her captivity in the real world. It's her way of dealing or conquering her troubles and let's face it, haven't we all at some point in our lives wished we had super powers like Superman or martial arts like Neo from The Matrix.

With the power of the mind, it meant that Zack Snyder could create a world with no limits but to truly appreciate this film you have to lose your mind.

The action scenes in the World War 1 setting was pretty damn entertaining. I'd say this movie was like video game cut scenes. You know the graphics are so amazing that you don't want it to end. The feeling that the game itself felt like a movie.

During training the 5 leads were told to deadlift up to 95kg for their roles

SUCKER PUNCH

POP Reviews



Rating: 4 stars out of 5

I was definitely unprepared

Truthfully I wanted to give it 3.5 stars but I decided to add half a star more because watching the chicks would have been enough for me even if there was no storyline whatsoever. Heck, I even wanted to go one step further and add half a star on top of that just for Jamie Chung.....but that would have been too much.....but then again...

Revised Rating:

Storyline: 2 stars

Graphics and set design: 0.5 stars

Chics in action: 0.5 stars

Jamie Chung: 2 stars

Total: 5 stars

I'm so gonna get flamed for this.

Sucker Punch opens in cinemas 24 March

All photos courtesy of Warner Bros.

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WHO YOU ARE BY JESSIE J

POP Reviews

"Who you are" is the debut album of British Singer Songwriter Jessica Ellen Cornish aka Jessie J.

She first saw fame when she began writing tracks for Chris Brown and Miley Cyrus. The most successful track she co-wrote is "Party in the U.S.A.", which gained Platinum certification in many countries. On 7 January 2011 Jessie J came top of the BBC's Sound of 2011 list. She followed this in February by receiving Critics' Choice at the 2011 BRIT Awards.

She released her first single, "Do It Like a Dude" which peaked at 2 in the UK. Jessie released her follow-up single, "Price Tag" which went straight to number-one on the UK Singles Chart. It remained at number-one for two exclusive weeks. Her debut album was released on 25 February 2011 and charted at number-two on the UK Albums Chart.

The Verdict

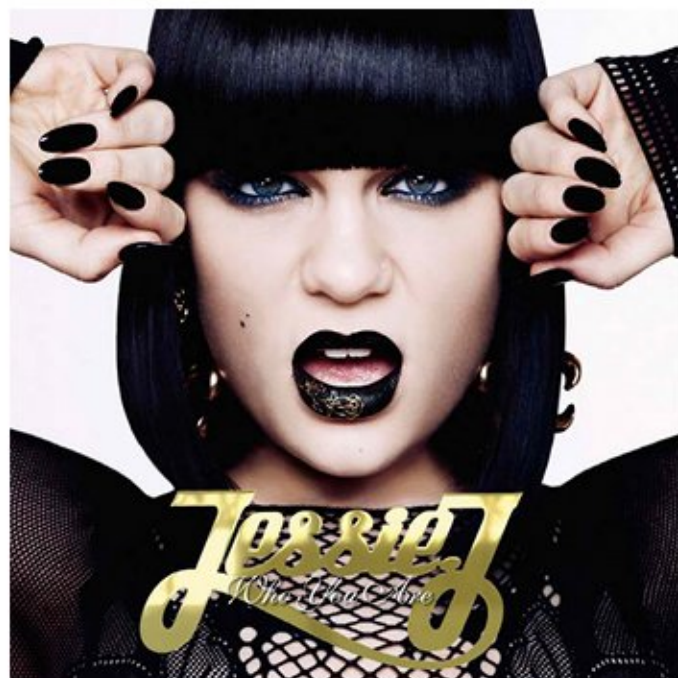
It's a very loveable album over all and you sense the genuine feeling and truth in the lyrics. The album does feature some prominent producers like B.o.B, Dr Luke just to name a few. Jessie shares writing credentials on all of the tracks on her album. Having started out working behind-the-scenes in songwriting.

The unique mix of styles in this album may show her versatility in different genres, but at the same time is a case of identity crisis this time because it does not mash well together.

Of course the hit singles and title track Who You Are were a joy to listen to simply because her emotions were brought out perfectly through her voice, like I mentioned earlier there is that genuine feeling and it's all personal.

Other songs like Casualty of Love, L.O.V.E and Nobody's Perfect were nice and easy on the ears, but it didn't quite fit in.

Honestly her vocals are to-die-for, and her songwriting skills are well known in the industry and despite the odd mash up of songs, Jessie J is the sound of 2011 and an acquired taste.



Rating 3 stars out of 5

It's cheeky and fresh and every Jessie is meant to be!

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ROBOCOP

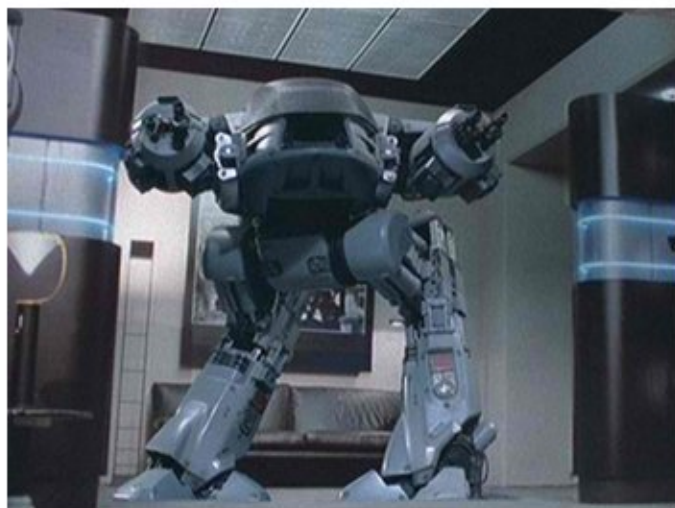
POP Retro

In this April's edition of POP Retro, we take you back into 1987 where a groundbreaking original idea took popular culture by storm. Part man, Part machine and All Cop, this month's POP Retro is the future of law enforcement, RoboCop.

Origin

In the future, the city of Detroit, Michigan is on the verge of collapse due to financial ruin and unchecked crime. The mega-corporation Omni Consumer Products enters into a contract with the city to run the police force while the company makes plans to destroy "Old Detroit" to replace it with the utopia of "Delta City".

Recognizing that human law enforcers are insufficient to stop the crime spree, OCP runs several programs to find robotic replacements.



One program, the ED-209 enforcement droid, headed by senior president Dick Jones (Ronny Cox), accidentally kills an executive during its demonstration. As a result, the OCP Chairman (Dan O'Herlihy) opts to go with a cyborg program helmed by junior executive Bob Morton (Miguel Ferrer), named "RoboCop". Jones is furious at Morton for going over his head.

The RoboCop program requires a recently-deceased "candidate" for conversion; to obtain one, OCP reorganizes the police force to the crime-ridden Metro West precinct expecting an officer will die in duty and become a candidate. One such officer is veteran Alexander James Murphy (Peter Weller), who is partnered with Anne Lewis (Nancy Allen).

On their first patrol, they chase down a team of criminals led by crime boss Clarence Boddicker (Kurtwood Smith) to an abandoned steel mill. Murphy and Lewis separate. Boddicker's men corner Murphy and sadistically mutilate him with shotguns before Boddicker executes him with a pistol shot to the head. Lewis, disarmed and unable to help, witnesses the murder in horror. Murphy is pronounced dead at the hospital, but OCP takes his body and uses it to create the first RoboCop.

RoboCop is guided by three prime directives written into his programming: serve the public trust, protect the innocent and uphold the law.

Unknown by his human monitors, RoboCop still retains memories of his life as Murphy, including brief glimpses of his wife and son, and the action of spinning his gun before holstering it, a trick Murphy had done for his son. Lewis recognizes these elements from Murphy's mannerisms, and tries to learn more from RoboCop.



ROBOCOP

POP Retro

TV Series

The success of the first RoboCop film spawned 2 sequels. The film was well received by critics and is considered by many as one of the best films of 1987. On Rotten Tomatoes, it holds an 88% "Certified Fresh" rating from critics, with the following consensus: "While over-the-top and gory, RoboCop is also a surprisingly smart sci-fi flick that uses ultraviolence to disguise its satire of American culture". Susan Faludi called RoboCop one of "an endless stream of war and action movies" in which "women are reduced to mute and incidental characters or banished altogether." Rene Denfeld calls Faludi's characterization of the film amazing, calling it her "favorite blow-'em-up movie", giving Officer Lewis as an example of an "independent and smart police officer."

With such a reception came concerns of whether the RoboCop franchise was too violent and that children might not be able to enjoy or learn from the prime directives of this cyborg cop.

Eventually the franchise took a different turn in 1994. It starred Richard Eden as the title character. Made to appeal primarily to children and young teenagers, it lacks the graphic violence that was the hallmark of RoboCop and RoboCop 2. RoboCop now has several non-lethal alternatives to killing criminals, which ensures that certain villains can be recurring. The OCP Chairman and his corporation are treated as merely naïve and ignorant, in contrast to their malicious and immoral behavior from the second film onward.

There was also an animated kid friendly version of RoboCop, which had much success especially in merchandise.



In 2000, RoboCop Prime Directives was released as a Mini Series. The series consisted of four feature length movies: Dark Justice, Meltdown, Resurrection, and Crash and Burn. It returned RoboCop to his dark, violent roots. Although Prime Directives takes place ten years after the original film, the production was not permitted to use clips from the feature films.



Comic

In May 1990, Marvel Comics released the first issue of an ongoing RoboCop comic book series based on the movie. The series ran for 23 issues, ending in January 1992. In addition, a one-shot was released in August 1990, reprinting in color the 1987 black and white magazine adaptation of the movie. That same month also saw a black and white magazine adaptation of the movie sequel RoboCop 2, as well as a three issue mini-series, printing in color the same contents as the RoboCop 2 magazine.

The stories told within these issues take place between the second and third RoboCop movies. Entering the Marvel universe, RoboCop's futuristic setting is expanded beyond the restrictions of a Hollywood budget. Most likely to give the "future of law enforcement" a more science fiction based reality, gangs now ride on hover bikes, urban droids carry out public services like waste disposal, and almost anyone with the know-how or money can create a giant killer robot.

ROBOCOP

POP Retro

Toys

Hottoys have released replica versions of Robocop as a movie masterpiece between 2006 and 2007.

One of the more rare master pieces is Robocop 3, where Alex Murphy aka Robocop had lots of add ons which to me made the character more cool and interesting. He was no longer relying on his side arm alone but a detachable Machine gun / smart bomb launcher / flame thrower all in one as well as a flight pack which he used at the end of the film. Fans all over the world were quick to snap up this masterpiece, which could easily go on Ebay for over 1000 dollars.

Reboot

Sony Pictures (Screen Gems division) was working on a new RoboCop film in late 2005. No details were revealed other than the unofficial (and confirmed) announcement. In November 2006, Bloody Disgusting reported that the RoboCop remake had been halted.

In March 2008, however, RoboCop was mentioned in an MGM press release regarding franchises it would be focusing on in the future. An MGM poster displayed at the Licensing International Expo of June 2008 read, "RoboCop coming 2010." The studio met with Darren Aronofsky to discuss the possibility of his directing the film. At the San Diego Comic-Con 2008, Aronofsky was confirmed to direct the "2010 RoboCop" film, with David Self writing the script. However, the release date was postponed to 2011.

On July 23, 2009, at the San Diego Comic-Con 2009 MGM was clearly present at the convention but when questions were asked about the RoboCop 2010 film, MGM representatives confirmed that there would be no promotion or information concerning the film at the convention that year except the confirmation that the movie would be pushed back to a summer 2010 or a later date, due to conflicting projects with the director. When asked if Darren Aronofsky was still being considered or had been signed to direct the film, MGM representatives said they could neither confirm nor deny if Mr. Aronofsky was still connected with the project at that time.

On January 5, 2010 the film and entertainment website Moviehole reported that the Robocop 2011 remake was indeed on hold and Darren Aronofsky was still attached to direct. However, once MGM executives, particularly Mary Parent the chairperson of MGM, saw the immense success of the James Cameron film Avatar it was clear to the higher-ups that they wanted a 3D film for the new Robocop. Due to the current financial state of MGM, without an owner, and the disagreements between the studio and Aronofsky, the film is still on hold until those issues get resolved.

However, on February 18, 2011, MGM announced that they had still plans to film the RoboCop remake. On March 02, 2011, it was announced that Brazilian director José Padilha was attached as the director. No further updates have been given.

Many fans including myself do hope that if a reboot is to be made, that it would keep to the roots of Robocop and most importantly the design of Robocop himself.



RACHEL MCADAMS

BABE of the Month

1978 was a good year, Rachel Anne McAdams was born on November 17 and she makes POPCulture Online's Babe of the month this April!



RACHEL MCADAMS

BABE of the Month

Rachel McAdams's breakout role was for portraying the "Queen Bee," Regina George, in the 2004 hit film *Mean Girls*. She then starred in the film adaptation of *The Notebook* and the hit comedy *Wedding Crashers*. Her other film credits include *The Family Stone*, *Red Eye* and *The Time Traveler's Wife*. More recently she starred in Guy Ritchie's 2009 adaptation of *Sherlock Holmes* as Irene Adler, which she will reprise her role for the sequel.



McAdams received popular acclaim for roles in both *Mean Girls* and *The Notebook* and was honored for her work, including five nominations and three wins at the MTV Movie Awards in 2005.

McAdams beat competition including Beyoncé Knowles and Jessica Alba. She won the MTV Movie Award for Best Kiss along with Ryan Gosling in *The Notebook*. McAdams won for "Actress Action Adventure" award on the 2010 Teen Choice Awards, for her role on *Sherlock Holmes*. She was also nominated for the "Actress Sci-Fi" award, for *The Time Traveler's Wife*.

RACHEL MCADAMS

BABE of the Month

Did you know?

Rachel McAdams turned down the role of Bond girl Vesper Lynd in the James Bond film *Casino Royale* as well as Anne Hathaway's role in *The Devil Wears Prada* and a significant role in *Mission: Impossible III*.

She also opted out of a cover shoot for *Vanity Fair*, in which she was to appear alongside two other young Hollywood actresses, Scarlett Johansson and Keira Knightley, upon finding out it was to be nude.

When McAdams appeared on set and discovered it was nude, she politely declined. In an interview with *PARADE Magazine*, McAdams stated, "When you're playing a fictional character, it's as normal and mundane as eating breakfast. What bothers me is our culture's obsession with nudity. It shouldn't be a big deal, but it is. I think this overemphasis with nudity makes actors nervous. There's the worry about seeing one's body dissected, misrepresented, played and replayed on the Internet."



Well sometimes less is more and we certainly don't think you need to go nude to be sexy Rachel!

You can catch Rachel McAdams as Becky Fuller in this month's *Morning Glory*!

Morning Glory opens in cinemas 24 March

All *Morning Glory* photos courtesy of United International Pictures

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