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COUCH THEATER

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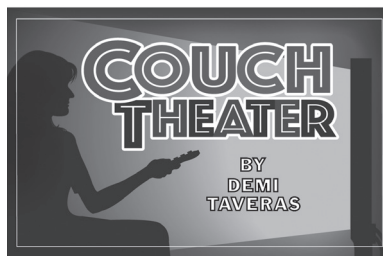
By Demi Taveras

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Apple TV

Photo Caption: From left, Arturo Castro,

Jessica Biel, John Cena, Teyonah Parris and

Sam Richardson star in “Matchbox: The
Movie.”



“Spider-Man: Brand New Day” (PG-13) — The fourth installment in Tom Holland’s “Spider-Man” film series is finally out to rent on Oct. 6 after its legendary run in theaters, where it became the third-highest-grossing film of all time! (Luckily, Marvel isn’t holding back with on-demand streaming of the film, like Universal is with Christopher Nolan’s “The Odyssey.”) Zendaya (“The Odyssey”) and Jacob Batalon (“The Wrecking Crew”) are back in their roles from the previous three films, while Jon Berthal’s Punisher makes his first appearance in the series. More newcomers include Florence Pugh (“Thunderbolts”), who joins the cast as her MCU character Yelena Belova, and Sadie Sink (“Stranger Things”) makes her debut in the MCU as Jean Grey. The film picks up four years after Dr. Strange’s spell wipes Peter’s (Holland) existence off the face of the planet. (Amazon Prime Video)

“Animals” (R) — After teaming up with his longtime buddy Matt Damon for action-thriller film “The Rip,” Ben Affleck is back on Netflix with this crime thriller, co-starring Kerry Washington (“Wake Up Dead Man”) and Gillian Anderson (“The Julia Set”). “Animals” follows Los Angeles mayoral candidate Mark Kimball (Affleck), whose son suddenly gets kidnapped during his political campaign. The kidnapper demands a ransom, but with all his money spent on his campaign, Mark is forced to resort to more dangerous methods of getting his child back. In turn, amid the chaos, secrets from his and his wife’s past emerge that they never expected to come to light. Steven Yeun (“The Rip”) and Adriana Paz (“A Mouthful of Ash”) round out the rest of the cast. Stream it on Oct. 9! (Netflix)

“Avatar: Seven Havens” (TV-PG) — If you have any Zillennials in your home, you know the chokehold that “Avatar: The Last Airbender” still has on them. It’s long regarded as one of the best animated fantasy series of all time and introduced us to beloved characters like Aang, Katara, Zuko, Appa and more. Shortly after the original “Avatar” series ended, a sequel series, “The Legend of Korra,” aired from 2012 to 2014. Now, 12 years later, a third series is set to premiere on Oct. 9, following Korra’s Avatar successor, Pavi, who’s also a reincarnation of Korra. Taking place 225 years after “Korra,” Pavi and her twin sister, Nisha, team up to save the Seven Havens before an apocalyptic event destroys their world. (Paramount+)



Courtesy of Apple TV

From left, Arturo Castro, Jessica Biel, John Cena, Teyonah Parris and Sam Richardson star in “Matchbox: The Movie.”

“Matchbox: The Movie” (PG-13) — After the \$1 billion feat that “Barbie” (2023) achieved in theaters, Mattel had no choice but to wonder, “What if we made movies about every iconic toy we have?” However, because “Masters of the Universe” bombed, they decided to go for a streaming-only release for this action-comedy film based on the Matchbox toy cars. John Cena (“Coyote vs. Acme”) leads the film as spy and former soldier Sean Walker, who reconnects with the childhood friends he used to play cars with. But while they’re at the bar, the entire group gets drugged and kidnapped by a group of criminals who are searching for a nuclear warhead; and even though his past almost gets his old friends killed, they decide to help Sean in an attempt to steal the bomb and clear their names. Check it out on Oct. 9. (Apple TV)

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