

Movie Review: 'Hansel & Gretel' worth it?

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TECHNEWS WRITER

Most of us are already familiar with the fairy tale this movie is loosely based on -- two siblings abandoned in the woods by their parents are captured by an old witch who attempts to eat them until they manage to turn the tables on her by shutting her into her own child-cooking oven.

The Tommy Wirkola version of the story follows the siblings after they have grown up into adults who, naturally, have turned to bounty hunting witches. Director Wirkola tries his best to make his movie fit into the edgy parameters set by movies like *Underworld* or the *Resident Evil* franchise. But despite all of the blue back lighting and mysterious presence of pleather in the Middle Ages, the film fails to reach the gritty fantastical genre Wirkola is trying to join.

With a heavy-handed plot that spills all of its secrets in its effort to surprise the audience but not be too difficult to follow, it becomes easy to see why the film, originally intended for a much earlier release date, was held on hold for almost a year.

Now this isn't to say the movie doesn't have its interesting parts; in an effort to make a strong

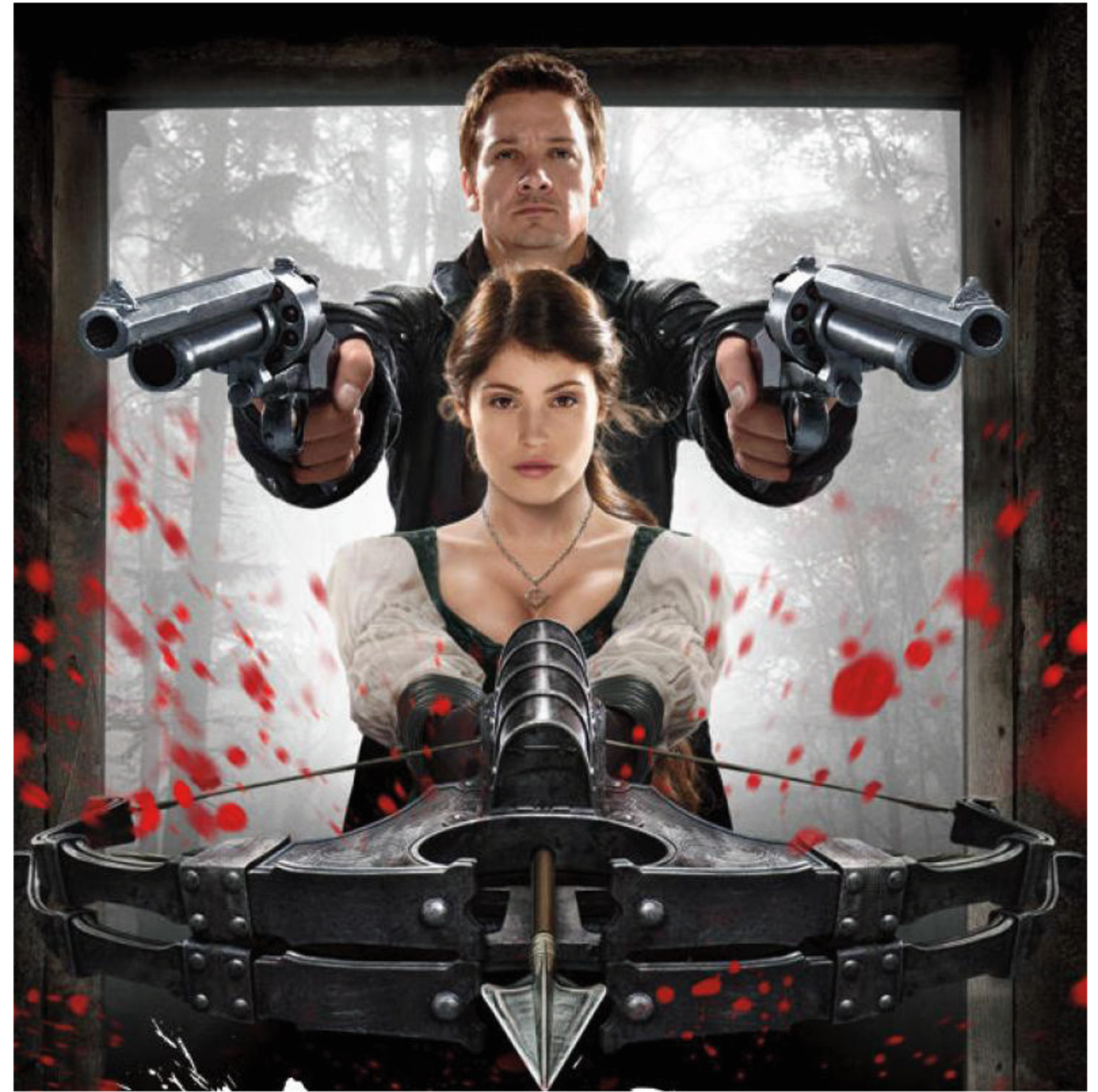
female lead out of Gretel, there are moments when her character appears almost feral to great accidental amusement. The best part of the movie, surprisingly, is the fight sequences. *Hansel & Gretel* didn't have the largest budget of the year by any means, so what's impressive isn't exactly the quality of the scenes. This movie, unlike most, was filmed entirely in 3D.

Most major 3D films are shot normally and then in production have 3D added to the appropriate scenes, meaning that for the most part you don't need to wear your glasses at all until a big fight starts.

Since this movie was filmed entirely in 3D every single scene stands out from the screen in a way that allows the movie to appear more engaging than it would have been capable of on its own merit. This applies to the fight sequences as well; where red syrup and plastic limbs would seem ridiculous in 2D, 3D adds a new novelty to the affects. You will openly flinch as a 3D chunk of flesh is whipped at the audience, which alone makes it worth the watch. If you need a second opinion however, Shimer's Anna Horn called it "...a perfect movie."

Watched a movie and want us to review it? Send an email to ae@technewsiit.com and we will review it!

Image courtesy of blackfilm.com



Bridgeport's Lumpen Magazine sponsors comic-inspired, morbid art gallery show

Robin Babb

TECHNEWS WRITER

Last Friday, the Lumpen Magazine, created by the so-called "Mayor of Bridgeport" Ed Marszewski, released an issue dedicated to comics and comic book artists around the country. A special exhibit featuring pieces from the issue opened that night at the Lumpen-owned gallery Co-Prosperity Sphere, presided over by Marszewski and team, and attended by more tipsy hipsters than you could shake a stick at.

But despite the noise and the crowd,

I was quite able to appreciate the artwork and the curation of the whole thing.

While a good deal of the pieces were in some kind of standard comic panel format, some were captionless and without a single recognizable connection to what you find in the Sunday paper. Two such pieces by Edie Fake look more like those optical illusion things that move in circles when you look at them the right way.

Some common themes throughout the exhibit were shout-outs to local institutions and the nonexistence of a god. The former is a pretty typical trope in artwork by Co-Prosperity

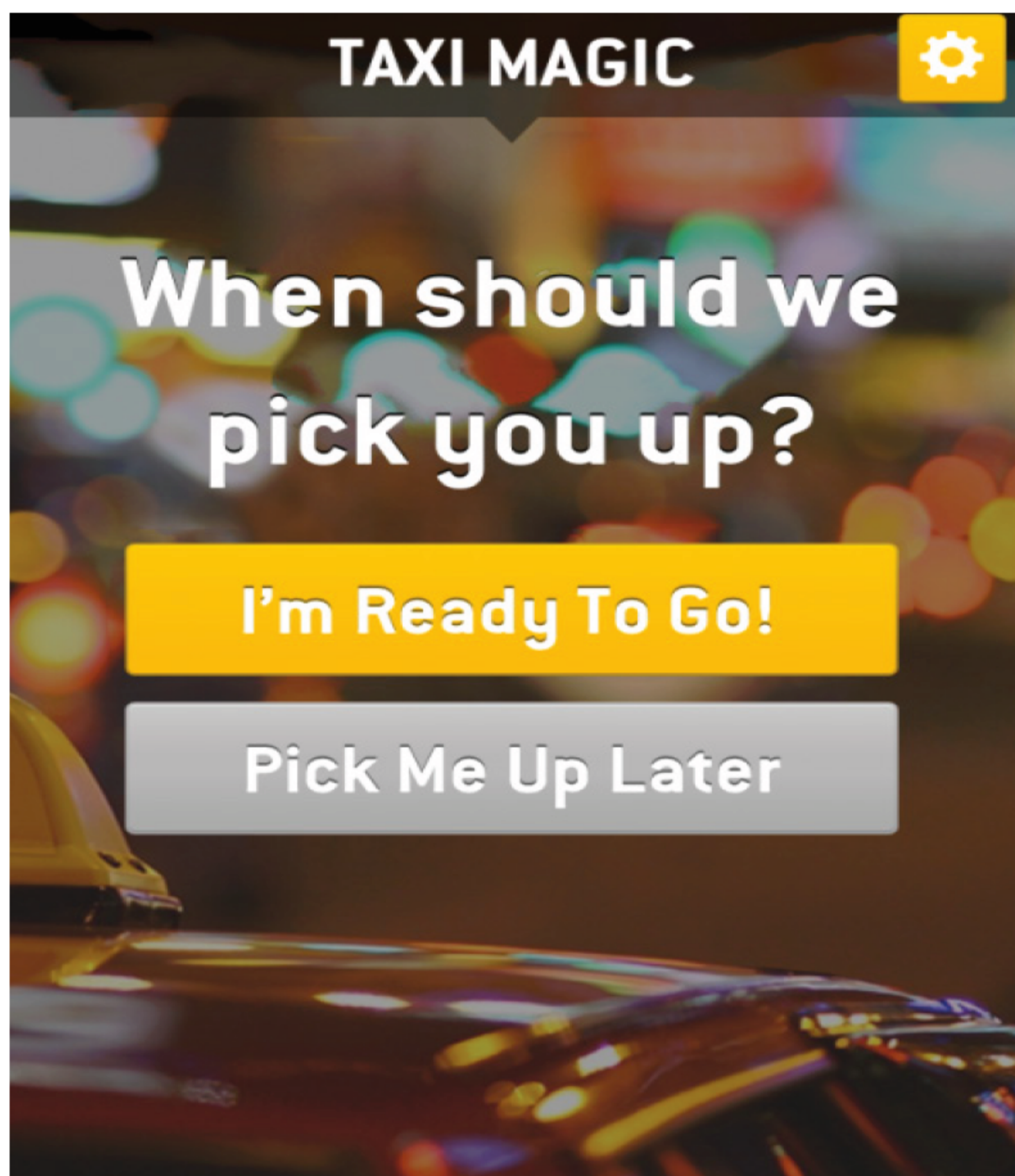
artists, but the latter I can only attribute to a widespread outbreak of Seasonal Affective Disorder.

The morbidly endearing piece by Trubble Club called "Edmar is Deadmar" is one of my favorites. It's a wacky little tale about what happens when Edmar (an epithet for Ed Marszewski) gets killed by an anthropomorphic canine friend of his, and the gory chaos that ensues.

The majority of the artwork, though, could best be described as just plain morbid. Tiger poaching, Hurricane Sandy, and suicidal thoughts are all illustrated here — sometimes

with sensitivity, but most often with irreverence. Somehow, though, even the darkest subject matter is made a little light-hearted when it's in a comic panel. Perhaps the medium is actually ideal for dealing with depressing or serious topics, because we're so used to laughing at anything portrayed in that way. And there is something quite liberating about laughing at the things that depress you.

You can pick up a free copy of the Lumpen magazine comics edition at Maria's Packaged Goods & Community Bar, Bridgeport Coffee, and many other fine Bridgeport establishments.



App Review: TaxiMagic brings private transportation to fingertips

Matti Scannell

A&E EDITOR

Let me start this review by saying that I think that having a UPass is great. We are lucky to live in a city with such a great public transit system. But it's winter in Chicago and there are some nights when there are several scenes of a Steven King novel that I would rather act out than have transpire while I'm stand outside waiting for a bus or train.

On nights during which I would rather slide down a banister of razor blades into a pool of alcohol than repeatedly take off my glove to text 41411, I use the TaxiMagic app on my phone. Before I had this app, I had several experiences being kept on hold when calling for a cab in more residential areas. There were also a few occasions in which the taxi I had been promised did not appear.

Here is how the TaxiMagic app works: You open it up and are immediately asked "When should we pick you up?" and are given two response options, either "I'm Ready To Go!" or "Pick Me Up Later."

Once you select I'm ready to go, you must select which cab company you would like to pick you up, at that point you enter your location (or let the app track your location) and

you are assigned a taxi. Your screen then shows both you and the taxi and gives the current distance of the taxi from you.

One aspect that is helpful about the TaxiMagic app is that because it tracks your location there is no longer the risk of the operator you talk to on the phone taking down the wrong address.

I babysit on the weekends and sometimes I am not familiar with the area where I am getting picked up, when talking to operators I may be expected to give several major cross streets in the area. The TaxiMagic app eliminates the need for that.

You are also given the name of your cab driver which is helpful not only if you have a complaint or compliment, but also if you left an item in the car when you got out. I think that everyone should have a backup plan for situations in which the CTA is suddenly not an option and this app is preferable to calling a cab company.

On a sidenote, TaxiMagic is available on Apple App Store as well as Google Play. So, if you've a smart phone, be smart and start using the app.

Got an app on your phone that you think other students should try? Send an email to ae@technewsiit.com and we will review it!

Image courtesy of TaxiMagic App