

MOVIE REVIEW

'The Big Short'

By Curtis Medina



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What's a Star Wars? Forget "Star Wars." Rush out and see "The Big Short," a behemoth of a modern disaster film, which depicts actual events that amazingly, unbelievably led to a group of regular financial sector individuals to get filthy rich by betting against the unlikely bubble burst that was inflating the U.S. economy.

One of the best films of the year, "The Big Short" is suspenseful, entertaining and speaks to a wide audience. When I saw the film, I was surprised to find that the audience was split between college age and retirement age, likely skewed by the hotness of the cast (take "hotness" to mean whatever you want). Steve Carell, Ryan Gosling, Christian Bale and one of Ocean's eleven himself, Brad Pitt, lead an all-star cast to show you how greed almost destroyed the world and how the best odds for gambling were not in Vegas robbing a casino. They were betting against powerful individuals and their stupidity.

The film brilliantly calls attention to its own flaws by having characters constantly breaking the fourth wall, talking to the camera and telling the audience, "No, this wasn't really how it happened," and then laughing at the fact you thought it did. By the end, however, when the really dystopian, end of days' stuff starts happening, the film subtly lets you know that this part of the story is 100 percent accurate, leaving the audience dumbstruck.

These guys saw the criminal activity. They saw the callous swindling at all levels. They saw the cover-up. And they did what any American would – they made themselves rich with it.

"The Big Short" is fresh filmmaking, with director Adam McKay not obsessed about being realistic – much of the dialogue is wooden and definitely did not happen – and often using cut-aways with absurd explanations of boring material, like a supermodel in a bubble bath talking "dirty" money with you. And then after the film has baited you with the expected "Oceans Eleven"-style familiar heist trope, it suddenly reveals itself as a serious, morally conscious, entertaining film with performances rising in power at the exact same rate.

Carell will get an Oscar nomination and perhaps a deserving win for playing the cynical, moral center of the film, making you forget he ever made you laugh as a "40 Year Old Virgin" or sitting in "The Office." He is instantly a classic and gives speeches that show off his tremendous growth as an actor over the years.

Others in the cast hold their own, but to a more subdued degree, including Bale, who gave up doing more superhero movies for a change up in roles like this one, where he plays a hot and bothered financial genius who saw it coming first.

Based on a true story, like the film proclaims "The Big Short" has a "bigger impact on your life than the iPhone." Most people were affected by the housing crisis in some way. As the world economies still try to recover, jobs start to rebound, and politicians on both sides of the aisle let those involved go scot-free, the film is a must see. It happened in our own galaxy. There is no sequel. End of franchise.

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.

A global volunteer organization working to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.

We meet Friday mornings at 7:00 am at **The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa**, 3666 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. For more info, please email us at lamorindasunrise@gmail.com

January 1:	January 8:
We are Dark.	Jay Lifson , Executive Director Lafayette Chamber of Commerce will bring us up to date on what's happening.

Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club sends a special thanks to the publishers and staff of Lamorinda Weekly, for an outstanding job of consistently providing real news about our wonderful Lamorinda Community.

SOROPTIMIST OF 24/680

Please join us for our next meeting:

WHEN: Wednesday, January 6th
Social 5:30-6:00 p.m.
Meeting 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

WHERE: The Buttercup Grill
660 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek.

CONTACT US regarding our Crab Feed. Saturday, January 23rd

For more information, contact:
Regina Englehart @925-876-9076
or go to: soroptimist24-680.org

Lafayette Rotary Club

Step in on a Thursday and join us for our lunch meeting.
Thursday at noon Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.

<p>January 7: Mark Mitchell, Lafayette City</p>	<p>January 14: Lois Couch with the Council Member will be speaking about the state of Lafayette.</p>
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Central Contra Costa Waste Authority will be speaking.

www.rotarylafayette.org

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

GARDEN

The Walnut Creek Garden Club will hold its general meeting at 9:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 11 at the Gardens at Heather Farm located at 1540 Marchbanks Road in Walnut Creek. Program: "Gardens of Giverny, France." Michael Stehr, art historian and tour guide will take us on a trip to Giverny through his wonderful slide show and lecture on the gardens and Claude Monet's paintings.

From the Ground Up - Enjoy your garden's bounty around home and hearth. Reap the benefits of cultivating a garden with a series of inspired classes designed to make green thumbs blossom. The Gardens at Heather Farm's Adult Education series, From the Ground Up continues in 2016 featuring practical lessons on developing gardens, then using the garden's bounty to create table arrangements and specialties for the

home and body. The first class begins Wednesday, Jan. 13. Visit www.gardensh.org or call (925) 947-1678 for more information. Classes typically range from \$15 to \$30.

The Lafayette Garden Club monthly meeting will feature speaker Shari Bashin-Sullivan, who will give a container planting demo/presentation and answer container gardening questions from 9:30 a.m. to noon Thursday, Jan. 14 in the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Hall, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. To see some of Bashin-Sullivan's projects, visit www.enchantingplanting.com. For info, email cpoetzsch@gmail.com.

Montelindo Garden Club's next meeting featuring speaker Sarah Malone, who will discuss Form and Foliage at 9 a.m. Friday, Jan. 15 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Drive, Orinda. Visitors welcome. For info, visit www.montelindogarden.com.

Mt Diablo Nursery Winter Pruning Class will provide an informative, interactive pruning demonstration of fruit trees, roses and perennials by an experienced nurseryman who will answer pruning questions from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 16 at 3295 Mt Diablo Blvd Lafayette. Free. For info, visit mtdiablonursery.com or call (925) 283-3830.

The Lafayette Community Garden and Outdoor Learning Center is accepting applications for individual or family memberships for the 2016 season. The season opening is March 12. If you are interested in getting more information, visit www.lafayettcommunitygarden.org. To apply for membership, download and fill out a membership form and send it to the address on the form. If membership is full, you will be put on a waiting list. For info, call (925) 946-0563.

Please submit events to:
calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

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In Memory

John Sherry
Resident of Lafayette, CA

John Sherman Sherry of Lafayette, Calif., loving husband, father and grandfather passed away on the morning of December 12 at the young age of 77 years.

John was married to his wife of 48 years, Arletta, with whom he had two boys, Erik and Kris. Always a family man, John looked forward to long weekends outdoors where he fished, hunted, camped and, most importantly, spent time with family.

"Papa Sherry" took extreme pride in his two grandchildren – Addisyn, 3 years old, and Colton, 5 months – and took every opportunity to play silly games and to have fun with them.

John was passionate about life. He loved his family. He loved his friends. He never took a day for granted and managed to find the silver lining in every situation. John would not want us to cry because we are sad, but to laugh and remember all the wonderful memories we shared of him.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you make a donation of your time or money to your favorite charity or to the Lafayette Rotary Club where John was a past-president and active member.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, January 15 at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church. Reception will follow.

Please submit events to:
calendar@lamorindaweekly.com