



focus ON fashion

“Functional Flair”

Don't let the rain ruin your outfit — there always are ways to make practical look cute!

Get junior Victoria Sells' look!

Convert your key into a simple necklace for some useful jewelry.

Throw on a pair of animal print rain boots to keep your feet dry and add a spark of color.

Tired of your hair falling in your face? Tie it back with an easy braid for a cute finish to a comfortable outfit.

picks OF THE week

Welcome to the Picks of the Week, where we update you about anything ranging from special events, movies, music and entertainment taking place around campus and Kirksville.

events

April 12 **Isla's Wish to Walk Spaghetti Dinner**
5-8 p.m. in Ryle Hall cafeteria
Alpha Sigma Gamma will host a spaghetti dinner fundraiser to raise money for Isla, a 3-year-old girl born with cerebral palsy. She will undergo a major surgery that will give her the ability to walk.

April 14 **Yoga on The Quad**
3-4 p.m. on The Quad behind Baldwin Hall
If you need a study break or want an excuse to enjoy the weather, come join Yin yoga led by a recreation center instructor. Yoga mats or towels are recommended but will not be provided nor required.

MOVIES

Snowpiercer

“Snowpiercer” was one of my favorite movies from last year and it's a shame it didn't get any recognition at the Oscars this year. Chris Evans stars as Curtis, who leads a revolution to the front of the train that houses the rest of humanity after a man-made ice age. The train setting works as the perfect microcosm for class dynamics and the set designs of each train car are amazing. Tilda Swinton turns in one of her best performances yet as an authoritarian leader who gives speeches and freezes arms off of people.

Kill Me Three Times

Simon Pegg's “Kill Me Three Times” will hit theaters tomorrow. Pegg plays a professional hit-man named Charlie Wolfe who finds himself in the middle of three murder plots that involve revenge and blackmail after an assignment gone wrong. “Hot Fuzz” this movie is not, at least according to the trailers. While it looks like Pegg's character provides some comic relief amongst the terrible people who live in the town where the film is set, he's still a contract killer who is not afraid to double-cross his clients.

TV

Arrested Development

During an interview with “The BS Report,” “Arrested Development” executive producer Brian Grazer announced an additional 17 episodes of the cult comedy are in the works and will release on Netflix. Cue viral videos of chicken dances everywhere.

Fuller House

Netflix is planning a revival of “Full House.” Necessary? Probably not. The show will focus on DJ Tanner and her best friend Kimmy Gibbler, with original cast members.

HIT. or miss

The Index has scoured the Internet and gone deep into the recesses of Netflix to find the things you have yet to discover. We lie in wait for new entertainment to hit the web or the shelves. We do the heavy lifting when it comes to all things entertainment, and for your sake, we deem them a hit or a miss.

“Furious 7” is a... HIT

An action blockbuster to make you cry

BY KATEY STOETZEL
Assistant Features Editor

I'm not ashamed to admit I got a little teary during “Furious 7,” the latest “Fast and Furious” installment from director James Wan. For awhile, Paul Walker's death halted filming and speculation arose about how his death would be handled for the rest of the film. Killing off Walker's character, former FBI agent Brian O'Conner, felt tacky and sending him off on his own mission the way they did during the sixth film would have been repetitive.

Turns out, there was no need to worry — the film works around Walker's death perfectly. Bordering on fourth wall breaks, Dom Toretto, played by Vin Diesel, narrates the ending of the film over a montage of Walker in previous “Fast and Furious” films, saying O'Conner officially retires from the gravity-defying car stunts and races to be with his family. It's a respectful send-off and keeps with the series' theme of family. Who knew an action blockbuster could move people to tears?

As the seventh movie in the franchise, however, it's no surprise “Furious 7” doesn't live up to some of the better installments, such as “Fast Five” or “Fast & Furious 6” — except maybe in special effects and car stunts.

There are some issues that make this film inferior to the last two movies. The story struggles

to find footing and doesn't live up to the previous film's end credit scene, when Jason Statham connects the dots between “The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift,” the third film of the series and the rest of the films that follow. Statham plays Deckard Shaw, the brother of Owen Shaw — the bad guy Toretto's team put in a coma at the end of “Fast & Furious 6” — who is targeting the members of Toretto's family for revenge. It's set up like a revenge movie, but kind of fails to give us the revenge part of the “revenge movie.”

Statham is awesome, though, even if his character feels under-used.

The use of CGI and Walker's two brothers as stand-ins allowed for Walker's character to be in the entire film. Walker's death haunts the rest of the film, but where in previous films O'Conner has been in the spotlight — the first film, “The Fast and the Furious,” focused on O'Conner going undercover with an underground street-racing group — “Furious 7” often has O'Conner standing to the side. Toretto hardly ever conferred with anyone besides O'Conner, Letty, his long time girlfriend, and his sister, Mia, during earlier films, but aside from a couple of scenes, O'Conner and Toretto's interactions are absent.

The film focuses heavily on Toretto and it's difficult to tell whether or not that's a side effect from rewriting after Walker's death. But I'm not sure how potential future films will handle that

focus. Toretto's story is connected to Letty's, played by Michelle Rodriguez, from the sixth movie. At the beginning of the seventh movie, Letty still has amnesia, but her memories are slowly returning to her. Amnesia stories are not my favorite and I've been anti-Rodriguez since “Lost.” I'm not sure how I feel about this franchise moving in that direction since the franchise not only lost Walker and in turn O'Conner and the characters Gisele and Han were killed during the last movie.

The film introduced a new character named Ramsey, a computer hacker whose hacking invention was the the main plot of this film, but the character wasn't all that intriguing. However future films deal with the loss of some of the main characters, it won't be as fulfilling as the previous ones. Toretto's family is dwindling right along with interesting plot lines.

That's not to say this film isn't entertaining — it certainly is entertaining. Wan gave the film his own touch, with action set pieces and aerial car stunts that somehow top the other films. With cars parachuting out of airplanes and jumping between three tall buildings, Wan clearly proves he knows how to direct an action movie.

Fans of “The Fast and the Furious” franchise no doubt will enjoy the film, and it definitely is better than the film most fans consider the black sheep of the franchise, 2009's “Fast & Furious.”