

MOVIE REVIEW

Skyscraper Does Not Tower Over the Box Office

By Teddy Durgin

Special to the Examiner

I keep pulling for Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson to put together a string of good flicks, because he seems like such a cool, fun guy in real life who is clearly having a blast with stardom. I also pull for him because I grew up in the '80s and early '90s when beefcake cinema was practically a way of life. I cut my teeth on the action flicks of Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sylvester Stallone, Steven Seagal, Jean-Claude Van Damme, and Chuck Norris. When those guys were on, they delivered some of the favorite flicks of my lifetime (the first two "Terminators," "True Lies," the "Rockys" and "Rambo," "Above the Law"). Even when they were making cheapie throwaway flicks like "Commando" and "Cobra" and "Double Impact," the popcorn munching was epic. And lines like "I'll be back" and "Murdock, I'm coming for you" and "I'll hit you with so many rights, you'll be begging for a left" were pure geek poetry.

Johnson has certainly equaled those past action hunks' production on the big screen. It seems we get a new flick from the guy every three or four months. I just wish he were a touch more selective.

And, most importantly, I wish he worked with top-notch directors. Imagine what he could do with a Paul Greengrass or Christopher McQuarrie.

Instead, we get not-good/not-bad movies like "Skyscraper," a wannabe "Die Hard" or "Tower of Inferno" or "Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol" directed by the guy who did "Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story," "We're the Millers," and "Central Intelligence." Those are some fun, modest comedies. "Skyscraper" strives for the gargantuan like its titular tower, but falls several stories short.

Johnson plays Will Ford, a former FBI Hostage Rescue Team leader who now assesses security for really tall buildings. After a tense opening sequence (quite good actually) in which we learn why Ford is a former FBI guy, we find him on assignment in China and tasked with assessing the security on The Pearl, billed as the world's tallest and safest building.

It's not.

Before long, the darn thing is set ablaze with Ford's wife (a welcome return role for Neve Campbell) and two children inside on the 96th floor and he's framed for the fire. But it's really just an elaborate ruse for the film's baddies to commit arson, disable The Pearl's



fire-fighting systems, and put their muddled extortion plot into motion.

The building is actually more of a character than any of the humans in the flick. An impressive movie creation, it soars 220 stories in the sky and is billed as three times the size of the Empire State Building. But bigger isn't always better ... seriously, it's not! And the film relies way too much on computer-generated special effects. Actually, what the flick needed to really sing was a great villain a la Hans Gruber ... or even Simon Gruber. It also needed a more chipper Dwayne Johnson. He plays a heavier, less humorous character here than you'd expect due to a tragedy shown early on. The film doesn't do itself any favors

by constantly having kids in deadly peril, too.

Style and humor is what "Skyscraper" needed more of. It's how you get past dumb scenes like terrorists shooting up a room full of technicians ... and not hitting a single computer screen. Or, Ford's preposterous, gravity-defying leap from a 100-story construction crane onto The Pearl. Or Ford telling his frozen-with-fear kid, "For you to be brave, you gotta be a little scared!" Huh?

I've inspected this "Skyscraper," and I've deemed it unfit for full-price admission. Wait for cable or pay-per-view.

"Skyscraper" is rated PG-13 for sequences of gun violence, action, and some language.

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3391. ^{tfn}
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YARD SALE

INDOOR YARD SALE: 1344 Walnut Bottom Road, Fisher, WV. 0N 7/27 and 28, also 8/3 and 8/4. 8am to 4pm. New items to include indians, humming birds, eagles, pottery, angels, wolf, deer, fiber optic items, frogs, owls, figurines. Call 434-2077 for other hours. ^{8/4}

YARD SALE: Wimer residence, Rt 220 South of Moorefield. July 27th and 28th from 8am-? ^{7/27}
DOWNSIZING LARGE YARD Sale. Merrill and Tammy May have moved home to Hardy county therefore decided to down size to a smaller home. The yard sale will be held at her mothers (Annabelle Keller) residence on River Road, first house on the left. 185 River Road at Fisher on August 1st-4th from 8am-??. Lots of items for sale: Pfaltzcraft (York town pattern), dishes, pictures, typewriters, other dishes and more, just too much to mention. Come and see. Cancelled if rain. ^{8/4}

2 FAMILY YARD SALE, August 3-5. Furniture, microwaves, dorm refrig, vintage lego set 500 pieces. 1900 kerosene RR lantern, old mandolin, guitar, more antiques, wifi games, This is a big one. 4148 Mill Gap Road. (Trout Pond). Not responsible for accidents. Pat Snyder. ^{8/4}

REUNIONS

HELMICK AND WHETZEL FAMILY REUNION: It's time again for another fun-filled family reunion. We will be getting together with relatives and friends. Date: Saturday, August 4, 2018. Time: 1:00 pm. Location: Moorefield Volunteer Fire Company Bingo Hall, 225 Jefferson Street, Moorefield, WV. Bring a covered dish and join the fun. ^{8/4}

ANNUAL VANCE REUNION: Descendants of Charles and Susan Vance, Sunday July 29th at Brighton Park, shelter #4 at 1 pm. Please bring a covered dish. ^{7/28}



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Saturday, July 28, 1 and 2:30 p.m.

Linda Zimmer from Mill Creek will present two performances of a special marionette show, "Peter Rabbit." Linda's puppets are made of native hardwoods, and each creation is a unique character. Her performances will be in

the SRDC Children's Area.

Saturday, June 28, 11-3 p.m.

The Sites Homestead will host a flint knapping event. Flint knappers will be gathered at the Sites Homestead to demonstrate this almost lost art. Please join us for a wonderful lesson in history!

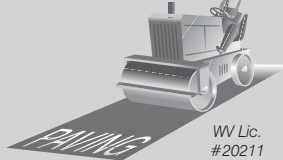
The Seneca Rocks Discovery Center is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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Photo courtesy of Getty Images

Savory Summer Entertaining

Island infusion for warm-weather festivities

FAMILY FEATURES

Flavorful foods and cold drinks are the focal points of just about any summer gathering. Create a party atmosphere that can stand out by adding a bit of island infusion to both bites and beverages so your warm-weather soiree can soar to new heights.

To help add that island spark, an ingredient like bitters provides a potent flavor made from botanicals like aromatic herbs, bark, roots and fruit. While known for their ability to balance countless cocktails, it may come as a surprise that bitters are regarded by some chefs as a pantry staple, adding real depth of flavor to a variety of dishes. Bitters can be added to classic and contemporary cocktails and a range of cuisines to create taste-tempting creations.

Much like vanilla extract, when cooked, the alcohol in bitters evaporates, so bitters-infused recipes can be enjoyed by the whole family at your next backyard barbecue or patio party.

Center your spread around a summer favorite like Pulled-Pork Sliders with Bitters, a tangy Caribbean twist on a classic dish featuring a spicy chili rub. Coupled with a vinegar-based sauce dashed with Angostura aromatic bitters, an unmistakable culinary and cocktail essential made with the same secret recipe since 1824, the flavorful sliders make for a crowd-pleasing main course.



Add to the island vibe with a unique take on a tried-and-true sweet treat like cake. Orange Butter Sponge Cake enhances every party's dessert course with the sweet and tangy combination of citrus and bitters.

These tasty foods paired with hot temperatures call for cooling off with inventive bitters-forward drink recipes like the Queen's Park Swizzle, Angostura's signature Trinidadian cocktail, and a summertime go-to, the Traditional Mojito. These drinks balance the art of the swizzle with the tastes of tiki to provide guests with refreshing beverage options.

Whether you're an aspiring home chef, an amateur bartender or anything in between, you can elevate summer entertaining with bitters to complement an array of ingredients for exceptional entertaining all summer long.

Find more summertime food and drink recipes to savor at AngosturaBitters.com.



Traditional Mojito

Makes: 1 cocktail

- 1 cube brown sugar
- 1/2 ounce simple syrup
- 12-15 mint leaves
- 3/4 ounce fresh lime juice
- 2 ounces white rum
- 2 dashes Angostura aromatic bitters
- crushed ice
- 1 bottle club soda
- 1 mint sprig, for garnish

In Collins glass, muddle brown sugar cube and simple syrup, then add mint and lightly press to extract flavor. Add lime juice, rum and aromatic bitters.

Fill glass with crushed ice and swizzle.

Repack with crushed ice and top with club soda. Garnish with mint sprig.



Queen's Park Swizzle

Makes: 1 cocktail

- 12-14 mint leaves
- 1 ounce fresh lime juice
- 1 ounce Demerara simple syrup
- crushed ice
- 2 ounces Caribbean rum
- 6-8 dashes Angostura aromatic bitters
- 1 mint sprig, for garnish

In highball glass, muddle mint leaves in lime juice and simple syrup, then fill glass with dry, crushed ice.

Pour rum over crushed ice and swizzle well until glass is ice cold and frosted.

Pack glass with more crushed ice and top with aromatic bitters. Garnish with mint sprig.

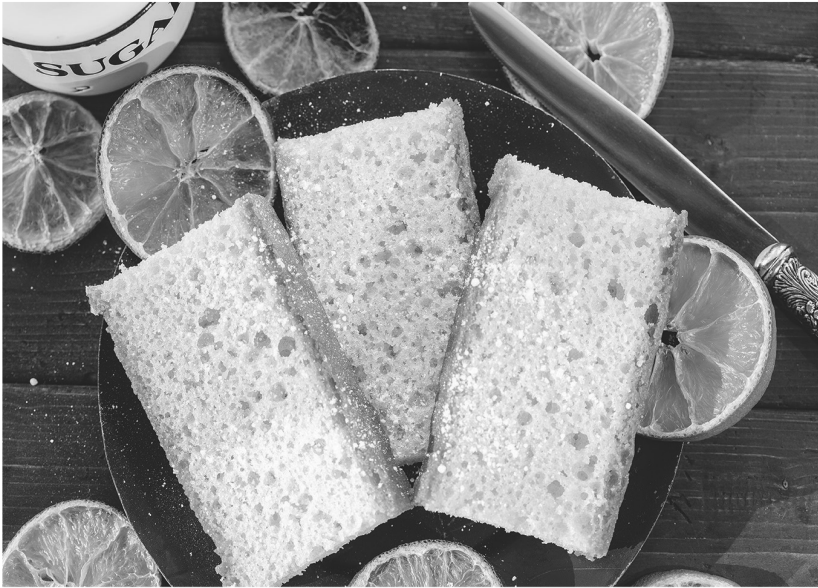


Photo courtesy of Getty Images

Orange Butter Sponge Cake

- 8 ounces butter, plus additional for buttering pan
- 2 cups cake flour, plus additional for flouring pan
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 4 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 tablespoon Angostura orange bitters
- 1 cup freshly squeezed orange juice
- powdered or extra-fine sugar, for dusting

Heat oven to 350 F.

Butter and flour two 9-inch cake pans. Sift flour three times and add baking powder and salt. Set aside.

With electric mixer, cream butter and sugar until light and creamy, about 10 minutes. Add eggs one at a time, beating well between additions. Add vanilla and orange bitters.

Divide flour mixture into four portions. Set electric mixer on medium low and add flour alternately with orange juice, starting and ending with flour. Mix just until incorporated after each addition.

Divide batter evenly between cake pans and bake 35-40 minutes, or until cake pulls away from sides of pans. Remove from oven and cool 5 minutes in cake pans before turning out.

Pulled-Pork Sliders with Bitters

Servings: approximately 14 small sandwiches

Chili Rub:

- 2 tablespoons Angostura aromatic bitters
- 2 tablespoons chili powder
- 1 teaspoon salt

- 3-3 1/2 pounds boneless pork shoulder roast
- 1 tablespoon cooking oil

Bitters Sauce:

- 1 can (15 ounces) unseasoned tomato sauce
- 1/2 cup packed dark brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons Nature's Intent apple cider vinegar
- 1 tablespoon Angostura aromatic bitters
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 3 large cloves garlic, chopped
- 1-2 tablespoons cornstarch (optional)

14 small slider buns

To make Chili Rub: Stir together aromatic bitters, chili powder and salt; let stand 10 minutes.

Cut pork shoulder across grain into 1 1/2-2-inch thick slices; trim excess fat. If needed, cut into chunks to remove some fat.

Rub meat with chili mixture. In 8-quart pot or 9-10-inch wide, high-sided saute pan with lid, heat oil. Add meat and brown on both sides, about 15 minutes total. Remove meat and place on plate; keep warm.

To make Bitters Sauce: Combine tomato sauce, brown sugar, apple cider vinegar, aromatic bitters, chili powder and garlic cloves; stir well. Pour into hot, empty pan. Simmer 5 minutes, stirring and scraping bottom of pan.

Return meat to pan; spoon sauce over meat. Cover and cook 1 hour and 15 minutes on low, rearranging meat halfway through cooking. Transfer meat to plate; cover with foil to keep warm.

To thicken sauce, if desired: Let sauce cool in pan 5 minutes then whisk in cornstarch. Bring to boil; continue to cook and whisk until slightly thickened.

To serve: Pull meat apart with two forks or fingers. Serve warm on buns, drizzled with sauce.

LIONS CLUB BARBECUE & SILENT AUCTION

Habitat for Humanity is having a silent auction from 10AM to 2PM in conjunction with the Lions Club BBQ on July 28th at the town park.

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THEME: SUMMER BLOCK-BUSTERS

ACROSS

1. Sans-____, font option
6. Fly hangout?
9. Toothy tool
13. Lickety-split
14. Lennon's wife
15. Jolly one
16. Climber's spike
17. FEMA provisions, e.g.
18. Early anesthetic
19. *Laser or LED at the super-market register
21. *Advantageous grocery display
23. Male or female
24. Show off
25. Blue
28. *Type of a grocerant
30. Same as torsi
35. Kind of sandwich
37. Transversus abdominis location
39. "The Voice" concern
40. Sunrise in Spain
41. Civil wrongs
43. ____d'Ivoire
44. Tarzan's swing
46. Fork prong
47. Shaped like Humpty Dumpty
48. Brain teaser
50. Viper's tooth
52. Santa's helper
53. Miniature whirlpool
55. Miner's bounty
57. *Salad bar ____ guard
60. *Perimeter aisle at the market
64. Make dim
65. Make a pigeon sound
67. Corruptible
68. Rotary files

69. *Supermarket circulars
70. Same as #45 Down
71. Ke\$ha's 2012 hit
72. Thus far
73. #28 Across purchase

DOWN

1. Depletes
2. Colossal
3. "Pro" follower
4. Desktop pictures
5. Tiny fox with large ears
6. Wild swine
7. American cuckoo
8. Barrel racing meet
9. Campus military org.
10. Turkish honorific
11. What hoarders do
12. Make a mistake
15. Cow's favorite grass?
20. Dead-on
22. Peanut isn't this
24. Scare stiff
25. *Weights and Measures inspector's concern

26. Make or break bet
27. Persian Gulf port
29. *Sales per square ____
31. Puerto ____
32. Range in the kitchen
33. Based on number 8
34. * ____ life
36. *More ____ for your buck!"
38. Tallest volcano in Europe
42. Mister in Madrid
45. Arabian chieftains
49. Wood-shaping tool
51. Show submission
54. Tooth trouble
56. Organ swelling
57. Undesirable location
58. Infamous Roman
59. Garner wages
60. Well-mannered Emily
61. *U in SKU
62. *Grocery carrier
63. Additional
64. British public service broadcaster
66. Keats' poem

E	L	L	V	L		L	E	A			N	O	W	C
S	R	I	W	E		S	D	V		S	R	U	B	
L	V	N	E	L		O	O	C		R	V	E	L	B
E	C	U	D	O	R	P		E	Z	E	E	N	S	
				E	R	O		L	D	D	E			
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E	L	O	C		S	T	R	O	L		V	B	L	V
H	C	L	I	P		E	R	O	C		B	U	L	C
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				L	U	O	L	X	E	S				
P	V	C	D	E	N	E	R	E	N	N	V	C	S	
R	E	H	T	E		D	I	V		N	O	I	P	
R	E	G	O	R		N	O		E	C	V	A	P	
A	K	E	R	A		R	B	A	R	I	F	S	E	R

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**Hamburger &
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26 July, 2018
11:00 A.M. until?
In front of VFW Post 9606
309 N Main St., Moorefield
To raise funds for State VFW Programs

40 & 8
**Country Ham &
Hot Dog Sale**
27 & 28 July, 2018
11:00 A.M. until?
In front of VFW Post 9606
309 N Main St., Moorefield
To raise funds for Nurses Program



Capon Springs Vol. Fire & Rescue • 4th Annual
Fall Bash
at Capon Springs Fire Hall off Rt. 259 on Rt. 16

Saturday Sept. 15, 2018
Doors open at 12:00 noon

1:00	Savage Axis 6.5	3:10	\$250
1:10	\$250	3:20	Thompson
1:20	Savage Axis 223 w/Scope		Center
1:30	\$250	3:30	Venture 6.5
1:40	Henry Golden Boy 22	3:40	Remington 783 243
1:50	\$250	3:50	\$250
2:00	\$350	4:00	\$350
2:10	\$250	4:10	\$250
2:20	Savage Axis 6.5	4:20	Henry Golden Boy 22 mag
2:30	\$250		\$250
2:40	Thompson Center Venture 22-250	4:30	\$250
2:50	\$250	4:40	Savage Axis 7 mm-08
3:00	Savage Axis w/scope 270	4:50	\$250
		5:00	\$4,000

Tickets \$25, only 1,000 will be sold. This ticket must be presented at door and is good for only 1 admission. \$10.00 admission for non-ticket holders. Drawing begins at 1:00 pm. Must be 18 years or older to claim prize and must give name, address, and social security number required by the IRS. Some prizes may require payment of Federal and/or State Tax before receiving prize. This is the responsibility of the winner. Prizes are subject to availability. You need not be present to win. Winners will be notified. Prizes not claimed within 30 days will become Property of CSV F&R. We will not be responsible for any accidents. Free food and refreshments. Additional gun & money raffles will be sold. Ticket number is valid for all drawings. 750 tickets must be sold or monies will be refunded. No alcohol will be served or permitted. Any returned checks will void ticket. Capon Springs Vol. Fire & Rescue ATTN: G. E. P.O. Box 366 • Capon Springs, WV 26823 • Phone 304-433-0167 or 540-533-2535

Tickets may be purchased at Capon Valley Bank at Gore, VA, Wardensville, Baker & Stephens City Locations; Riverside Auto Parts in Yellow Spring; The Bank of Romney in Capon Bridge; Keplinger Rair in Winchester; Doug's Sport Shop in Moorefield and Anderson Equipment in Gore, VA

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