

# 2020's must-see movies

 By [Daniel Derksen](#)

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2020 promises a great line up of first-rate entertainment on the big screen!

## Superheroes rock

*Birds Of Prey* (7/2) is a follow-up of *Suicide Squad*; Vin Diesel is resurrected as a superhuman, biotech killing machine in *Bloodshot* (6/3); *The New Mutants* (3/4) fight to escape their past sins and save themselves; Scarlett Johansson plays *Black Widow* (1/5); Diana Prince comes into conflict with the Soviet Union during the Cold War in *Wonder Woman 1984* (5/6); Jared Leto plays the titular, blood-craving antihero *Morbius* (31 /7); and *The Eternals* (6/11) introduces an immortal alien race created by the Celestials, to protect humanity from their evil counterparts, the Deviants.

## Have a laugh

The satirical black comedy *Jojo Rabbit* (17/01) features a Hitler Youth who must then question his beliefs while dealing with the intervention of his imaginary friend, an idiotic version of Adolf Hitler; Ryan Reynolds realises he is a background character in an open world video game called Free City that will soon go offline in the sci-fi comedy *Free Guy* (10/7); and in *Happiest Season* (20/11) Kristen Stewart plans to propose to her girlfriend at her family's annual holiday party when she discovers her partner hasn't yet come out to her conservative parents.

## On the music front

The troll tribes are each devoted to a different form of music: pop, funk, classical, techno, country and rock in *Trolls World Tour* (10/4); Dakota Johnson plays an aspiring music producer in the fast-paced world of Hollywood's music scene in *Covers* (29/5); *Bob's Burgers: The Movie* (17/7) is an animated musical adventure based on the TV series; a gay teenager pursues his dream of becoming a drag queen in *Everybody's Talking About Jamie* (30/10); and Steven Spielberg directs a new *West Side Story* (18/12).

## Monsters wreak havoc

Mysterious creatures terrorise crew members aboard a research station located seven miles below the surface of the ocean in *Underwater* (10 /1); a young man learns how to survive a monster apocalypse in *Monster Problems* (17/4); a magical, sandy, grumpy creature grants wishes in *Four Kids And It* (24/4); the military fight giant monsters in *Monster Hunter* (4/9); and humanity's fight for its future will see the two most powerful forces of nature on the planet collide in a spectacular battle for the ages in *Godzilla Vs Kong* (20/11).

## Thrills and chills

*Grudge* (17 /1) is a reboot; the supernatural horror *The Turning* (31/1) is a deeply-haunting tale; *Fantasy Island* (14/2) is a supernatural based on the TV series; in this supernatural horror, *Gretel & Hansel* (21 /2) is a dark fantasy horror; a school in a small town harbours a dangerous secret in *Antlers* (14/4); a woman uncovers a mind-bending mystery in *Antebellum* (24/4); *The Organ Donor* (15/5) is a re-imagining of the horror film *Saw*; an agoraphobic child psychologist witnesses a crime in *The Woman in The Window* (15/5); *Candyman* (12 /6) is a “spiritual sequel” to the first film; a secretive group summons a terrifying supernatural entity in *The Empty Man* (7/8); James Wan directs *Malignant* (21/8); and an ordinary, everyday incident turns into most terrifying nightmare in *Unhinged* (28/8).

## Spectacular fantasy

Animal guru *Dolittle* (10/1) encounters wondrous creatures; a young dragon teams up with an ice princess in *Tabaluga* (6/3) set in a magical world populated with elves, trolls, mermaids; the animated *Onward* (6/3) features centaurs, fauns, satyrs, unicorns, gnomes, sprites, goblins and all other mystical creatures; *Wendy* (13/3) is a re-imagining of J.M. Barrie’s *Peter Pan*; an orphaned girl uncovers *The Secret Garden* (17/4); magic rules the science fantasy-adventure *Artemis Fowl* (29 /5); souls develop and gain passions before being transported to a newborn child in the animated *Souls* (19/6); a boy teams with a dragon and a forest brownie in *Dragon Rider* (4/9); *The Witches* (9/10) is a dark comedy; a warrior searches for the last dragon in the world in the animated *Raya And The Last Dragon* (27/ 11).

## Looking for drama

*Judy* (10/1) explores the last years of legendary Judy Garland; at the height of the First World War two soldiers must give their all to accomplish their mission by surviving the war to end all wars in *1917* (17/1); *Les Misérables* (17/1) is a provocative insight into the tensions between neighbourhood residents and police; a conscientious objector faces the threat of execution for refusing to fight for the Nazis during World War II in *A Hidden Life* (31/1); *A Million Little Pieces* (7/2) is a story of recovery and love, a story of friendship and hope; in *Richard Jewell* (21/2) a security guard discovers the plot that resulted in the Centennial Olympic Park bombing; *King Of Staten Island* (19/6) takes us into the life of *Saturday Night Live* star Pete Davidson; *King Richard* (27/11) follows the true story of the hardscrabble but iron-willed father of tennis champs Venus and Serena Williams.

## Romantic encounters

A young woman spills all of her secrets to a stranger on a plane when she thinks it's about to crash in *Can You Keep a Secret?* (3/1); *Ordinary Love* (14/2) is a story of love, survival and the epic questions life throws at every one of us; *Queen & Slim* (14/2) is a modern-day take on the legend of Bonnie and Clyde.

## Animals step into the spotlight

In the animated *Arctic Justice* (24/1) an Arctic Fox yearns to become one of the Arctic's star husky couriers; *Call Of The Wild* (28/2) is based on the Jack London's 1903 novel; the animated *Scoob!* (15/5) features characters from the *Scooby-Doo* franchise; a gorilla named Ivan lives in a cage at the Exit 8 Big Top Mall and Video Arcade with an ageing elephant named Stella and a dog named Bob with no recollection of how they got there in *The One and Only Ivan* (14/8).

## But wait, there's more

2020 will not be the same without sequels: *Bad Boys For Life* (24/1), *The King's Man* (14/2), *A Quiet Place 2* (27/3), *Peter Rabbit 2: The Runaway* (3/4), *Fast & Furious 9* (22/5), *The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge On The Run* (12/6), *Minions: The Rise Of Gru* (26/6), *Top Gun: Maverick* (3/7), *Ghostbusters 2020* (10 /7), *Escape Room 2* (21 /8), *Venom 2* (2/10), *Death On The Nile* (9/10), *The Conjuring 3* (11/10), *Halloween Kills* (30/ 10).

## Futuristic adventures

*Sonic The Hedgehog* (21/2) is an anthropomorphic blue hedgehog who comes to Earth to escape villains seeking to harness his energy; *The Invisible Man* (13/3) is modern adaptation of H. G. Wells classic; *Dune* (18/12) is the first of a planned two-part adaptation of Frank Herbert 1965; the fate of a futuristic war rests upon one in *The Tomorrow War* (25/12).

## Action!

Niki Caro brings the epic tale of China's legendary warrior to life in Disney's live-action *Mulan* (27/3); *No Time to Die* (3/4) features Daniel Craig in his fifth outing as the MI6 agent James Bond; Christopher Nolan's *Tenet* (17/7) is a massive, innovative, action blockbuster; Dwayne Johnson and Emily Blunt team up in *Jungle Cruise* (24/7).

## Women take control

*Bombshell* (24/1) tells the explosive story of the women who brought down a powerful media mogul; *Harriet* (7/2) is based on the life of abolitionist Harriet Tubman who escaped slavery and led hundreds of enslaved people to freedom; *Little Women* (21/2) is the eighth film adaptation of the 1868 novel; the wife of a famed artist steps into the spotlight herself in *The Artist's Wife* (28/2); Jane Austen's beloved comedy about finding your equal and earning your happy ending is reimaged in *Emma* (6/3); with their partners away serving in Afghanistan, a group of women find themselves at the centre

of a media sensation and global movement in *Military Wives* (20/3).

[Read more](#) about 2020 film releases in South Africa.

## ABOUT DANIEL DERCKSEN

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