

2011 Fall Movie Preview

By Tom Sims, Executive Director, Cape May Film Society

www.capemayfilm.org

Are all the superheroes out of the room? Whew! I never thought they'd leave. Thankfully, superhero movies seem to be reserved for the hot summer, peak season film schedule. So if you look at the pipeline, you see all the standbys...well... standing by for release in 2012. And by standbys I mean the old guard: Batman, Superman—yes Superman, and Spiderman—as in “am I so old that the previous Spiderman movies needed to be rebooted?”.

Okay, superheroes out of the room, finally somewhat “normal” films are back in season. And there's no more important a season in Cape May than the birder season! It's opening October 14—no not birder season, a movie called *The Big Year*, starring Steve Martin, Owen Wilson, and Jack Black. The three play avid birders participating in a big North American event in birding (very similar to the one that culminates right here in Cape May: *The World Series of Birding*).

Speaking of reboot, how about reboot with a little kick! *Footloose* is being remade. It's been more than 25 years since the original (okay now I feel old), so I guess a freshened up is in order. Dennis Quaid plays the John Lithgow role of the town reverend who forbids dancing. Kenny Wormald plays the rebellious kid who shakes things up. Wormald is best noted for such dancing films as *Center Stage: Turn It Up* (2008) and *You Got Served* (2004). And no I did not just make that up. I'm not sure why these remakes have been called “re-imaginings” as it seems there's not much imagination in the re-telling of the stories.

Johnny Depp returns to his Hunter S. Thompson roots—well at least in a film based on a novel by the gonzo journalist. In *The Rum Diary*, Depp plays Paul Kemp, a journalist trapped at a down-and-out newspaper in the Caribbean. In 1998, Depp starred in another Thompson adaptation, *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, so this should be interesting.

The Ides of March is a political thriller directed by and starring George Clooney. The cast seems outstanding, and the storyline has bite. In *Time* stars Justin Timberlake in a fantasy world much like *Logan's Run* (1976), where people stop aging at 25 but are engineered to only live one more year. Of course, my pick for a favorite fall film is *50/50* with Joseph Gordon Levitt playing a young man diagnosed with a rare cancer—oh and did I mention it was a comedy?

Of course the best movie ticket in town is the Cape May Film Festival, October 21-23 at the Chalfonte Hotel, where we host the best indie films! Visit www.capemayfilm.org for details.