

me time

Get a few giggles at the cinema, put some quality

time aside for app action and perhaps take a trip to the ACT to catch some art.



AT THE CINEMA

Yes, that dog is sitting in a child's booster seat.

REVIEWS HANNAH IRELAND

▲ DUE DATE

Peter Highman (Robert Downey Jr.) is at risk of committing an unforgivable sin: missing the birth of his child. His wife is in Atlanta just five days away from going into labour, but he has somehow found himself road-tripping his way home with a bearded stranger called Ethan (Zach Galifianakis) and his pooch, Sonny. An hilarious comedy from the producers of *The Hangover* that weaves in a waffle allergy, several car crashes and Jamie Foxx. At cinemas November 4.

▼ WILD TARGET

This remake of the 1993 French film is as slapstick as the original. Hitman Victor Maynard (Bill Nighy), has been around the block more than a few times and has a dated moustache to prove it. When, for the first time in his career, Victor spares the life of one of his targets (the gorgeous Emily Blunt – we'd spare her too!), he lands in a pickle with his client. His getaway vehicle, a Mr Bean-style mini, and his two reluctantly acquired accomplices make a speedy getaway none too easy. Out November 11.

▼ THE SOCIAL NETWORK

When super-smart but socially inept techy Mark Zuckerberg develops Facebook to gain entry to cool clubs at Harvard and impress girls, he also unwittingly changes the way the globe communicates. Zuckerberg makes friends in the process, but as the social-networking site grows, enemies too. Director David Fincher tells this true story with cinematic artistry, and Justin Timberlake will grab your attention. Opens November 25.



Bill Nighy plays an awkward assassin.



Facebook made him rich, but didn't give Zuckerberg dress sense.

APP CHAT



StumbleUpon

This is procrastination at its very best. It works like this: you tick the boxes according to your interests and when you click 'Stumble', it finds the best sites on the web to suit your preferences. Rate it with a thumbs-up or thumbs-down and, in time, the sites you stumble upon will become more tailored to your tastes: we discovered a table that doubles as a nifty zombie-defence device in the unlikely event of an apocalypse. Let us know what you find!



Flixster

At the DVD store and can't find a film for Friday night on the couch? Rolled up to the cinema, but don't recognise any of the movies playing? Flixster is your friend with the answers. It has all the latest films at the box office and DVD store, along with Rotten Tomato ratings and reviews and the film trailer. It also gives you screening times at all cinemas within 30km of your current location, plus the good restaurants nearby. Search by title, actor, director or genre – you're bound to find a Friday-night flick in the 50,000-strong database.



Words With Friends

Test your vocab with a game of Scrabble. Play online against friends or random opponents selected for you. The great thing is that you don't have to play the full game at once – you can come back to it when you have a spare moment. This means the game can last for a few days or more. We've lost to two friends already, but hey, everyone loves a comeback, don't they?

Snappy chappy

Samsung ST600 camera

Turn this camera on yourself and your pals and get a perfect shot using the new 2View function. The little LCD screen on the front lets you see how you've angled the camera to ensure you never have an arm obstructing your shots. \$399; samsung.com.au.



HOT PRINT



Ape House Allen & Unwin, \$32.99

Isabelle Duncan works at a lab that houses six extraordinary apes, who, with her assistance, learn sign language. Never fitting in with humans, Isabelle feels most at home with the primates, but is torn from them when an explosion at the lab frees the apes to an unknown location. One day, a reality TV show emerges featuring the missing apes signing for Isabelle to save them. Author Sara Gruen exposes our human foibles and reminds us of our responsibility to care for the environment.



The Crying Tree Pan Macmillan, \$22.99

The debut novel from journalist Naseem Rakha will challenge your ethical beliefs and your ideas about forgiveness and redemption. After the murder of her teenage son, Irene Stanley somehow finds herself throwing a fire blanket on the fury she's entitled to feel and not only forgiving his killer, but befriending him. The unlikely relationship stuns her family, yet exposes how limited her understanding of her son was. An emotional read, with intriguing character transformations.



Campaign Ruby Text Publishing, \$32.95

Jessica Rudd, daughter of former PM Kevin, brings fun to federal parliament in her debut novel. The likeable protagonist, Ruby Stanhope, moves from London to Melbourne, drunkenly stiletto-steps her way into a role as an advisor to the leader of the Opposition, then finds herself embroiled in a political overthrow. Despite being written well before her dad's fate was sealed by his then-deputy, Julia Gillard, the similarities to real-life Australian politics are startling.

MAUDE'S CHOICE

We asked gamer Maude Garrett for her top CDs and DVDs, but she had to release the game demon and list her fave game too.

CD Band of Skulls Baby Darling Doll Face Honey

What a fun name for a debut CD from Brit trio Band of Skulls. These guys killed it at this year's Splendour In The Grass festival, where I was singing along word for word! They have a distinctive dirty rock sound full of heavy drums, tambourines and sharp riffs, but the strong vocals from singer/bassist Emma Richardson confirmed this love affair for me. The whole album is quite upbeat, but then they shock you with

an acoustic number called *Honest*, a subtle yet powerful ballad. If you like the White Stripes, this band will make you turn up the volume and rock out hard!

DVD The Runaways

I'm so sceptical of Kristen Stewart. She slaughtered my preconceived version of *Twilight's* Bella and boasted that she'll never be able to play another character again. In *The Runaways*, where she plays punk-rock rocker Joan Jett, she proves she can't. She doesn't have the

scene-stealers she's grown used to in *Twilight* – all the big moments come thanks to her co-star, the former child star Dakota Fanning. She's now 15, and so playing a 15-year-old Cherie Currie, *The Runaways'* lead vocalist, should be a great fit, yet the themes are so mature that it felt a little awkward watching the underage *Charlotte's Web* star act through it all. However, she does a powerful and impressive job – and it's worth watching just for that.

GAME Art Academy, Nintendo DS

Gone are the days where video games are just shoot-'em-ups or plumbers saving princesses. *Art Academy* teaches you, step-by-step, to draw any picture using pencils and paints and gives handy lessons on colour, shading, perspective and movement. Essentially, it's a portable hands-on art class. The best part? If you play this game on the DSi with the built-in camera, you can snap a pic of what you want to draw, then use it to scale the picture, observe shading and copy intricate details. I failed art in Grade 9 for submitting a finger painting, so this is my trick for redeeming my artistic flair.



Maude Garrett

LIVE EVENT

PHOTO FINISH

Close up: Martin Schoeller. November 19-February 13, National Portrait Gallery, Canberra; portrait.gov.au.

Every photographic portrait in this exhibition captivates the onlooker. The alluring, seemingly bottomless wells of each subject's eyes and the beautiful exposure of their skin's every flaw, discolouration and crevice is mesmerising. Schoeller's up-close portraiture breaks down the polite personal-space barrier we all build and invites you to explore the faces and expressions of famous figures. It's a definite play on our voyeuristic curiosities, yet also a beautiful series of unique portraits.



Heart-throb George Clooney.