

OPENING THIS WEEK

Compiled by **LEE CLARK ZUMPE**
Tampa Bay Newspapers



Photo courtesy of TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

John Thornton (Harrison Ford) embarks on an adventure with a domesticated St. Bernard/Scotch Collie dog named Buck in “The Call of the Wild.”

A number of new movies will hit theaters this week, including the following films opening in wide release:

‘The Call of the Wild’

GENRE: Adventure and drama
CAST: Harrison Ford, Dan Stevens, Karen Gillan and Cara Gee
DIRECTOR: Chris Sanders
RATED: PG

Adapted from the beloved literary classic of the same name written by Jack London, “The Call of the Wild” brings to the screen the story of Buck, a big-hearted dog whose blissful domestic life is turned upside down when he is suddenly uprooted from his California home and transplanted to the exotic wilds of the Alaskan Yukon during the Gold Rush of the 1890s. As the newest rookie on a mail delivery dog sled team — and later its leader — Buck experiences the adventure of a lifetime, ultimately finding his true place in the world and becoming his own master.

‘Brahms: The Boy II’

GENRE: Horror
CAST: Katie Holmes, Ralph Ineson and Owain Yeoman
DIRECTOR: William Brent Bell
RATED: PG-13

Unaware of the terrifying history of Heelshire Mansion, a young family moves into a guest house on the estate where their young son soon makes an unsettling new friend: an eerily life-like doll he calls Brahm.

The following will open in limited release. It may be several weeks before these films appear in local movie theaters.

fore these films appear in local movie theaters.

‘The Night Clerk’

GENRE: Thriller
CAST: Tye Sheridan, Ana de Armas, John Leguizamo and Helen Hunt
DIRECTOR: Michael Cristofer
RATED: R
While on duty, a young, socially challenged hotel clerk (Tye Sheridan) witnesses a murder in one of the rooms but his suspicious actions land him as the lead detective’s (John Leguizamo) top suspect.

‘Emma’

GENRE: Drama
CAST: Anya Taylor-Joy, Bill Nighy, Miranda Hart, Johnny Flynn, Mia Goth, Josh O’Connor, Callum Turner, Gemma Whelan, Amber Anderson, Tanya Reynolds
DIRECTOR: Autumn de Wilde
RATED: PG
Jane Austen’s beloved comedy about finding your equal and earning your happy ending is reimagined in this delicious new film adaptation. Handsome, clever, and rich, Emma Woodhouse is a restless queen bee without rivals in her sleepy little town. In this glittering satire of social class and the pain of growing up, Emma must adventure through misguided matches and romantic missteps to find the love that has been there all along.

‘The Last Thing He Wanted’

GENRE: Political thriller
CAST: Anne Hathaway, Ben Affleck,



Courtesy of BOX HILL FILMS/FOCUS FEATURES

Mia Goth, left, stars as Harriet Smith and Anya Taylor-Joy as Emma Woodhouse in director Autumn de Wilde’s “Emma,” a Focus Features release.

Rosie Perez, Edi Gathegi, Mel Rodriguez, Toby Jones and Willem Dafoe
DIRECTOR: Dee Rees
RATED: R

Adapted from the Joan Didion novel of the same title, “The Last Thing He Wanted” is set against the nebulous milieu of the Iran-Contra scandal. Veteran D.C. journalist Elena McMahon (Anne Hathaway) abandons the 1984 campaign trail out of a misguided sense of duty to her father, Dick McMahon (Willem Dafoe). Guilted into running a dangerous fool’s errand on his behalf, Elena leverages the moment to pursue her own investigation but instead gets tipped into the confounding center

of the very intrigue she’s trying to expose. Answers turn into questions and wrong turns lead to dead ends in this stylish political thriller as Elena becomes increasingly lost on a map of someone else’s making and the possibility of return — to home and to herself — slowly narrows. The film will debut Feb. 21 on Netflix.

For more movie news, visit www.TBNweekly.com. Lee Clark Zumpe is TBN entertainment editor. He can be reached at 727-397-5563, ext. 341, or by email at lzumpe@TBNweekly.com.

Quick Takes

INTERVIEW WITH TAB BENOIT



Photo by GREG LOGAN/DOUG DEUTSCH PUBLICITY

Tab Benoit headlines Sunday’s lineup at the Clearwater Sea-Blues Festival.

By **LEE CLARK ZUMPE**
Tampa Bay Newspapers

CLEARWATER — Returning to the Tampa Bay area after headlining the final day’s lineup at the 2019 Tampa Bay Blues Festival, Tab Benoit will perform Sunday, Feb. 23, at the Clearwater Sea-Blues Festival.

The two-day festival will be presented at scenic Coachman Park, 301 Drew St., Clearwater. General admission is free. VIP tickets also are available. For more information and to purchase VIP or reserved seating tickets, visit Sea-Blues.com.

Born in 1967, Benoit grew up in Houma, Louisiana. A Cajun man who knows his blues, he began playing guitar as a teen when he hung out at the Blues Box, a ramshackle music club and cultural center in Baton Rouge. Learning the ropes from guitarist and club owner Tabby Thomas, Benoit played alongside some high-profile regulars such as Raful Neal and Henry Gray.

Soon, Benoit established his own band. His stripped-down bass-and-drums unit was propelled by Benoit’s solid guitar skills and leathery, Cajun-spiced vocal attack. He took his show on the road in the early ‘90s and hasn’t stopped since.

The Delta bluesman recently spoke to Tampa Bay Newspapers.

Tampa Bay Newspapers: You’re playing this year’s Clearwater Sea-Blues Festival, which serves up a mix of music and seafood. Describe your favorite seafood dish.

Tab Benoit: Just like Florida, we start eating seafood as kids. I would have to say all of the Louisiana staples like gumbo,

jambalaya, etouffee, crabs, shrimp. Whatever you don’t like you will probably develop a taste for.

TBN: On to music: What are your favorite music festival experiences, either as a performer or an audience member?

Benoit: As a performer it is always better when the crowd returns the energy that you are giving. We feed off of each other and there is no telling where that will take you night after night. New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival is a great one. People travel from all over the world and they are ready for you. It is similar at most of the festivals where we perform.

TBN: Are you currently working on any new music? If so, can you tell our readers something about it?

Benoit: I own a record label called Whiskey Bayou Records. I am always working on music. I’ve been writing with the musicians that record for the label and we are talking about doing another record. I am sure that I will have another one out soon.

TBN: What do you hope your fans take away from seeing you perform live?

Benoit: I hope that they all have a good time and for a moment I can make them forget about life and enjoy the moment. My fans are the most important part of what we do. I am always thinking about how I can give them the best experience that the band can. I never do the same things in songs night after night. I have to keep it interesting and natural because they can tell.

Capitol Theatre



Photo courtesy of SHORE FIRE MEDIA

The Steep Canyon Rangers bring bluegrass to the Capitol Theatre on March 1.

STEEP CANYON RANGERS

CLEARWATER — The Steep Canyon Rangers will play some bluegrass Sunday, March 1, 7 p.m., at the Bilheimer Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater.

Tickets start at \$25. Call 727-791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerhall.com.

The Grammy Award-winning chart-toppers from Asheville, North Carolina are as danceable as the most progressive, party-oriented string band, and equally comfortable translating their songs for accompaniment by a full symphony.

The sextet has released an incredible six No. 1 albums and

for its “sublime harmonies and soulful ad-libs” by Rolling Stone, featuring an effortless blend of SCR vocalist Woody Platt’s bluegrass-flavored baritone with the lush string arrangements of the Asheville Symphony and the vocal harmonies of Boyz II Men.

Now, Steep Canyon Rangers and the Asheville Symphony are expanding the collaboration with an 11-song album of the same name. “Be Still Moses” will arrive March 6 on Yep Roc Records. Featuring reworks of hits and rarities from Steep Canyon Rangers’ illustrious career, the collaborators share a fresh take on “Radio,” the IBMA Song of The Year-nominated title track from the band’s 2015 No. 1 bluegrass album.

Ultimately a celebration of Asheville’s thriving and diverse musical community, the roots of “Be Still Moses” stem back half a decade to a conversation between Asheville-based music producer Michael Selverne, Jessica Tomasin of Echo Mountain recording studio, and David Whitehill, the executive director of the Asheville Symphony. The trio had an idea to break down the barrier between the orchestra and Asheville’s world-class roots music scene, bringing the musicians together for one-of-a-kind collaborations while forging even closer bonds within the city’s tight-knit artistic community. The successful experiment reaches its natural next step as the symphony pairs with perhaps Asheville’s best-known musical exports for a full-length album. With Selverne

producing, the collaborators reimagine work throughout the duration of SCR’s career — from 2007’s “Call the Captain” through 2018’s “Let Me Out of This Town.” To support the album release, Steep Canyon Rangers will tour throughout 2020, including the March 1 concert at the Bilheimer Capitol Theatre in Clearwater.

“It was such a cool yet unusual experience to work as a band on a collection of songs we’ve recorded over the years and have performed live hundreds of times, by adding the Asheville Symphony and producer Michael Selverne,” said Steep Canyon Rangers’ Woody Platt in a press release from Shore Fire Media. “This brought the songs to a new place with an entirely new life and sound. We also recorded with the band in a truly live setting to capture the energy of the performance.”

Selverne added, “In 2015, I met David Whitehill, ED of the Asheville Symphony, who wanted to integrate the symphony with the

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