

## SUMMER 2024 MOVIE PREVIEW

### Sequels, superheroes, and surprises await

It may feel like not long ago, but a year has passed since the summer of *Barbenheimer*, and Hollywood is hoping for another season of enthusiastic audiences and perhaps an unlikely but viral cinematic pairing. Some things about this summer's slate of movies feel similar – namely, a lot of sequels on offer – while other elements feel a bit different, like the lingering hangover from last year's twin strikes that brought movie production to a months-long standstill.

#### ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Nevertheless, there are more than a few characters sure to distract from that with their showy antics, some masked and mouthy (here's looking at you, *Deadpool*) and others aiming to turn our emotions *Inside Out* all over again.

Behold a list of the most buzzy movies being released theatrically this summer:

**FURIOSA (MAY 24)**  
George Miller's fifth foray into the gnarly post-apocalyptic world of *Mad Max*, *Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga* explores the origins of the titular character originated by Charlize Theron in 2015's Oscar-winning epic *Mad Max: Fury Road*. Here, *Furiosa* is played to her utmost strength by Anya Taylor-Joy, with villainous antics (and a prosthetic nose) supplied by Chris Hemsworth.

#### THE GARFIELD MOVIE (MAY 24)

Chris Pratt gets to add another voice credit to his list of animated roles after last year's hit *The Super Mario Bros. Movie* with *Garfield*, following the famously lethargic ginger cat hailing from the comic strips of yore. Joining Pratt as the titular cat in this family-friendly romp are Samuel L. Jackson, Ving Rhames, Nicholas Hoult, *Ted Lasso*'s Hannah Waddingham and Brett Goldstein, along with *Saturday Night Live* stars Cecily Strong and Bowen Yang.

#### EZRA (MAY 30)

Robert De Niro joins Bobby Cannavale and Rose Byrne in this drama about a comedian who is father to an autistic child, and the unexpected road

trip they embark upon. Whoopi Goldberg, Vera Farmiga and Tony Goldwyn (who also directs) costar. The film introduces William A Fitzgerald in the title role as Ezra.

#### BAD BOYS: RIDE OR DIE (JUNE 7)

Will Smith and Martin Lawrence are back for a fourth go-round of this buddy comedy/action hybrid, with the twist being that this time, they're on the run (according to the IMDb logline). The movie, costarring Vanessa Hudgens, follows 2020's *Bad Boys for Life* (it seems that title's promise didn't quite stick).

#### THE WATCHERS (JUNE 7)

The nepo baby phenomenon extends beyond actors, as this June entry marks the feature directorial debut of one Ishana Shyamalan, daughter to M. Night (she gained footing on his Apple TV+ series *Servant*). The film looks dutifully creepy, and stars the talented Dakota Fanning (*Ripley*) as an artist who finds herself in a strange forest in Ireland. Soon, that becomes the least of her problems.

#### RUN LOLA RUN (JUNE 7)

You read that right – this 1999 international classic is being rereleased with a 4K restoration to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the movie's original US debut. Starring Franka Potente and directed by the visionary Tom Tykwer, *Lola* follows a young woman in Berlin who has 20 minutes to get across town to her boyfriend – and find 100,000 Deutsche Marks on the way – or else he dies. As time ticks by and Lola makes split-second decisions, her life and that of those around her become remarkably altered.

#### INSIDE OUT 2 (JUNE 14)

Almost a decade (!) since Pixar's Oscar-winning exploration into the mind and emotions of

one young Riley, Amy Poehler and company are back as Riley grows into her teen years. Several new emotions will be at play, including Anxiety (voiced by *Stranger Things* star Maya Hawke), Envy (*The Bear* star Ayo Edebiri), embarrassment and even ennui. Oh, to be a teen once again!

#### KINDS OF KINDNESS (JUNE 21)

After last year's surprisingly bizarre and very acclaimed *Poor Things*, *Kinds of Kindness* is the next team-up between two-time Oscar winner Emma Stone and *Poor Things* director Yorgos Lanthimos. The new film is billed as a dark triptych fable, costarring Willem Dafoe, *Civil War* actor Jesse Plemons, Margaret Qualley, *The Whale* star Hong Chau, Joe Alwyn, Mamoudou Athie and *Euphoria* rising star Hunter Schafer.

**A QUIET PLACE: DAY ONE (JUNE 28)**  
This prequel sure looks like it'll make a lot of noise. The latest entry in John Krasinski's super sound-sensitive alien invasion franchise, *Day One* stars Oscar-winner Lupita Nyong'o and will focus on when the vicious beasts first arrive

and begin wreaking havoc. The film features *Stranger Things* 4 breakout star Joseph Quinn, along with franchise returnee Djimon Hounsou, among others.

#### DESPICABLE ME 4 (JULY 3)

The Minions are back for another zany romp, with Steve Carell's Gru and family welcoming a new addition, Gru Jr, and facing off against a new baddie voiced by Will Ferrell. This one is sure to be a known quantity, especially for beleaguered parents looking for a break over the weekend of July 4.

#### FLY ME TO THE MOON (JULY 12)

This period piece stars Scarlett Johansson as a PR maven tasked with staging a fake moon landing in case the real one doesn't take off successfully, opposite Channing Tatum playing the launch director whose job it is to make sure it does. Woody Harrelson costars.

#### DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE (JULY 26)

Almost certainly the blockbuster to beat this summer, the highly anticipated sequel (are you sensing a trend yet?) will see Ryan Reynolds return as the famed Merc with a Mouth, joined for his third go-round by none other than Hugh Jackman, reprising his signature role of Wolverine

after (temporarily, anyway) saying goodbye to his claws in 2017's *Logan*. *Deadpool & Wolverine* is also significant as Marvel's first R-rated superhero movie, bridging the gap between the Marvel Cinematic Universe and the 20th Century Fox crop of heroes – namely the X-Men – who now belong to Marvel's parent company, Disney. Expect extensive, fourth wall-breaking commentary from *Deadpool* himself on all of this in the movie.

## NEWS

### Prof Yunus takes

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advisor and ambassador for socially responsible business is a departure from his usual work – and is all the more surprising given the reputation of the Olympics for embracing mega-projects and corporate sponsors.

The 84-year-old admits to not even being a sports fan, but he agreed to come on board after accepting a dinner invitation from Mayor of Paris Anne Hidalgo in 2016 as she and her team were bidding to host the Games.

"I said to them the simplest thing you can do, before you make any decisions about allocating funds, is ask 'does this item have any social purpose?'" Yunus said.

"If it doesn't, not a penny should be allocated," he added.

He says he quickly saw an opportunity to use the power of the Olympics to spread his message about the importance of embracing new ways of doing business, focusing on solving humanity's problems rather than making profits.

"The moment Paris does something, it becomes globally interesting," he said. "There is public awareness about Paris, the respect they have, their history and how they are known for creativity."

**A DIFFERENT VILLAGE**  
Yunus says his ideas fell on fertile ground in the mayor's office and the organising committee, with the city's vision for the 33rd Summer Games being an event with a lower budget and environmental impact compared with previous editions.

Only two new sports venues have been built, in addition to the athletes' village.

Having visited the village built for the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro – a high-rise complex outside the city, with poor public transport links – Yunus knew the pitfalls.

"I saw all these tall buildings, one after another, and I thought 'that's not the right way to do it,'" he said.

By contrast, the Paris 2024 village is around 40 low-rise blocs on a brownfield site in one of the poorest parts of northern Paris, with new metro lines, schools and parks part of the redevelopment plan.

Around a third of the 2,800 apartments are set to be converted into social housing once the Olympics and Paralympics wrap up in September.

Yunus also urged organisers to

consider adding "social businesses will be given priority" to their public tenders for services such as catering.

"All the big companies which are used to winning these tenders read that line and talk to each other and ask: What is a social business? Are we one? Will we get a priority?" he said.

"And the smart CEO will say, 'Okay, since we're not a social business, why don't we have a partnership with one?'. So at least you are bringing them into the picture."

#### CORPORATE DOMINATION

Ultimately, the catering contract to provide 40,000 meals a day was won by Sodexo, a listed French multinational with annual sales of more than 12 billion euros (\$13 billion).

Elsewhere, the usual roster of global blue-chip sponsors will use the Games for promotional purposes, from Japanese carmaker Toyota and global steel maker ArcelorMittal to French luxury empire LVMH.

Most of the construction work was performed by France's largest building companies – Bouygues Construction, Eiffage and Vinci.

But around the fringes, a desire to use the Games to nurture small, socially minded companies can be glimpsed, even if they have benefited from only a fraction of the nearly 9-billion-euro budget.

A Paris-based plastic recycling business called Le Pave won a contract to provide 11,000 seats at new Olympic venues, one of around 500 "social businesses" to win tenders.

Others included a business that converts building waste into topsoil, which was used at the athletes' village. Laundry services there will be provided by a consortium of nine small local entrepreneurs.

On the Games building sites, contractors were also required to use long-term unemployed people for at least 10 per cent of their workforce.

Yunus does not seek credit for any of these initiatives, but he is convinced that by putting his ideas and reputation at the service of the Games, he is helping to encourage change.

He has begun advising Milan-Cortina, the Italian host of the 2026 Winter Olympics.

"They whisper in my ears, 'we want to do better than Paris,'" he said.

### Israel presses

FROM PAGE 12  
On the ground in the Gaza Strip, witnesses reported fighting in central and western Rafah. Witnesses also said Israeli forces had demolished several buildings in the city's eastern areas where the Israeli incursion began on May 7, initially focusing on the vital Rafah border crossing, a key entry point for humanitarian aid.

An AFP correspondent reported artillery and gunfire in Gaza City's southern neighbourhood of Zeitun, in the territory's north, where

### His 'friends'

FROM PAGE 12  
hands in the murder mission.

The suspected coordinator of the murder, Amanullah, who left for the US after the killing, is Aktaruzzaman's brother-in-law, while arrestee Tanvir Bhuiyan, who suffocated the lawmaker with a pillow to the face, is Amanullah's nephew, the source said.

Celesty Rahman, another arrestee, is Aktaruzzaman's girlfriend, and Siam, now believed to be holed up in Nepal, was introduced to

### Crops on 1.53 lakh

FROM PAGE 12  
Md Hasan, 40, a farmer from Patuakhali's Galachipa upazila, said, "My mung beans, groundnuts, and boro paddy have been submerged in water for the last three days."

Al Islam, 45, a farmer from Patuakhali Sadar upazila, who cultivated groundnuts, chillies and mung beans on his 25 decimals of land, said his groundnuts and chillies were damaged.

Shawkat Osman, additional director of the Barishal Divisional DAE, said the initial damage estimate is not comprehensive, and a full report will take time.

Meanwhile, the latest report from the National Disaster Response Coordination Centre (NDRCC) released yesterday, said around 4.5 million people were affected by the cyclone in 19 districts.

Over 40,000 houses were completely damaged, and some 1.33 lakh houses were partially damaged, it added.

[Our correspondents from Barishal, Khulna, Patuakhali, and Pirojpur also contributed to this report.]

witnesses saw thick plumes of smoke rising over Jabalia refugee camp and Beit Lahia.

A steady stream of civilians fled Rafah, transporting their belongings on their shoulders, in cars or on donkey-drawn carts.

Gaza medical sources said 12 Palestinians, whom it said were civilians, had been killed and an unspecified number of others wounded in an Israeli airstrike as they tried to recover the body of a civilian in the centre of Rafah.

### murder took place.

Harun Or Rashid, additional commissioner of the Detective Branch of Police, yesterday said they will send an official letter to the Indian authorities to transport the body parts back to Bangladesh.

The three-member DB team, led by Harun, returned to the country yesterday after five days in Kolkata. He said their investigation there was "100 per cent successful."

"The Kolkata police recovered the body parts after we gave them the

The Palestinian Red Crescent reported late Wednesday that two of its paramedics "were killed as a result of the Israeli occupation's direct bombing" of an ambulance near Rafah.

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said yesterday that at least 36,224 people have been killed in the territory during more than seven months of offensive. The toll includes at least 53 deaths over the past 24 hours, a ministry statement said.

### Pakistan's Feb 8 polls was 'biggest robbery'

Says ex-PM Imran

denied the election was rigged. Khan, a 71-year-old cricketer-turned-politician, was jailed on corruption charges. He is also fighting dozens of other cases.

He and his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Party (PTI) say the charges were politically motivated to thwart his return to power.

Candidates backed by Khan won the most seats in February's election but fell short of a majority required to form a government. His opponent Shehbaz Sharif became prime minister in a coalition government with several other parties.

Khan was allowed by the top court to appear and plead petitions he had filed against amendments in the country's anti-graft laws, which he claims was made to favour corrupt

politicians.

The court, however, turned down his request to live-stream the proceedings. It said it was not a public interest case, according to a Reuters reporter inside the court room.

Khan has previously been speaking to a select group of reporters who are allowed to cover his closed-door trials conducted inside the jail.

His aides have been conveying his messages after visiting him and his social media accounts remain active, but it is unclear who is operating them.

He has faced numerous cases since his ouster in 2022 in a parliamentary vote of confidence, which he alleged was backed by the powerful military after he had fallen out with the army generals. The army denies the accusations.