



There's nothing like cozying up in a big sweater and spending some genuine cuddle time with a buttery bag of popcorn once the weather cools down and – God have mercy! – the raindrops fall. As the summertime comedies stretch out their season, the studios start introducing their Oscar heavyweights into the ring. It's a movie-magic season for all tastes and penchants.

In anticipation of fall classes, Santa Ana winds and new autumn-marketing twists on the macchiato at your local caffeine house, *Campus Circle* brings you our annual Fall Movie Preview, a guide to the coolest movies coming out!

BY RAYHANÉ S. SANDERS

2007 FALL MOVIE PREVIEW

SEPT. 14

ACROSS THE UNIVERSE

(Sony/Revolution)
Julie Taymor (*Frida*) directs this equally magical-realist musical about young love (between Evan Rachel

Wood and Jim Sturgess), the 1960s, peace activism and, of course, the Beatles, who provide the soundtrack.

THE BRAVE ONE (Warner Bros.)

Jodie Foster chooses her films carefully, usually starring and producing in ones that attempt to



Evan Rachel Wood, Jim Sturgess and T.V. Carpio in *Across the Universe*

Wood and Jim Sturgess), the 1960s, peace activism and, of course, the Beatles, who provide the soundtrack.

EASTERN PROMISES

(Focus Features)
Forget the Sopranos. (They certainly dismissed us.) In the latest by David Cronenberg (*A History of Violence*), we get a look at Russia's Vory V Zakone criminal brotherhood, right on the streets of London.

Viggo Mortensen plays the driver of one of the organization's most notorious families. Naomi Watts plays an innocent midwife who gets wrapped up in the wrong kind of

explore a wider or deeper trend in our culture at large. Here, it's vigilante justice.

After her fiancé is killed and she is brutally attacked in an after-hours New York park, Foster's "Erica" seeks revenge on her attackers and all other city "thugs." Terrence Howard plays the investigating police detective – a conscience to her impulse for revenge.

IRA & ABBY (Magnolia Pictures)

For all those who loved the most surprisingly delightful *Kissing Jessica Stein* (guilty as charged!), Jennifer Westfeldt (that's Jessica) is back.

Westfeldt writes, co-produces and stars in this comedy about a free-spirited girl, Abby, and a chronically indecisive, commitment-phobic guy (Chris Messina) who decide to put a band-aid on their flailing lives by getting married, even though they just met. Fred Willard and Frances Conroy play Abby's parents, and Jason Alexander the inevitable marriage counselor.

KING OF CALIFORNIA

(First Look Pictures)
From a team that brought you *Sideways* (Michael London and Alexander Payne) comes this story of a prematurely responsible teenager's (Evan Rachel Wood) relationship with her institutionalized father – a crazy but charming Michael Douglas in one of his best performances. The film is no *Sideways*, but Wood is emerging as the fine actor of her generation, and there are so few films that address the father/daughter relationship that it's worth seeing this noble, but flawed, attempt.

MOVING MCALLISTER (First Independent Pictures)

Repo's Ben Gourley writes, co-produces and stars in this comedy about what young people will do in the name of corporate ladder climbing. A few days before the bar exam, a lowly law firm intern is asked by his boss to drive cross-country with his troublesome niece ("That 70s Show's" Mila Kunis). Jon Heder plays the antics-wild hitchhiker they pick up on the way.

SEPT. 21

INTO THE WILD

(Paramount Vantage)
The much-anticipated film adaptation (written and directed by Sean Penn) of Jon Krakauer's book – the true story of a young, post-grad elite's decision to abandon his possessions and hitchhike to Alaska to live in the wilderness and learn about life. Emile Hirsch stars, and Catherine Keener, Vince Vaughn, Jena Malone, Marcia Gay Harden and William Hurt round out the cast.

GOOD LUCK CHUCK (Lionsgate)

Based on a short story by Steve Glenn, the movie follows Chuck (Dane Cook), a lucky charm for girls. You go out with him, break up with him and – boom! – you're engaged to your dream husband.

Not a bad curse, right guys? Problem is, this time he's in love. Enter Jessica Alba.

THE ASSASSINATION OF JESSE JAMES BY THE COWARD ROBERT FORD

(Warner Bros.)
Brad Pitt plays America's most notorious – and charismatic – outlaw, Jesse James, who has no one to trust but – yes, that's right – himself. Casey Affleck plays Robert Ford, who joins James' gang, only to become resentful of and murderously enamored with him. A



Casey Affleck and Brad Pitt in *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford*.

Wild-West version of *The Talented Mr. Ripley*.

SEPT. 26

THE PRICE OF SUGAR

(Uncommon Productions)
Where does the sugar in your pantry come from? Paul Newman narrates this documentary about a situation of veritable slavery, in which thousands of dispossessed Haitians are working to the bone – and, at times, death – for Dominican Republic plantation owners ... and U.S. consumers.

SEPT. 28

LUST, CAUTION (Focus Features)

Academy Award-winning director Ang Lee (*Brokeback Mountain*, *The Ice Storm*, *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*) returns to his roots once more for this espionage thriller set in a WWII-era, Japanese-occupied Shanghai. Power, politics, war, love, sex ... and simply gorgeous frames delivered by the artful eye of a master filmmaker.

OCT. 3

LAKE OF FIRE (THINKFilm)

Director Tony Kaye (*American History X*) has spent years exploring both sides of the abortion debate in the U.S. Here are the results.

OCT. 5

THE DARJEELING LIMITED

(Fox Searchlight)
Wes Anderson (*Bottle Rocket*, *The Royal Tenenbaums*) teamed up with Roman Coppola and Jason Schwartzman to pen the latest in his string of poignant, quirky family tales. Schwartzman, Owen Wilson and Adrien Brody play three estranged American brothers who embark on a train ride through India to reconnect. Madness ensues.

MICHAEL CLAYTON

(Warner Bros.)
An all-star production team and cast welcome us to Kenner, Bach & Ledean, one of the largest corporate law firms in New York. George Clooney plays Clayton, a "fixer" who takes care of the firm's dirtiest work and whose character comes to be tested by a particularly sticky

question of ethics. Tom Wilkinson, Sydney Pollack and Tilda Swinton round out the cast.

MY KID COULD PAINT THAT

(Sony Classics)
Ahh, the art world. You can never be too skinny, too rich, too glamorous ... or too young. This documentary considers the case of the real life four-year-old whose paintings have been compared to Kandinsky, Pollock and Picasso, and have sold for a total of 300K.

OCT. 12

SLEUTH (Sony Classics)

In 1972, Laurence Olivier and Michael Caine delighted audiences with *Sleuth*, the story of a cat-and-mouse game between Andrew Wyke, a bestselling author of detective fiction, and Milo Tindle, the hairdresser who is sleeping with his wife.

In this updated version, directed by Kenneth Branagh, Jude Law takes over for Caine (for the second time; see *Alfie*), while Caine gets to play Olivier's original part. The exchange between these two great actors (Law has never been better) is just too much fun.

LARS AND THE REAL GIRL

(MGM)
"Six Feet Under" writer/producer Nancy Oliver penned this offbeat (surprise!) comedy about a loveable introvert (Ryan Gosling) who introduces his Internet girlfriend – a life-sized doll – to his brother (Paul Schneider) and his wife (Emily Mortimer). Patricia Clarkson plays the family doctor who tells them to go along with the delusion.

TERROR'S ADVOCATE (Magnolia)

A French-produced documentary about the controversial lawyer Jacques Vergès, who started his career in defense of Algerian freedom fighters and, after an eight-year disappearance, ended up defending Nazi criminals and other right wing nuts.

WE OWN THE NIGHT

(Sony/Columbia)
Joaquin Phoenix, Mark Wahlberg, Robert Duvall and Eva Mendes star in this real life story of the bloody struggle between New York City

police and the Russian Mob in the 1980s.

ELIZABETH: THE GOLDEN AGE

(Universal)
The legendary Sidney Lumet (*Dog Day Afternoon*, *12 Angry Men*, *Murder on the Orient Express*) directs Philip Seymour Hoffman and Ethan Hawke as two brothers in need of money who organize a crime-free robbery of their parents' jewelry store that goes terribly awry. Marisa Mortom round out the cast.

OCT. 19

WRISTCUTTERS: A LOVE STORY

(Lionsgate)
An offbeat comedy set in a strange way station reserved for those who have committed suicide. Starring Patrick Fugit (*Almost Famous*), Tom Waits and Will Arnett.

RENDITION (New Line)

South African filmmaker Gavin Hood (*Tsotsi*) directs this political thriller about an American wife (Reese Witherspoon) who travels to D.C. to try to find out what happened to her Egyptian husband's mid-flight disappearance.

Miles away, in faux-Guantanamo, we get the answer, as Jake



Reese Witherspoon in *Rendition*.

Gyllenhaal plays a young CIA analyst who is troubled by the unorthodox interrogation of the missing man. Peter Sarsgaard, Alan Arkin and Meryl Streep also star.

OCT. 24

O JERUSALEM

(Samuel Goldwyn Films)
Based on the book by Larry Collins and Dominique Lapierre, the story of a great friendship between two men – one Jewish, one Arab – during the time of Israel's creation.

OCT. 26

BEFORE THE DEVIL KNOWS YOU'RE DEAD (THINKFilm)

The legendary Sidney Lumet (*Dog Day Afternoon*, *12 Angry Men*, *Murder on the Orient Express*) directs Philip Seymour Hoffman and Ethan Hawke as two brothers in need of money who organize a crime-free robbery of their parents' jewelry store that goes terribly awry. Marisa Tomei and Albert Finney also star.

DAN IN REAL LIFE (Buena Vista)

Peter Hedges (*Pieces of April*) directs Steve Carell as an uptight widower with three daughters, who writes a parenting column full of rules and regulations for his local paper. His rules are tested, however, when he falls for the girlfriend (Juliette Binoche) of his brother (Dane Cook). Dianne Wiest and Emily Blunt round out the cast.

SLIPSTREAM

(Strand Releasing)
Anthony Hopkins takes the director's chair – and writer's desk – over a decade after his first try (1996's *August*) with this story of an aging screenwriter (Hopkins) whose mind is increasingly confusing reality with fantasy. An all-star ensemble – John Turturro, Jeffrey Tambor, Camryn Manheim, Christian Slater, Fionnula Flanagan, Michael Clarke Duncan – supports.

NOV. 2

MARTIAN CHILD (New Line)

Based on the David Gerrold novel, John Cusack plays a science-fiction writer who adopts a six-year-old boy whom he becomes convinced is an alien from Mars. Joan Cusack, Oliver Platt, Amanda Peet and Sophie Okonedo co-star.

DARFUR NOW

(Warner Independent)
The film, narrated by Don Cheadle, follows the heroic efforts of six people trying to resolve the humanitarian crisis in Darfur. Documentary? When we're looking at six people instead of, say, a coalition of six no-nonsense nations, I'd call it a tragedy.

THE KITE RUNNER

(Paramount Vantage)
The widely anticipated film adaptation of Khaled Hosseini's bestselling book about an Afghani-

American's journey home to the land of his childhood after the fall of the Taliban.

BEE MOVIE

(Paramount/DreamWorks)
Jerry Seinfeld co-wrote, co-produced and stars in this animated film about a naïve, post-grad bee who leaves the hive for New York City, where he wizens up and sues the human race for stealing bees' honey. Everybody and their mother contributes their



Florist Vanessa (Renée Zellweger) and Barry B. Benson (Jerry Seinfeld) in *Bee Movie*.

AMERICAN GANGSTER

(Universal)
Ridley Scott and Brian Grazer's account of the real life story of Frank Lucas (Denzel Washington), who grew up in segregated North Carolina only to become Harlem's drug kingpin, shipping heroin to the U.S. in the coffins of dead Vietnam soldiers. Russell Crowe plays the investigator who eventually caught Lucas, and later worked with him to expose the drug-smuggling system out of Asia's Golden Triangle.

JOE STRUMMER: THE FUTURE IS UNWRITTEN (IFC)

Nominated for a Grand Jury Prize at this year's Sundance, punk-rock filmmaker Julien Temple's look at the legacy of the Clash's Joe Strummer. An impressive amount of footage includes interviews with Bono, Johnny Depp, Matt Dillon, Jim Jarmusch, Anthony Kiedis, Steve Jones, John Cusack and Steve Buscemi, among others.

NOV. 9

LIONS FOR LAMBS

(United Artists)
In Robert Redford's first time directing in seven years, the lives of several people – an inspirational university professor (Redford), his

Army-enlisted students (Michael Peña, Derek Luke), a presidential hopeful (Tom Cruise) and a probing TV journalist (Meryl Streep), oh, and ours – get intertwined in our war-stained, interconnected world.

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN

(Miramax)
The latest Coen Brothers flick, based on the Cormac McCarthy novel, promises to be more *Blood Simple* than *Intolerable Cruelty*. Thank God.

After a hunter (Josh Brolin) stumbles upon a cash and drugs treasure near the Rio Grande, everyone – Tommy Lee Jones, Woody Harrelson and Javier Bardem like you've never seen him before – wants a piece of him.

SOUTHLAND TALES

(Samuel Goldwyn Films)
Writer/director Richard Kelly (*Donnie Darko*) started this movie as a cheeky sci-fi project before 9/11, but it has grown closer to a morality play over the years – though still cheeky.

An ensemble piece starring the Rock, Sarah Michelle Gellar, Seann William Scott, Mandy Moore, Janeane Garofalo, Kevin Smith, Amy Lucas (Denzel Washington), who grew up in segregated North Carolina only to become Harlem's drug kingpin, shipping heroin to the U.S. in the coffins of dead Vietnam soldiers. Russell Crowe plays the investigator who eventually caught Lucas, and later worked with him to expose the drug-smuggling system out of Asia's Golden Triangle.

I COULD NEVER BE YOUR WOMAN (Bauer Martinez Studios)

Amy Heckerling (*Fast Times at Ridgemont High*, *Clueless*) is back with this romantic comedy about a mother (Michelle Pfeiffer) who falls for a younger man (Paul Rudd) during her daughter's first slip into love. Tracey Ullman is Mother Nature, who plays with their fates.

NOV. 16

MARGOT AT THE WEDDING

(Paramount Vantage)
Writer/director Noah Baumbach (*The Squid and the Whale*) adds to his brand of conversational flawed-family dramedies with the story of Margot (Nicole Kidman), who pays a visit to her sister Pauline (Jennifer Jason Leigh) after the latter announces her engagement to the

less-than-impressive Malcolm (Jack Black).

LOVE IN THE TIME OF CHOLERA

(New Line)
The first film adaptation of a Gabriel García Márquez novel; Javier Bardem plays Florentino, who, rejected by his beloved at a young age, devotes his life to sexual affairs in a desperate attempt to heal his broken heart. Also starring are Liev Schreiber, John Leguizamo, Benjamin Bratt and Catalina Sandino Moreno.

NOV. 21

ENCHANTED (Buena Vista)

Somewhere between *Cool World*, *Big13 Going on 30* and *Cinderella*, this story begins in an animated fairy tale world, where a young girl (Amy Adams) falls in love with the handsome prince (James Marsden). His mother (Susan Sarandon) – an evil queen – disapproves and sends the girl to the one place where no true love is to be had: modern day Manhattan. Julie Andrews narrates.

I'M NOT THERE

(Weinstein Company)
Todd Haynes (*Far from Heaven*, *Poison* and the infamous *Superstar: The Karen Carpenter Story*) is the first director to get Bob Dylan's approval for a biopic of his life. Kudos!

The film features seven actors, embodying Dylan at different stages of his life, including Christian Bale, Richard Gere, Heath Ledger and Cate Blanchett.

AUGUST RUSH (Warner Bros.)

Keri Russell plays a young cellist, who, having had a one-night stand with an Irish guitarist (Jonathan Rhys Meyers) in New York's Greenwich Village, gives birth to and abandons August (Freddie Highmore), who grows up a musically gifted orphan cared for by a mysterious stranger (Robin Williams).

NOV. 30

FLAWLESS (Magnolia)

A heist movie set in 1960 London, where a soon retiring janitor (Michael Caine) convinces an American executive (Demi Moore) to help him burglarize their employer, the London Diamond Corporation. ☑

