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MJ's *Thriller* picked for US registry

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Tuesday, January 5, 2010

GLAM GALLERY



A model presents a creation during New York Fashion Week. (REUTERS)



A model displays a creation during Paris Fashion Week. (REUTERS)

Ethan Hawke plays a different kind of vampire

IAN SPELLING | NYT NEWS SYNDICATE

“Life’s a bitch, and then you don’t die.” Such is the lament of Edward Dalton, the scaredy-cat vampire hematologist played by Ethan Hawke in *Daybreakers*, a sleek, violent, smart and modestly budgeted horror film co-directed by the Spierig brothers and set for release on January 8.

The story unfolds in 1919, when vampires represent the planet’s largest population and humans are an endangered species, hunted and farmed for their blood. Dalton despises his job and feels for humans, and he gets the chance to alter the course of history when he meets a band of survivors that includes Audrey (Claudia Karvan) and Elvis (Willem Dafoe), the latter a human-turned-vampire who has miraculously turned human again.

“I helped come up with that ‘Life’s a bitch’ line,” Hawke says, laughing. “That line came out of an improv we were doing, and then we all said, ‘Let’s go for that.’ I wasn’t sure if it was going to be a groaner or not. I said that line and, frankly, I was surprised that it was in the final cut of the movie.”

“That’s part of what the Spierigs, these twins from Australia, had to figure out,” he continues. “Is it funny or is it stupid? Walking that line, these guys get it. They get the weird sense of humour to chopping someone’s head off. There’s nothing more disgusting than the scene in the hospital room, when the guy blows up. It’s absolutely rivetting, but it’s also hysterical and a little subversive.”

“That’s a tone thing that’s really difficult to get, and they got it.”

Ed starts off as a coward. He’s called precisely that, to his face, both by his boss (Sam Neill) and by his soldier brother (Michel Dorman). Not to give too much away, but the movie – mercifully – does not end with Ed transformed into a cocky superhero.

Speaking by telephone from his Manhattan apartment, Hawke says that he considered it “essential” that Ed not go all Rambo on the vampires ... or on the audience.

“I hate that in movies, where there’s suddenly no integrity to the characters, where it becomes just about him being cool,” Hawke says. “The fun of this character is playing an intellectual as a vampire. You have a nonviolent vampire, and he’s forced into these ridiculous circumstances where he has to fire a crossbow and do stuff like that.”

“My love of the first *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (1981) is that Indy never lost the feeling of being a professor,” the actor says. “It was, ‘Oh, damn, I’ve got to ride a horse? OK, I’ll ride a horse.’ There was a humanity to Indiana Jones that I really loved, particularly in the first film. It kind of slowly frittered away after that.”

“But that’s what I liked about this character,” he concludes. “He’s the same throughout.”

Daybreakers will reach theatres with a much-deserved R rating. Characters swear like soldiers. Blood spurts

In the film *Daybreakers*, vampires represent the planet’s largest population and humans are an endangered species, hunted and farmed for their blood



A still from the film *Daybreakers*.

everywhere. Body parts fly. And moviegoers will see plenty of ‘subsiders’, vampires that have fed off the blood of other vampires and been turned into fearsome, bat-like creatures.

“I loved that,” Hawke says. “I can’t stand when something’s neither here nor there, when it’s not really scary, but not really for kids either. My first movie was *Explorers* (1985), and I worked with Rob Bottin, who did the creatures for that. All these crazy, weird effects geeks are some of the most interesting guys I’ve ever met, and it was the same thing on this movie with Steve Boyle, who designed the subsiders. These guys are good and they’re fun to work with.”

“There’s a scene in *Daybreakers* where the subsiders are walked into the light to their death,” he says, “and it’s almost like a Holocaust scene. I found that so interesting and moving, and it’s in the middle of this weird vampire movie. You’re watching all these horrible monsters who used to be people, and they have their wedding rings on and all of that.”

Another of the film’s best set pieces also involves a subsider. It breaks into Ed’s apartment, first startling and then attacking Ed and his brother, who defend themselves with messy, stomach-churning results.

“That’s just amazing too,” Hawke says. “That was 90 percent a real guy we were acting with, and it was awesome. Steve made this unbelievable costume for the guy playing the subsider, and there’s nothing spookier to me than the subsider licking the spilled blood off the wall. Steve is really talented.”

“I don’t remember much green screen,” he adds. “There may have been some, just to get the guy flipping, but there was a guy hanging upside down from the ceiling, screeching at me like a big bat. Seeing the Spierig brothers’ dedication to that scene, I thought they were throwbacks. They come at making movies from the right place, from their heart.”

The actor chuckles. “They don’t care about making a hit movie,” Hawke says. “They just don’t want to disappoint their friends, their geek friends they grew up with, made movies with, played on the computer with. They want to make movies that are cool and different. ‘I think they’re the real deal,’ he says. ‘I believe in these guys.’”

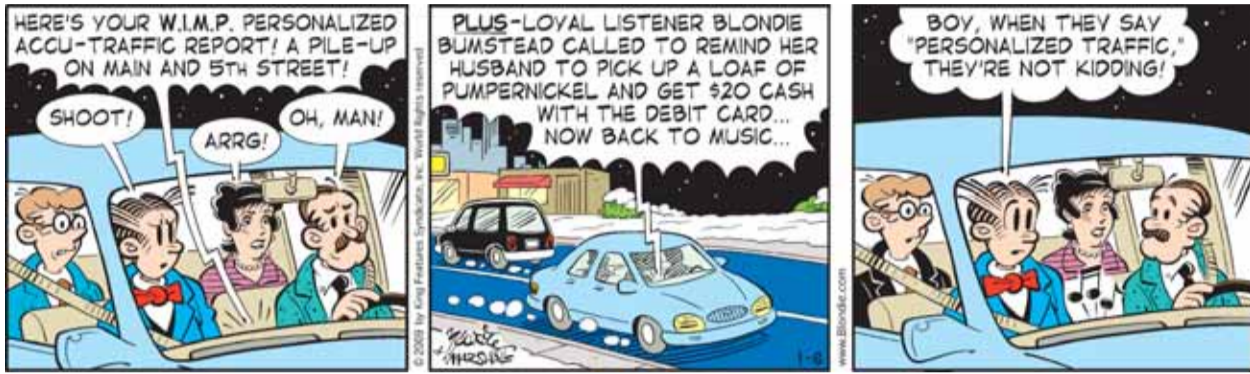


Ethan Hawke with his wife Ryan Shawhughes.

Beetle Bailey



Blondie



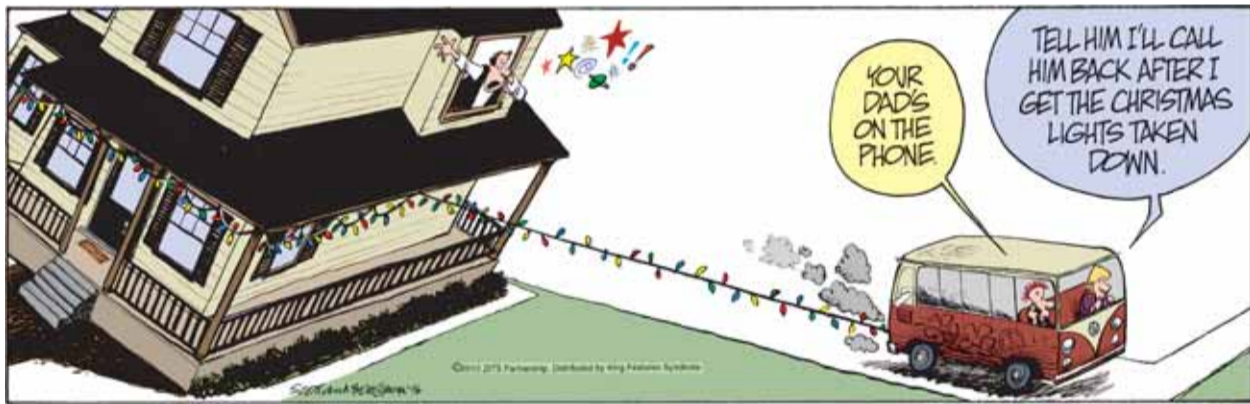
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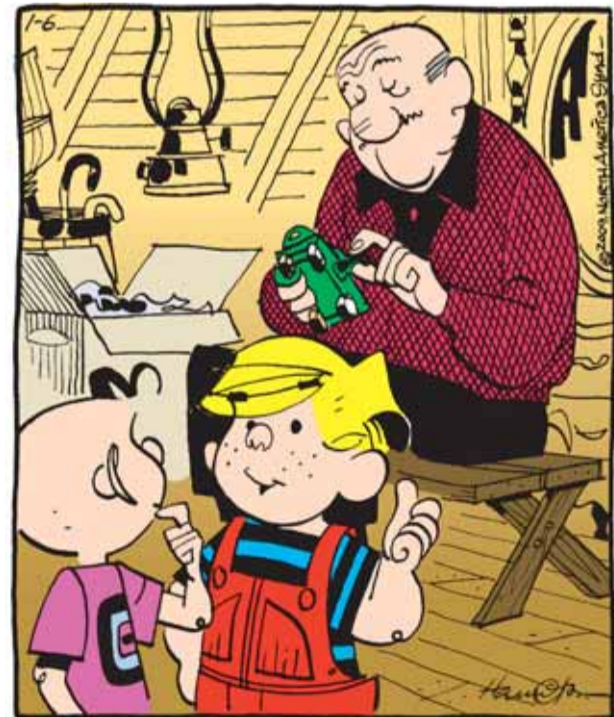
Spiderman



Zits



Dennis the Menace



The Lockhorns



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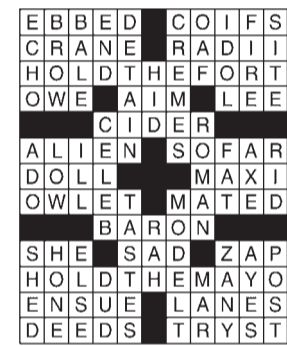
YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

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CROSSWORD

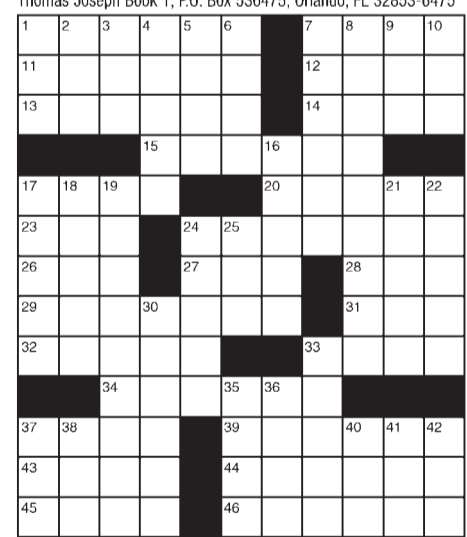
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Second-largest country
 - 7 Irritated state
 - 11 Penitent person
 - 12 Hawaiian port
 - 13 Irritate
 - 14 Eyeball
 - 15 Warm spot
 - 17 Game callers
 - 20 Sub entry
 - 23 Quarterback Manning
 - 24 "Understood!"
 - 26 Periodical, for short
 - 27 Sister target
 - 28 Gloss
 - 29 Olympics hopeful
 - 31 Game caller
 - 32 Wendy's friend
 - 33 Heed
 - 34 Tabby's treat
 - 37 Canvas cover
 - 39 Texas city
 - 43 Authentic
 - 44 Wilde's Gray
 - 45 Folder features
- DOWN**
- 1 Train unit
 - 2 — glance
 - 3 Dijon denial
 - 4 Egyptian crosses
 - 5 Proofing mark
 - 6 Vicinity
 - 7 Fired upon
 - 8 Cabaret
 - 9 Suffering
 - 10 Bunion spot
 - 16 French river
 - 17 Chart over
 - 18 Gladden
 - 19 1999 Brad Pitt
 - 21 Doorbell
 - 22 Glad
 - 24 Like xenon
 - 25 Spare tire
 - 30 Rent agreements
 - 33 Puccini work
 - 35 Go-ahead
 - 36 Object of worship
 - 37 Giant Mel
 - 38 S&L offering
 - 40 Naughty act
 - 41 Slump
 - 42 Some amount of



Yesterday's answer

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Tuesday, January 5

ON THIS DAY



▲ 1938: King Juan Carlos I of Spain was born. He came to the throne after Franco's death in 1975 and has since steered Spain to democracy

1477: Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, was defeated and killed by Swiss forces at the Battle of Nancy

1855: King Camp Gillette, inventor of the safety razor, was born

1971: Salvador Allende's socialist government in Chile agreed to establish diplomatic relations with China

2004: Astronomers reported that the giant star LBV 1806-20 was at least 150 times bigger and five million times brighter than the Sun

Picture: Getty Images © GRAPHIC NEWS

Qatar Tribune

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STAR TALK

By King Features Syndicate, Inc.



- ARIES** [MAR 21 - APR 19] You might make a new friend today, especially someone older, more mature, more experienced or richer. Possibly, somebody like this will offer you advice.
- TAURUS** [APR 20 - MAY 20] Romance with someone older — especially your boss, a teacher or somebody in a position of power or wealth — could begin. Alternatively, others might ask for your artistic input on something.
- GEMINI** [MAY 21 - JUN 20] Long-range travel plans are promising. You might enjoy religious art today. Someone older might give you advice or you'll get an opportunity related to higher education.
- CANCER** [JUN 21 - JULY 22] This is an excellent day to benefit from inheritances, legal discussions, insurance matters, money back from the government or anything related to a legal document. It looks like you're the winner!
- LEO** [JUL 23 - AUG 22] Romance with someone older might begin today. An ongoing relationship could move to a committed level. (Wedding bells?) This is a great day to make long-range plans.
- VIRGO** [AUG 23 - SEP 22] Bosses and authority figures are impressed with your efforts at work today. You're making things run more smoothly for a long time in the future.
- LIBRA** [SEP 23 - OCT 22] Artists and musicians can be particularly productive today. You have the patience to do your homework, to practice and to line your ducks up in a row.
- SCORPIO** [OCT 23 - NOV 21] You'll enjoy purchases for home and family that are practical and long-lasting. This is a great day to do anything related to real estate deals or redecorating.
- SAGITTARIUS** [NOV 22 - DEC 21] New relationships that begin today will be stable and conservative. Your discussions with others will be objective, realistic and concerned with practical matters.
- CAPRICORN** [DEC 22 - JAN 19] This is a good day for business and commerce. You're in a sensible, practical frame of mind. You won't take risks, because you want long-term security.
- AQUARIUS** [JAN 20 - FEB 18] This is perfect day to discuss problems. You have an objective frame of mind, and you easily see all sides of an argument. You might encounter somebody from a different class or educational background.
- PISCES** [FEB 19 - MAR 20] This is a wonderful day for research. You'll be happy working alone or working behind the scenes getting data that will be helpful and practical for your future.

HOLLYWOOD

MJ's *Thriller* picked for US registry

Thriller is among 25 films the Library of Congress recently named to the registry, and it became the first music video included in the 2009 list of cultural treasures that will be preserved for all time



REUTERS

Michael Jackson's 1983 short movie *Thriller*, the song-and-dance horror flick that helped popularise television music videos, will live on in the US National Film Registry. The 14-minute *Thriller* is among 25 films the Library of Congress

recently named to the registry, and it became the first music video included in the 2009 list of cultural treasures that will be preserved for all time.

The Muppet Movie of 1979, featuring Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy, 1975 bank robbery drama *Dog Day Afternoon* starring Al Pacino, the 1957 science fiction movie *The Incredible Shrinking Man* and Sergio Leone's 1968 spaghetti western *Once Upon a Time in the West* also made the list.

Jackson, who died at age 50 on June 25 from an overdose of powerful medications, worked on the *Thriller* video with director John Landis.

The Library of Congress described the video as a lavish production that "revolutionised the music industry." It played on TV, and was released

theatrically on 35mm film.

In *Thriller*, which was set to Jackson's single of the same name, the singer is out with a girl when zombies start to crawl out of a graveyard. Jackson joins the zombies in a dance, and himself becomes a zombie for a time.

In 2007, hundreds of prison inmates in the Philippines performed the *Thriller* dance, in a video that went viral on the Web and has been seen by millions. Los Angeles police are still probing Jackson's death, in an investigation that appears focused on his personal doctor.

With the addition of *Thriller* and the other 25 films, the US National Film Registry now lists 525 movies.



Michael Jackson

SCENE UNSEEN

Kate Hudson jealous of Madonna, breaks up with Rodriguez

Actress Kate Hudson broke up with Alex Rodriguez because he still has feelings for Madonna, reports have said.

Imdb.com reports that Hudson and Rodriguez reportedly split up last month after the *New York Yankees* star was spotted partying. However, *OK!* claims that the real reason for the split was Rodriguez's attraction to Madonna.

Madonna and Rodriguez reportedly dated shortly after the singer's marriage to Guy Ritchie ended but split up at the beginning of last year.

Hudson had allegedly warned Rodriguez that she would end the relationship if he didn't stop calling and texting Madonna. "Kate was mad with jealousy," a source said. "She gave A-Rod three chances to stop contacting Madonna. How would you feel if your new boyfriend kept calling his ex?"

The insider added that Hudson didn't want to be "the other woman" and continued: "She said that if Madonna is what A-Rod wants then she can have him."



Hilary Swank believes in miracles

Oscar winning actress Hilary Swank says that she believes in miracles, especially after looking back at the success she has had in Hollywood.

"I would say I believe in miracles, especially after seeing where I have come from and where I am today," femalefirst.co.uk quoted Swank as.

"A lot of young women and some men had come up to me and said 'You are a reminder to us to not give up our dreams,'" she added. The *Amelia* star also feels that her humble background has made her appreciate where she is now.

"It is a quality of my life that I wouldn't change for the world. It has made me really appreciate what I have in my life now. It also keeps me grounded. I don't want to ever forget where I have come from," said Swank.



BOLLYWOOD

Raat Gayi Baat Gayi about one night flings

SUBHASH K JHA | IANS

Somewhere on the second-half of this slightly seductive jigsaw about a one-night scam, filmmaker Sudhir Mishra shows up as Neha Dhupia's father who drops in to have a chat with his sullen daughter on the way to the airport.

Little does the stoic Mishra know that daughter has two men stashed away in a cupboard in the living room that looks consciously like a prop on a stage set. Quirky comedies are allowed their moments of eccentricity.

Maybe at this point Saurabh Shukla deliberately wanted to introduce an element of staged comedy. After all, isn't the world a stage? Shakespeare got there first. But hell. Shukla is panting from behind to catch Shakespeare's comedy of 'eros' in a modern context.

Shukla, who can be quite a funny-guy on demand, has made a quirky, sometimes crisp, sometimes placid, look-see at marriage and infidelity.

The seductively-paced work is set at a party hosted by a loud Punjabi clueless woman, played with much gusto by Navneet Nishan, whose amiable husband Dalip Tahil is cheating on his plump wife with the svelte

Movie:	<i>Raat Gayi Baat Gayi</i>
Rating:	***
Director:	Saurabh Shukla
Cast:	Rajat Kapoor, Neha Dhupia, Irawati Harshe, Vinay Pathak, Anuradha Menon, Dalip Tahil, Navneet Nishan, Aamir Bashir, Sudhir Mishra

Saurabh Shukla's seductive comedy film *Raat Gayi Baat Gayi* is a crisp, sometimes placid, look-see at marriage and infidelity

seductress Neha. In the film, Neha seems to invite more male attention than is healthy for any girl with a respectable appetite.

Dilip isn't alone. Vinay Pathak, playing the goofy, slightly stupid and undiplomatic regular guy once again, is cheating on his wife Anuradha Menon, the hilarious Veejay Lola Kutty trying hard not to be funny, and succeeding by checking out adult movies on the Internet. But our main potential phill-

derer is Rahul, Rajat Kapoor as suave in his sleaziness as ever, married to the sullen Irawati Harshe who befriends Neha at a party, gets drunk and then forgets whether he actually did anything naughty or not.

One of the problems here is that everyone speaks in Hindi because... well, they're part of a Hindi film when they're characters who would be comfortable in English. Having said this and that, the characters seem to be effortlessly conscious of their authentic bearings. None of the performers strays from the not-so-straight and borrowed path of betrayal, deception and infidelity. Rahul-Mitali marriage has a twist in its tail at the end and it doesn't shock you. It just makes you sigh. Shukla's direction embarks on a journey through one night of steamy sensations. The revelations are hardly shocking, just diverting.

Stylishly cut, the material's chic movement doesn't quite justify the content. But the narrative has moments that spill out the acerbity underlining urban marriages which are at best functional and at their worst, lies told to keep up an appearance of domestic smoothness.



Neha Dhupia

Shekhar Suman to replace Ravi Kishaan as host on *Raaz...*

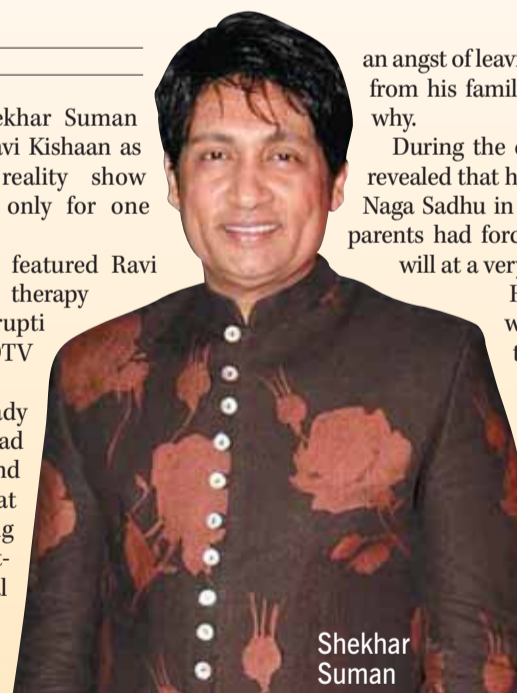
IANS

Well-known TV actor Shekhar Suman replaced Bhojpuri star Ravi Kishaan as the host of unique reality show *Raaz...Pichhle Janam Ka* but only for one episode.

The special episode, which featured Ravi undergoing past life regression therapy with the help of therapist Trupti Jayin, was shown recently on NDTV Imagine.

While Shekhar has already undergone it on the show, Ravi had been waiting to get a first-hand experience of the therapy that helps people in understanding the reasons behind their present-day fears, phobia and physical ailments.

Ravi says he has always had



Shekhar Suman

an angst of leaving everything and going away from his family. On the show he found out why.

During the course of his regression, Ravi revealed that he saw himself as a 35-year-old Naga Sadhu in Manali during the 1890s. His parents had forced him to marry against his will at a very young age.

He also revealed that there were certain circumstances that led him to commit three murders in his past life, which changed his life forever.

"I am completely amazed by my regression and feel relieved about my fear. I now have a positive attitude towards my negative feelings and look forward to a better life ahead," said Ravi.

NOW SHOWING

GRAND CINE CENTRE

IT'S COMPLICATED (ROMANTIC): 11 AM, 1:30 PM, 4 PM, 6:30 PM, 9 PM, 11:30 PM

BLOOD AND BONE (ACTION): 5 PM, 7 PM

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL (FAMILY): 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 2:30 PM, 4:30 PM, 6:30 PM, 8:30 PM, 10:30 PM

POIYO (ANIMATION): 2 PM

EVERYBODY'S FINE (COMEDY): 11:15 AM, 1:15 PM, 3:15 PM, 5:15 PM, 7:15 PM, 9:15 PM, 11:15 PM

ASTRO BOY (ANIMATION): 10:45 AM, 12:45 PM, 2:45 PM, 4:45 PM, 6:45 PM, 8:45 PM, 10:45 PM

NEXT DAY AIR (ACTION): 11:30 AM, 1:30 PM, 3:30 PM, 5:30 PM, 7:30 PM, 9:30 PM, 11:30 PM

BLOOD AND BONE (ACTION): 11:45 AM, 1:45 PM, 3:45 PM, 5:45 PM, 7:45 PM, 9:45 PM, 11:45 PM

JACK HUNTER AND THE LOST TREASURE OF UGARIT (ADVENTURE): 12 NOON, 2 PM, 4 PM, 6 PM, 8 PM, 10 PM, 12 MN

SAYYAD EL YAMMAM (ARABIC): 12:15 PM, 2:30 PM, 4:45 PM, 7 PM, 9:15 PM, 11:30 PM

AVATAR (ADVENTURE): 11:30 AM, 2:30 PM, 5:30 PM, 8:30 PM, 11:30 PM

A CHRISTMAS CAROL (KIDS): 11 AM, 1 PM, 3 PM, 5 PM, 7 PM, 9 PM, 11 PM

3 IDIOTS (HINDI): 10:30 AM, 1:45 PM, 5 PM, 8:15 PM, 11:30 PM

SHERLOCK HOLMES (ADVENTURE): 11:30 AM, 2 PM, 4:30 PM, 7 PM, 9:30 PM, 12 MN

SHINJUKU INCIDENT (ACTION): 7:30 PM, 9:45 PM, 12 NOON

PRINCESS AND THE FROG (ANIMATION): 11:30 AM, 1:30 PM, 3:30 PM, 5:30 PM

MALL CINEMA

ANIZ ASHAB (ARABIC): 3 PM

BLOOD AND BONE (ACTION): 5 PM, 7 PM

JACK HUNTER AND THE LOST TREASURE OF UGARIT (ADVENTURE): 9 PM, 11:30 PM

POIYO (ANIMATION): 2 PM

SHERLOCK HOLMES (ADVENTURE): 4 PM

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL (FAMILY): 2 PM, 4 PM, 6 PM

NEXT DAY AIR (ACTION): 8 PM, 11 PM

BOBBOS (ARABIC): 9:15 PM

GULF CINEMA

VETTAKAARAN (TAMIL): 2 PM, 8:30 PM, 11:30 PM

PAZHASSI RAJA (MALAYALAM): 5 PM

3 IDIOTS (HINDI): 2 PM, 5 PM, 8 PM, 11 PM

ROYAL PLAZA

SHERLOCK HOLMES (ADVENTURE): 2 PM, 4:30 PM, 7 PM

BLOOD AND BONE (ACTION): 5 PM, 9:30 PM, 11:15 PM

SHINJUKU INCIDENT (ACTION): 2:30 PM

EVERYBODY'S FINE (COMEDY): 7 PM, 9 PM, 11 PM

ASTRO BOY (ANIMATION): 2:30 PM, 4:30 PM, 6:30 PM

IT'S COMPLICATED (ROMANTIC): 8:30 PM, 10:30 PM

LANDMARK

NEXT DAY AIR (ACTION): 8 PM, 10:15 PM

PRINCESS AND THE FROG (ANIMATION): 2:30 PM, 4:15 PM, 6 PM

ASTRO BOY (ANIMATION): 2:30 PM, 4:30 PM

AVATAR (ADVENTURE): 2:30 PM, 7 PM, 10 PM

SAYYAD EL YAMMAM (ARABIC): 6:30 PM

JACK HUNTER AND THE LOST TREASURE OF UGARIT (ADVENTURE): 8:30 PM, 10:30 PM

POIYO (FAMILY): 5:15 PM