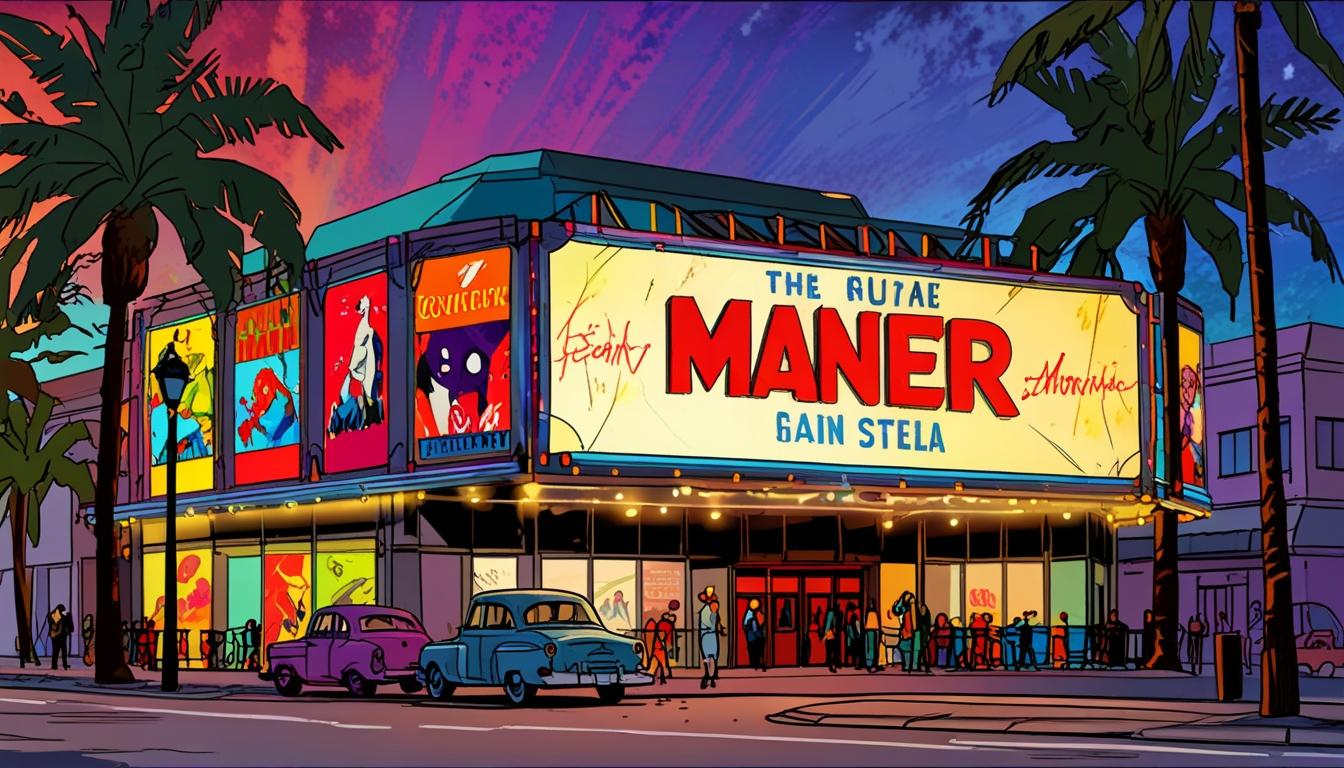
# Summer movie season offers diverse and exciting releases across genres



The upcoming summer movie season promises a diverse array of releases spanning various genres, marking an exciting period for cinema enthusiasts. The season launches on May 2 with Marvel's “Thunderbolts,” featuring antiheroes such as Yelena Belova (played by Florence Pugh), Bucky Barnes (Sebastian Stan), and Red Guardian (David Harbour). Directed by Jake Schreier, the film focuses on a group of misfit characters who must work together to overcome their challenges, setting a dynamic tone for the summer (Independent).

May boasts a notable line-up, including a live-action “Lilo & Stitch” on May 23, directed by Dean Fleischer Camp. Sydney Agudong, who portrays the older sister Nani, described the film as highlighting the themes of Aloha and Ohana alongside the alien adventure, portraying family dynamics amid a Hawaiian backdrop. Another anticipated release is “Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning,” potentially Tom Cruise's final outing as Ethan Hunt, promising death-defying stunts typical of the franchise.

Other May highlights include “Friendship” (May 9), starring Paul Rudd and Tim Robinson in a comedic exploration of male camaraderie; “Shadow Force,” an action thriller featuring Kerry Washington and Omar Sy; and “Karate Kid: Legends” (May 30), uniting Ralph Macchio and Jackie Chan for a new chapter focusing on a new protagonist, Li, portrayed by Ben Wang.

June continues with diverse offerings such as “Ballerina” (June 6), a John Wick spinoff starring Ana de Armas as a classically trained assassin; “How to Train Your Dragon” (June 13), an epic fantasy live-action adaptation helmed by Dean DeBlois aiming for immersive storytelling; and “28 Years Later” (June 20), a follow-up to the original “28 Days Later” by the original creative team.

July is marked by high-profile releases including “Jurassic World Rebirth” (July 2), directed by Gareth Edwards and featuring a cast led by Scarlett Johansson and Mahershala Ali. Edwards described it as a rollercoaster survival story with military elements and a family at its core. Another major July film is “Superman” (July 11) directed by James Gunn, presenting a fresh take on the iconic hero with David Corenswet in the lead, alongside Nicholas Hoult as a notably "pretty scary" Lex Luthor.

July also introduces “The Fantastic Four: First Steps” (July 25), directed by Matt Shakman, set in 1960s New York with an ensemble cast including Pedro Pascal and Vanessa Kirby. Additionally, the long-awaited “Happy Gilmore 2” arrives on streaming, bringing back fan-favs alongside new characters for a family-centric comedy sequel.

August rounds out the season with a mixture of comedies, horrors, and dramas such as “The Bad Guys 2” (August 1), an animated heist featuring returning and new voice talents; “The Naked Gun” (August 1), a comedy starring Liam Neeson; and the supernatural horror “Weapons” (August 8), following disappearing children in a thematic vein similar to the director’s previous work.

Other notable August inclusions are “Nobody 2” (August 15) starring Bob Odenkirk with Keanu Reeves joining the cast; “The Thursday Murder Club” (August 28) featuring Helen Mirren and Pierce Brosnan as retirees solving cold cases; and “Caught Stealing” (August 29), directed by Darren Aronofsky and based on Charlie Huston's novels about crime in 1990s New York.

The Independent is reporting this robust summer film slate includes a mix of blockbuster franchises, fresh adaptations, innovative horror, and heartfelt dramas, promising audiences multiple viewing options both in theatres and on various streaming platforms.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.ft.com/content/040021fa-1537-4724-8097-711af679ee9d> - This Financial Times article provides a review of Marvel's 'Thunderbolts,' highlighting the ensemble cast, including Florence Pugh as Yelena Belova, and director Jake Schreier's approach to the film.
2. <https://www.apnews.com/article/6617d8217ed6c96a364e10132ae98394> - The Associated Press discusses the character-driven story of 'Thunderbolts,' focusing on the performances of Florence Pugh and David Harbour, and the film's unique tone within the Marvel Cinematic Universe.
3. <https://www.as.com/meristation/cine/critica-de-thunderbolts-la-pelicula-mas-peculiar-de-marvel-studios-r/> - This Spanish-language review from AS.com describes 'Thunderbolts' as one of the most atypical Marvel Studios films, emphasizing the portrayal of morally ambiguous characters like Yelena Belova and Bucky Barnes.
4. <https://www.as.com/meristation/cine/llega-a-cines-thunderbolts-la-pelicula-mas-explosiva-y-enigmatica-de-marvel-n/> - AS.com reports on the release of 'Thunderbolts,' highlighting the return of characters such as Yelena Belova (Florence Pugh) and Bucky Barnes (Sebastian Stan), and the film's dynamic action sequences.
5. <https://www.gamesradar.com/entertainment/marvel-movies/thunderbolts-director-says-the-movie-tries-to-start-fresh-with-all-its-characters-even-bucky-barnes-who-made-his-mcu-debut-14-years-ago/> - GamesRadar features an interview with director Jake Schreier, who discusses the approach to revitalizing characters like Bucky Barnes in 'Thunderbolts,' ensuring the film is accessible to new audiences.
6. <https://www.as.com/meristation/cine/las-primeras-reacciones-a-thunderbolts-la-ponen-por-las-nubes-la-mejor-pelicula-del-ucm-en-mucho-tiempo-n/> - AS.com shares early reactions to 'Thunderbolts,' noting the film's acclaim and highlighting the performances of Florence Pugh and Lewis Pullman.
7. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/lionsgate-pavement-blake-lively-matthew-netflix-b2741620.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data