

Barbenheimer is just the beginning of this year's summer blockbuster season

After all the mermaids, superheroes, talking robots, and superspies that have already invaded theaters over the past few weeks, you might have gotten the sense that this year's season of summer blockbusters was already upon us. It's wild to consider given all the new movies that have recently debuted, but the truth is that things are only just beginning – especially for the film buffs who've been patiently waiting to take in *Barbie* and *Oppenheimer* (*Barbenheimer*, if you will) double features. Here's a little guide to all the features we're looking forward to seeing and digging into.

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Warner Bros. Discovery's *Barbie* movie from director Greta Gerwig has already so thoroughly saturated the pop culture discourse that the movie's going to have a hell of a time living up to the hype when it finally hits theaters this July. But even if *Barbie*, the movie, doesn't end up being particularly interesting, *Barbie*, the phenomenon – this corporate-owned IP event that's gotten pulled into controversy and political theatrics – has been fascinating to live through. And it feels like something we'll be talking about

at the end of the year when we look back on how odd 2023 was.

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21st

In addition to being one of director Christopher Nolan's longest films, *Oppenheimer* is also shaping up to be one of his most massive in scale, judging from a new featurette from Universal that details all of the practical effects that went into the project's creation. Somewhat similar to *Barbie*, *Oppenheimer's* already gotten caught up in an unexpected wave of backlash that has a bit more to do with what people are bringing to the movie than the substance of the project itself. But this also feels like a sign that *Oppenheimer* is set to become one of the year's more popular and overanalyzed debuts when it hits theaters.

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On a day when a lot of people will be packing into theaters to lose themselves in stories about living dolls and / or audacious bomb-makers, Netflix's *They Cloned Tyrone* is going to feel like the perfect counterprogramming for everyone planning to stay home. The blaxploitation-inspired sci-fi comedy from director Juel Taylor brings John Boyega, Teyonah Parris, and Jamie Foxx together as an unlikely trio who become the rallying force against a

secret governmental plot to prey on poor Black people. It's tough to really describe the film without giving too much of it away, but fans of new classics like *Attack the Block* and *The Blackening* are going to want to check this one out.

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We won't know for sure until the movie's actually in theaters, but

each trailer for Disney's upcoming *Haunted Mansion* remake from director Justin Simien has made the movie look surprisingly... decent? It's not that the movie's going to properly scare anyone, but it feels like it has a solid sense of what it wants to be (cool and unsettling) and a genuine desire to translate the feeling of being on a wild ride into

movie form, which could
end up making for an
interesting filmgoing
experience.

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Even if the OG

Turtles weren't exactly your bag, it's hard to deny how inspired and exciting the visuals in Paramount's new *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem* seem like they're going to be. *Mutant Mayhem* might be the seventh movie

**in the 35-year
history of the
*Teenage Mutant Ninja
Turtles* franchise
and mark Paramount's
third attempt at
rebooting the IP in
the past decade. But
the thing looks like
a delight and the
sort of reimagining
that could mint an**

entire new
generation of fans.

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The brilliant
thing about
Julio Torres'
Problemista is
that even if
you've never
personally
dreamt of

**immigrating and
moving to a big
city to become a
toymaker,
chances are
solid that you
have worked for
an overbearing
boss who doesn't**

**exactly see you
as a person with
a rich, complex
interiority.**

**It's a tale as
old as time –
and one that's
way more
relatable than**

**it should be.
But it's
probably going
to make for one
of A24's more
interesting new
releases this
year.**

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gust 11th**

Post-
Renfield,
with all of
its plays at
campiness,
Universal's
The Last

*Voyage of the
Demeter* is
set to remind
audiences
just what
made Bram
Stoker's

Dracula such
an unnerving
and
terrifying
presence in
his original
novel. Set

**largely on a
doomed
merchant ship
full of
unsuspecting
humans who
don't know**

the danger
they're in,
*The Last
Voyage of the
Demeter* tells
the tale of
how a doctor

**(Corey
Hawkins), a
stowaway
(Aisling
Franciosi),
and a captain
(Liam**

**Cunningham)
and his first
mate (David
Dastmalchian)
realize that
they're all
being stalked**

**at sea by the
king of
vampires
(Javier
Botet) .**

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18th

We've

heard
quite a
bit about
what James
Gunn and
Peter

**Safran
plan to do
with
Warner
Bros.
Discovery'**

**s universe
of movies
built
around
DC's
superhero**

s now that

The Flash

has come

and gone .

But

director

**Angel
Manuel
Soto's
*Blue
Beetle* is
actually**

going to
be one of
the
studio's
first
projects

**set in the
all-new,
largely
rebooted
cinematic
universe,**

**and it's
probably
going to
play a
rather
significant**

**t role in
shaping
how people
feel about
what's
coming**

**down the
pipeline.**

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**(Emma
Stone)
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and**

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revival

at the

**hands of
an
orthodox
scientist**

t

(Willem

Dafoe)

rees

her to

live the

kind of

life

that she

never

could

have

**imagined
before
meeting
her**

untimely

end.

When

Bella

crosses

paths

with a

too-cool

**Lawyer
(Mark
Ruffalo)
who**

**promises
to show
her the
world,**

she

doesn't

necessar

ily know

whether

to

suspect

what

ulterior
motives
he might
have.

**But
looking
at the
surreali**

st

adventur

e Bella

seems to

be

decided

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control

of in
Poor
Things'
trailer,

**other
people's
intentio
ns might**

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to her.**

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