

Cool down with these autumn flicks

It looks as though Labor Day weekend is a little slim on new releases. The thriller *Don't Let Go* is opening nationally, but it isn't being screened for the press. That means it's as good a time as any to look into the future and find out more about some of what's arriving over the fall and holiday seasons.

September begins with a major release in the form of *It Chapter 2*. This Stephen King adaptation about a group of childhood friends facing off against a supernatural clown will finish the story off for good and is likely to be a big box office success. The following week features *The Goldfinch* with Nicole Kidman and Ansel Egort. It is a fictional tale involving a young man dealing with the death of his mother who passes away suddenly in a bombing. On a lighter note, *Hustlers* follows a group of exotic dancers who turn the tables on their Wall Street clients. Amazingly, the latter tale *is* actually based on a true story.

Science-fiction enthusiasts will take an interest in the Brad Pitt flick *Ad Astra*, about an astronaut attempting to save the world by solving a mystery at the far end of the universe. Sylvester Stallone returns to one of his most iconic roles in *Rambo: Last Blood*, and BBC fans will be thrilled with *Downton Abbey*, a cinematic feature that continues the story of the Crawley family after the events of the TV finale. There's also the indie comedy *Brittany Runs a Marathon*, which should be slowly opening around the country in September. And the month closes with

Abominable
, an animated flick for the family about a mythic creature coming out of the wilderness.

October begins with a comic book adaptation in the form of *Joker*, a new take on the classic DC villain. Advance word on the picture has been positive, with a few pundits suggesting star Joaquin Phoenix could be an Oscar contender in the title role.
Lucy in the Sky
is another outer-space themed entry that stars Natalie Portman as an astronaut who returns to Earth and soon begins to lose touch with reality. Director Ang Lee (
Brokeback Mountain
,
Life of Pi
) tries his hand at sci-fi/action with
Gemini Man
, which features a young and old Will Smith squaring off against each other.
Jexi
stars comedian Adam Devine as a man obsessed with his cell phone and those who enjoy
The Addams Family
will receive a new animated film for the whole family that is based on the famous characters.

There's also been a lot of buzz about *JoJo Rabbit*, the latest comedy from Taika Waititi (*What We Do in the Shadows*
,
Hunt for the Wilderpeople
). It's a period piece set in WWII Germany about a young boy who is a part of the Hitler Youth. He imagines himself palling around with the country's ruler until he discovers that his mother is hiding a Jewish girl in their home. Late October also sees the release of
Zombieland: Double Tap
which reunites all of the characters from the 2009 hit to face the undead once more. Disney fans will also see a familiar villain return to the big screen in
Maleficent: Mistress of Evil
, once again starring Angelina Jolie.

Foreign-language film fans may be interested in *Pain and Glory*, a Spanish title from Oscar-winner Pedro Almodovar (
Talk to Her
,
Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown
) that stars Antonio Banderas as a film director coming to terms with his past. The month wraps up with the Naomie Harris cop drama

Black and Blue
. The story follows a police rookie who accidentally captures a murder on her body cam that was committed by fellow officers.

As November arrives, things get really busy, with blockbusters saddled alongside some award hopefuls. Pictures being released early in the month include the sequel, *Terminator: Dark Fate*, featuring original stars Arnold Schwarzenegger and Linda Hamilton in supporting roles. There's also the period crime piece
Motherless Brooklyn
with Robert DeNiro and Edward Norton (who also directed the film) and the biographical drama,

Harriet
. Other titles arriving include the WWII spectacle
Midway
and the biopic
Ford v Ferrari
with Christian Bale and Matt Damon as the famous car manufacturers. There's also a
Charlie's Angels
reboot, and the all-star, tongue-in-cheek murder/mystery
Knives Out
(the trailer looks quite entertaining). Those who remember
The Shining
will get
Doctor Sleep
, a sequel with Ewan McGregor as a grown-up Danny Torrance. Of course, families will no doubt be thrilled to see Disney deliver the long-awaited
Frozen II
to cinemas as the season gets chillier.

There are many more films on the way and those mentioned above are only a selection of what to expect as the year progresses. They won't all be perfect, but here's hoping that some of these movies hit the mark and provide great entertainment and/or thought-provoking material for those venturing out to the cinema.

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