**Films**

**Transformers: Dark of the Moon**
- **GENRE**: Action
- **STARRING**: Shia LaBeouf & Rosie Huntington-Whiteley
- **DIRECTOR**: Michael Bay
- **RATING**: PG-13
- **RELEASE DATE**: June 28, 2011

**By Chris Ernst**

Senior Staff Writer

Transformers 3: Dark of the Moon is the latest entry into the summer blockbuster landscape. It distracts bored summer minds and even stands just above the current offerings. The story is lackluster and is only there to give reason for the action scenes. The action is awesome and exciting, truly outstanding and certainly the best part of the film. But over the movie’s two-and-a-half-hour run, one may find the literally non-stop action sequences tiring. The cast is mediocre, but with such an uninspired raison d’être, it is almost expected. Transformers 3 blows the audience away, but not emotionally.

What redeems Transformers 3 is, unsurprisingly, the action, stunts and effects. While the story is perhaps overweighted, the main focus of the film is solidly on the story. The non-effects scenes could perhaps be better handled. On paper, having most of the film be computer-generated sounds like a bad approach. However, most of the characters are robots, and the resulting computer-generated imagery is nothing short of amazing. Chicago is destroyed in an apocalyptic alien attack, robots battle it out in space and intergalactic black holes abound. All these things are fantastically achieved and make the movie what it is: an over-stuffed action monster wielding a plywood story of excuses for explosions. This movie is so full of action that the action can get dull.

While the story is the hallmark weakness of the Transformers franchise, this one is better than the other ones, but still not good. It is more engrossing than the previous installments, but is still not the reason anyone would go to see this movie. The script starts out with a revisionist history lesson informing the audience about the real reason for the NASA space program. This tie-in starts the movie off on the right foot, but that novelty soon wears off as typi- cally dulling concern imminent invasions duels the audience into a stupor. There are the usual excuses of alien invasion and doom for the human race. The story gets more and more boring as the movie progresses and eventually falls below acceptable standards. The last half-hour of the movie is unnecessary.

The “New Megan Fox,” also known as Rosie Huntington-Whiteley, looks more terrestrial than the previous model. Her acting skills are about on par for a character of her archetype, but that’s probably not really the reason she was cast over Megan Fox, and she looks good with Shia. In fact, no one is showing off their acting chops in this Canny non- winner as the story decidedly serves the action sequences.

While the story may not be great, and the acting perhaps is not, Transformers: Dark of the Moon stands solo on the action and effects. This can work for some audience members and totally turn the other off. But for the target audience, this movie is fantastic. It is solidly entertaining on one side and a Sub- dums but objectively is still not a good movie. The movie makes no effort to be anything but and is a clear example of the dining hall’s fresh-and-local foods mission.

Next is the chef line, which is the buffet-style meal choice typi- cal of all the dining halls. The chicken pot pie and sides that were available for the visit were not quite the same quality as the Student Center’s dinner line, but it’s a bit of a step above Brittain’s and Woody’s.

The grill station is next, where chefs are constantly roll- ing out hamburgers, cheeseburg- ers, hot dogs and grilled cheese sandwiches. The last two stations seem to have had an upgrade, as they are slightly bigger; however, they don’t quite taste too different. Lamentably, the meal did not include the Wok station or World Fair, which are set to open this fall. In fact, those seemed like the most interesting offerings of the new dining hall. Altogether, the food tasted much the same as could be had elsewhere on campus, even though the recipes have been updated and diversified. This is disappointing because GT Din- ing can do better and has done better recently, with the latest additions to the Student Center. Catering can still be interesting, affordable and delicious.

It is interesting to see that these lessons did not translate to the North Ave. Dining Hall, and overall it is a disappointing experience.
Piled Higher & Deeper by Jorge Cham

I'll call you when I get there.

Oh, or just text messages.

Or email me.

Or instant messages me.

If only it weren't so convenient to be apart these days.

Actually, just ask.

Uh oh, what's wrong?

I've no idea what to do next for my research.

If I ask Prof Smith for help, he'll think I've been slacking off all week.

But if don't ask him for help, he'll think I'm an idiot.

So what are you gonna do?

Avoid him altogether, hopefully, he'll forget I exist.

About your latest draft's talk....

Yes?

It's too short.

But last week you said it was too long.

Wait a minute, did you even read it?

As a rule, only read the second to last draft

Jam report due in a few hours.

Time to bring out the old wizardry.

Crank it out last minute, just like the old days.

I can do this.

But first I'll check email.

Zzzzzzz...

Yes! I did it. It works! It's awesome.

I actually got it to work.

That is so awesome.

Oh man...

All the pain and suffering.

It's moments like these that make it all worth it.

For about two seconds.

There's a tip in your calculations.

Oh, we're trying to work out Jeff's.

The entrance to limbo...

UCD xfer... What are you doing out here?

Looking for a physics problem.

Well, it's a scientific quandary of relativity kind...

Cool! Maybe I can help. So what's the problem?

The creative process isn't, it's a relaxed brain.

I'm letting my mind wander, to let inspiration drift in.

You're not helping!!

No, what is the physics problem you're trying to work out? Jeff's?

The Pentagon's research agency has a contest to come up with an idea on how to send people to another solar system.

Cool! What's the prize?

Half a million dollars.

If you don't mind,

OK if you don't mind.

OK... I'm done. Going to check the mail.

Un... it's my initiation. Only to the top 100 machines in the country.

What? I better get home and check the mail.

Yes, in all means no do that.
Non Sequitur by Wiley

Dilbert® by Scott Adams

Think the Boss is an Invigorating Task, the Pentagon for Their Star Task? How about looking for a way to document all your bullying behavior.

What is the nearest star past the sun, and how far away is it? Well, you can use it to get there.

Okay, Jon. Detailed does the idea need to be? More than just sailing, by magic.

Okay, so the contest is to come up with an idea on how to get people to another solar system... right?

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Wait... you are willingly working on a science project? Yeah, it’s a contest!

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Comics

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Our goal is to grow the top line by 20%.

How will we do that with products that aren’t competitive in an industry that isn’t growing?

Does it involve crime? If it does, blink once.

I’d like to reward you for your hard work by giving you a lateral promotion.

I was going to hire from the outside, but I realized I can make you do the new job plus your old one.

Is money involved? Yes! I’m saving a ton of it!