

**MOVIE REVIEW**

# 'The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies'

*Holiday movies hit theatres this week*

By Derek Zembrak

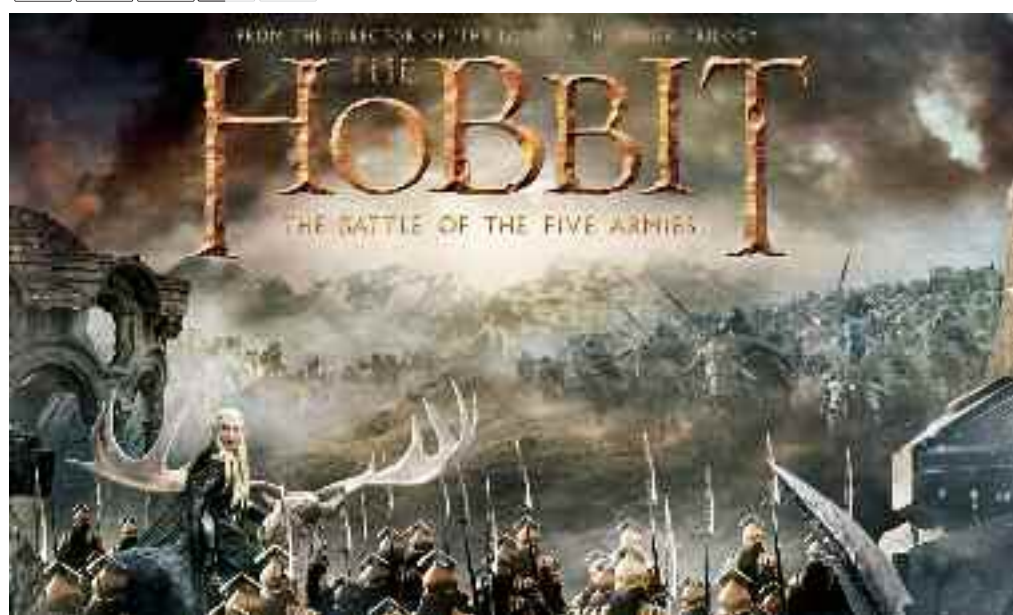


Photo courtesy Warner Bros. all rights reserved

The holiday season is now in full swing and as with many of us it is also Hollywood's busiest time of year. Lamorinda Theatres has a full schedule of holiday films this week, starting off with the highly anticipated and the defining chapter of the Hobbit franchise, "The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies," on Wednesday, Dec. 17. As the title states it is a battle and the movie is much more action packed than the previous Hobbit films, "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey" and "The Desolation of Smaug." This time around, three-time Oscar winner, director Peter Jackson, keeps the audience on the edge of their seats from the opening scene through the 2 hours and 24 minutes of the movie.

The movie opens with the dragon, Smaug, going on a rampage, destroying the local village, causing mayhem among the people. I can confidently state, this was one of the most amazing visual effect scenes in Hollywood history. A "must see" on a big screen – the bigger the better.

Bilbo and company are forced to engage in a war against a collection of enemies to keep the terrifying Smaug from obtaining the Kingdom of Treasures and demolishing all of Middle-Earth. The film once again stars Martin Freeman (Bilbo), Ian McKellen (Gandalf), Cate Blanchett (Galadriel), Richard Armitage (Thorin), Orlando Bloom (Legolas) and Benedict Cumberbatch (Smaug). You can count on "The Hobbit: The

Battle of the Five Armies" to once again receive several Oscar nominations, in the technical categories, when the nominations are announced Jan. 15.

Another holiday movie will take place this Friday, Dec. 19, during the California Independent Film Festival Funder's Night at the Rheem Theatre. We will be showing a special screening of Animal Planet's first original TV movie "Hercules Saves Christmas," starring Hercules from Animal Planet's hit TV series "Pit Boss."

"Hercules Saves Christmas" takes us on a magical, fun-filled and touching journey. Max, an adorable yet mischievous 12-year-old boy meets a talking dog named Hercules who takes him to the North Pole to meet Santa and argue his way onto the "nice list." The movie was shot in 2012 in the Bay Area, including Orinda Theatre Square and the Orinda Theatre. The movie was produced by Shorty Rossi, Leonard Pirkle and myself, and stars newcomer Anthony Robinson as Max, who was nominated for a Young Artist Award in 2012 for the role in the movie. The movie also stars McKenzie Phillips ("One Day at a Time"), Marc McClure ("Back to the Future," "Superman"), Kathy Garver ("Family Affair") and George Mcquire as Santa Claus. Mcquire recently performed live at the Rheem Theatre in the stage play "Love Letters" to rave reviews. Leonard and I will both be attending the screening, which will include a

Q&A session. Refreshments will be served and tickets must be purchased in advance at the Lamorinda Theatre box office or online at www.lamorindatheatres.com.

Starting next week at the Orinda Theatre includes Disney's "Into the Woods" and "Unbroken." I would like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and an amazing 2015! See you at the concession stand!

*Derek can be heard each Saturday morning at 8 a.m. on KEST 1450AM discussing movies and entertainment in the Bay Area.*

## ADULT DAY PROGRAM

for those with Alzheimer's or other related dementias

- STIMULATING ACTIVITIES
- LIVE MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT
- GAMES
- CRAFTS
- EXERCISE
- FRIENDSHIP

# LARC

LAMORINDA ADULT RESPITE CENTER

**925-254-3465**

433 Moraga Way Orinda www.holyshepherd.org

## Service Clubs Announcements

Explore Lamorinda Rotary clubs The heart of Rotary is our clubs- dedicated people who share a passion for both community service and friendship. Learn about Lamorinda's Rotary clubs.

Please join us at our new location **THE LAFAYETTE PARK HOTEL** on Friday mornings at 7am. For more info, please email us at lamorindasunrise@gmail.com

December 19:	January 9:
Neuroscientist and opera singer, Dr. Indre Viskontas straddles the line between science and art. Her presentation is entitled "The Organized Mind"	Jan Cushman and Gail Chesler from AAUW California will speak about "Tech Trek—Empowering Women For Over 130 Years"

*We will not meet on December 26th or January 2nd – Happy Holidays!*

## Responsive, attentive and professional care in the environment our seniors desire most-AT HOME!

Call us anytime you need an extra hand. Our caregivers, all bonded and insured, lend a hand in caring for your loved ones:

- Bathing, dressing, grooming & toileting
- Light housekeeping & meal preparation
- Transportation, shopping & errands
- Medication reminders & physical activities
- Companionship & more

**Care Indeed™**  
YOUR 24/7 HOME CARE SPECIALIST

61 Moraga Way, Suite 9, Orinda, CA 94563  
(925) 317-3080 • www.CareIndeed.com

*Happy New Year!*

**Please submit events to:**  
calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

## Lamorinda Weekly

is an independent publication, produced by and for the residents of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, CA  
26,600 printed copies; delivered to homes & businesses in Lamorinda.

**Contact us:**  
Letters to the editor (max 350 words): letters@lamorindaweekly.com  
Sport events/stories/pictures: sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com  
Art, theater, community events: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com  
Business news or business press releases: sophie@lamorindaweekly.com  
School stories/events: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com  
General interest stories/Community Service: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

**Publishers/Owners:**  
Andy and Wendy Scheck; andy@lamorindaweekly.com, wendy@lamorindaweekly.com

**Civic Editor:** Lee Borrowman; lee@lamorindaweekly.com

**Life and Our Homes Editor:** Jennifer Wake; jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com

**Sports Editor:** Caitlin Mitchell; sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

**Advertising:** 925-377-0977, Wendy Scheck; wendy@lamorindaweekly.com

**Staff Writers:**  
Sophie Braccini; sophie@lamorindaweekly.com, Cathy Tyson; cathy@lamorindaweekly.com  
Laurie Snyder; laurie@lamorindaweekly.com, Cathy Dausman, cathy.d@lamorindaweekly.com  
Nick Marnell; nick@lamorindaweekly.com,  
Digging Deep: Cynthia Brian; cynthia@lamorindaweekly.com  
Food: Susie Iventosch; suziventosch@gmail.com

**Contributing Writers:** Conrad Bassett, Moya Stone, Michael Sakoda, Marissa Harnett, Lou Fancher, Chris Lavin, Amanda Kuehn Carroll, Diane Claytor, Scott Wu, Lauren Kim, Uma Unni, Spencer Silva, Karl Barry Hunau (cartoonist), Derek Zembrak (Film Critic)

**Photos:** Tod Fierner, Ohlen Alexander, Gint Federas

**Layout/Graphics:** Andy Scheck, Jaya Griggs. Printed in CA.

**Mailing address:** Lamorinda Weekly, P.O. Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570-6133  
Phone: 925-377-0977; Fax: 1-800-690-8136  
email: info@lamorindaweekly.com, www.lamorindaweekly.com

# Worm Composting Bin Building Workshop

**Saturday, January 17th, 10-12PM**  
Heather Farm Community Center, Walnut Creek

Come build your worm bin, learn about vermicomposting and start immediately! It's easy – anyone can do it!  
All supplies covered, including worms!

Worms Donated by The Worm Farm – www.TheWormFarm.net and www.facebook.com/TheWormFarm  
Only \$20 per household to attend.

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED.**  
**Limit of 20 households so register today!**  
Kids are encouraged to attend with parents.  
One bin per household.

Last day to register: January 9<sup>th</sup>  
Visit www.wastediversion.org to download registration form.

Sponsored by the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority.  
Call **925-906-1801** for questions

**CCCSWA RESIDENTS ONLY:**  
WALNUT CREEK, ORINDA, LAFAYETTE, MORAGA, DANVILLE, ALAMO, BLACKHAWK, DIABLO.

please... ...thanks

**NEWSPAPER**