

Four film trends to look forward to

By Charles Sibolo

11 Jan 2017

I won't lie, you guys, I have let life capture my nerd flag for the last few months. I have not even seen Dr Strange or Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them yet. The year 2016 shall go down as just the worst - seriously, just the worst. But enough of that, take my hand and let's look ahead towards 2017 and see what good things will fill our movie loving hearts with gooey goodness.

Here are some of the movies that we can look forward to:

1. A Star Wars Christmas

This is still a 2016 feature, but since it will be on circuit quite a bit into 2017 it warrants a mention. As you all know, Disney does not mess around when they take over a franchise. We will have Star Wars for Christmas in one way or another for the rest of our lives. As long as there are Star Wars fans and Disney can make money from us there will be Star Wars.



Last year gave us JJ Abrams' beautiful love letter to the original trilogy, [Episode VII: The Force Awakens](#). This year, we get the first of probably one million anthologies that are meant to tide us over in between the main movies, of which we'll get one every two years. The first anthology feature that we will receive is titled [Rogue One](#) and it looks brilliant. You know how you have always wondered how the rebels got the plans for the first Death Star? Or exactly how many Bothans died to get information on the second Death Star? No, you never wondered? Well Rogue One will answer the former question for you anyway. Just take a look at the trailer and get excited about more Star Wars.

The cast looks to be pretty impressive too with Felicity Jones (*The Theory of Everything*, 2014) in the lead role and cool people like Mads Mikkelsen (*Dr Strange*, 2016), Alan Tudyk (*Firefly*) and Forest Whitaker (*Arrival*, 2016) lending their support.

2. Marvel v DC: Comic Book Movie War

This war is rather one-sided with Marvel pretty much still dominating. 2016 saw them release their first entries in Phase 3 with *Captain America: Civil War* and *Dr Strange*, both of which received favourable responses at the box office and with the fans. 2017 looks like it will up the ante with *Guardians of the Galaxy 2* set to drop in May (hopefully with another killer soundtrack); our favourite neighbourhood Spider-Man gets his time in the sun with *Homecoming* in July; and things get apocalyptic in *Thor: Ragnarok* in November.





The DC Extended Universe (DCEU) has had a rocky start with *Batman v Superman* being a hit in some ways and quite a miss in many other ways. With *Suicide Squad*, their heart was certainly in the right place, but it also failed to hit the mark in many ways (and you thought *Deadshot* never misses). What DC does have is some strong characters to work with and a good foundation for their Justice League venture. *Batman* and *Wonder Woman* were amazing in *Batman v Superman* and *Harley Quinn* became an instant hit in *Suicide Squad*. 2017 will give us the much anticipated *Wonder Woman* movie in June and the first Justice League movie in November.

Superheroes seem still to be a thing for the foreseeable future. Who knew?

3. A little nostalgia

You are over superhero movies you say?

Say no more, Fam. Say no more. 2017 knows that you are all about reliving your childhood and will hook you up with that good stuff. Remember watching *Power Rangers* before school in the morning and then ending up being late? Well, now you get to see the movie in March 2017.

Baywatch? Hot bodies and slow motion beach running. May 2017 will have that for you and there is no hotter body to do the slow beach running for you than *The Rock* himself. Speaking of *The Rock*, you liked *Jumanji* as a child, right? 2017 will hook you up with that too in December and throw *The Rock* in for good measure. The whole *The Rock* thing probably made you think of *Vin Diesel* and 2017 is like don't worry we know you didn't like the *XXX 2* movie with Ice Cube, so we will hook you up with *XXX: The Return of Xander Cage* in January and *Fast 8* in April just for fun. You know how it is, *The Rock*, *Vin Diesel*, fast cars, hot women, family and not really eight characters. It's like 12 people who are somewhat fast. 2017 is lit. It even has the live action version of *Beauty and the Beast* up its sleeve for you in March. All I will say is *Emma Watson*. Hopefully that means something to you (#heforshe).



4. Dropping names and all that

You always have to end off with that name dropping session, just to show that you know who's who in the biz. In 2017 you'll also have *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales*, *Kong: Skull Island*, *Logan* (that's *Wolverine* by the way), *Transformers: The Last Knight*, *Alien: Covenant*, *War for the Planet of the Apes*, *The Dark Tower*, *King Arthur: Legend of the Sword*, *Ghost in the Shell* (we'll have to talk about Hollywood whitewashing when this hits), *John Wick: Chapter 2* and *Fifty Shades Darker*.





There are many more titles scheduled for good ol' 2017, but those are the ones scheduled to make some waves.

Here's to a happy 2017 at the movies.

ABOUT CHARLES SIBOTO

Charles Siboto is a delightful, youngish person. He firmly believes that kindness matters and cannot abide people who are asshats.
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