

FRONT PAGE	POLITICS	BUSINESS	MEDIA	ENTERTAINMENT	COMEDY	SPORTS	STYLE	WORLD	GREEN	FOOD	TRAVEL	TECH	
LIVING	HEALTH	DIVORCE	ARTS	BOOKS	RELIGION	IMPACT	EDUCATION	COLLEGE	NY	LA	CHICAGO	DENVER	BLOGS



Michael Giltz

Freelance writer and raconteur
 Posted: May 12, 2010 08:48 PM

- BIO
- Get Email Alerts
- Become a Fan
- Bloggers' Index

Cannes 2010 Day One: *Robin Hood* Ho-Hum

What's Your Reaction:

- Inspiring
- Funny
- Hot
- Scary
- Outrageous
- Amazing
- Weird
- Crazy



Read More: [Cannes Film Festival](#), [Cannes Film Festival 2010](#), [Cate Blanchett](#), [Cinema](#), [Mathieu Amalric](#), [Movies](#), [Ridley Scott](#), [Robin Hood](#), [Russell Crowe](#), [Tournée](#), [Entertainment News](#)

SHARE THIS STORY

Like Sign Up to see what your friends like.

5	15 views	0	15
share	tweet	email	comment

Get Entertainment Alerts

Email Comments 15

Critics shrugged over the potential summer blockbuster *Robin Hood*, which reteams director Ridley Scott and actor Russell Crowe. With a star-heavy cast that includes Cate Blanchett, William Hurt, Max Von Sydow, the great Eileen Atkins and many more, it's a prototypical opening night film for Cannes. *Robin Hood* delivers the star power they want to get the flash bulbs popping. Art can wait until tomorrow.

Most of the discussion shifted to how well the film would do worldwide; presumably with that cast and a large canvas, it will be fine. When an indifferent *Alice In Wonderland* from Tim Burton (who is the head of

the jury at Cannes) saunters its way to \$960 million worldwide (the 8th biggest grosser of all time), surely the equally bankable name of *Robin Hood* will be a safe bet. Crowe has never made a sequel and this franchise should change that. I just wish he'd start with another *Master & Commander* instead.

The festival insists the same number of journalists are here, but it feels like a smaller contingent, at least from the US. Online journalists like me have exploded from about 40 some eight years ago to 350 this year out of 1500 or so overall. It seems...quieter. But the list of intriguing films from major directors to new talent is -- as always -- impressive and a little overwhelming. The first day offers only two films. Starting tomorrow, there will always be hundreds of films showing in the festival, a sidebar or in the market and no one can come close to seeing them all.

ROBIN HOOD ** out of ****

Director Ridley Scott mocked the original title of this Robin Hood origin story: *Nottingham*. If you're going to make a movie about Robin Hood, he says, you better call it *Robin Hood* or you'll spend half your time explaining the title. Ironically, he's made a serious, sober, medieval adventure tale that is brave and

ADVERTISEMENT

MOST POPULAR ON HUFFPOST

- [More Dead Birds, Fish Found Across The World](#)
Comments (2,800)
- [Camille Grammer's Porn Past Comes Back To Haunt Her](#)
Comments (898)
- [Elizabeth Edwards' Will Revealed](#)
Comments (590)
- [Intestinal Parasites May Be Causing Your Energy Slump](#)
Comments (165)
- [Rudeness Is A Neurotoxin](#)
Comments (74)
- [Should The Leader Of The Free World Dress Like THIS?](#)
Comments (533)
- [BECK IN TROUBLE? Dropped From New York Radio Station, TV Ratings Fall](#)
Comments (5,717)
- [Two House Republicans Violate Constitution With Voting Blunder](#)
Comments (8,970)

[Thousands Of Birds Found Dead In Italy](#)

fearless in depicting battle but runs in fear from any plot device even remotely similar to the Robin Hood myth we know so well in classic films like *The Adventures Of Robin Hood* (one of my favorite movies of all time). So the first person to shoot an arrow is Lady Marian, played by the game Cate Blanchett. Robin doesn't pave the way for King Richard; the Lion-Heart falls in battle towards the beginning. The Sheriff of Nottingham is toothless, for the most part. And Crowe isn't Sir Robin Of Loxley but a humble archer who takes that name in order to save his hide after the Crusades fall apart. Robin's men aren't so merry and the outlaws in Sherwood Forest are feral orphans scavenging for food. Almost every trope from the Robin Hood tales is ignored or turned on its head, though thankfully at least Friar Tuck (Mark Addy) is still a worldly man who loves a good drink. While a siege is rather hectically paced (surely battles in those days weren't as frenetic as video games), the film has a certain confidence. And Crowe is solid as the wry man of few words; he milks every nuance out of his lines. And he and Blanchett strike genuine sparks. It's fine, I kept saying to myself; it's fine. Ignore the film you expected them to make and just enjoy what they've delivered. I can't really dislike a film set in the 1100s that has the wit to nod to *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* in one early scene of theft. But while I can swallow the wholesale upending of Robin Hood and historical accuracy is for re-enactment buffs, not me, I found myself drowning in revisionism and just plain goofiness by the end. The French invaded England with boats akin to those invented for the D-Day landing. Robin offhandedly declares for a universal declaration of human rights while pre-dating the Magna Carta by years if not decades. He believes his father abandoned him at the age of six, until simply closing his eyes brings back a flood of memories about his father being slaughtered right in front of him. Lady Marian's can-do spirit extends to ludicrous lengths. The big battle includes a laughable rehashing of a scene from *Rambo* and the coda in Sherwood Forest that sets up the adventures to come is absurdly noble, down to Marian giving doses of medicine to some little tykes. Something is wrong when the watercolor end credit sequence is more intriguing than the film that preceded it. Far from a turkey, it's sure to be their biggest hit since *Gladiator*. Maybe with the sequel they won't be scared to have a little fun.

TOURNEE * out of ****

The only other film to screen today is *Tournee/On Tour*, from acclaimed French actor Mathieu Amalric, star of *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly* plus about a thousand other French films. This is his fourth film as director and tells about a down on his luck producer (who used to be big in TV) now touring the hinterlands of France with a gaggle of New Burlesque stars he found in America. They're women -- plus one man -- who devise witty, sometimes silly acts around the strip tease. In one memorable scene, Amalric is filling up his car and suddenly finds himself flirting with the woman at the cash register. Their dialogue pulses with real life and genuine discovery. Is this moment the hinge the movie turns on? No, it's just one of many random scenes but the fact that it feels focused and real just puts the rest of the film to shame. Mostly, we watch the gals goofing around before and after their shows, complaining about being hustled from town to town, putting on their costumes, rehearsing and performing before they pack up, head to a new city and do it all over again. Much is discovered: Amalric's producer character has two sons, an ex-wife, an ex-girlfriend with breast cancer and mountains of debt and bad will in Paris. The leader of the burlesque artists flirts mildly with him. And the show goes on. Even this description is probably too forceful and direct to get across the meandering pointlessness of the film. Mostly I thought about the power of the moustache. Amalric simply had to grow a seedy, porn-producer sort of stache and I immediately knew who this guy was. It's in Competition simply because of Amalric's great track record as an actor. (The very light smattering of applause it received surely came from the French contingent.) But then, the festival never programs movies it is high about on the first or second day. At least we got to see some burlesque acts. And there's always tomorrow.

Thanks for reading. Visit Michael Giltz at his website and his daily blog. Download his podcast of celebrity interviews and his weekly music radio show at Popsurfing and enjoy the weekly pop culture podcast he co-hosts at Showbiz Sandbox. Both available for free on iTunes. Link to him on Netflix and gain access to thousands of ratings and reviews.

Follow Michael Giltz on Twitter: www.twitter.com/michaelgiltz

Related News On Huffington Post:



'Fair Game' Movie Clip (VIDEO): No Trailer, But Clip Of Valerie Plame Drama Posted For Cannes

"Fair Game," the film about former CIA officer Valerie Plame Wilson and the Bush administration's leaks about her identity, is set to premiere May 20...

McQueen Personally Selected Cate Blanchett's Cannes Gown (PHOTO)

Comments (3,187)

DON'T MISS HUFFPOST BLOGGERS

◀ 1 of 5 ▶



Dylan Ratigan
[Free Market Fraud](#)



Sen. Jon Tester
[Tester Pushes to Reform Senate Rules With Greater Transparency, Efficiency](#)

HOT TRENDS

camille grammer lady
gaga miley cyrus lap dance
video natalie portman
pregnant raven-
symone

People.com



History Channel Won't Show Katie Holmes Miniseries The Kennedys
[READ MORE ▶](#)



Nick Lachey and Vanessa Minnillo to Guest Star on Hawaii Five-0
[READ MORE ▶](#)



Lindsay Lohan's Post-Rehab Gift: a \$25,000 Necklace
[READ MORE ▶](#)

[More Celebrity News at People.com](#)

Popeater



Petra Nemcova Engaged to British Actor



Stephanie Seymour Caught Kissing Her Son?



Jessica Szohr Bares All in Costa Rican Jungle

[More Celebrity News at Popeater.com](#)

TOP VIDEO PICKS

◀ 1 of 8 ▶

Jane Krakowski Reveals



Cate Blanchett donned a gown from Alexander McQueen's Pre-Fall 2010 collection for the Cannes premiere of her new film Robin Hood. According to InStyle, the...



How Spielberg and Lucas Caught The Surfing Bug
When freak waves recently soaked the beach at Cannes, nobody was as happy among the incoming festival crowd as Sam George, who with Greg MacGillivray...



Cannes 'Robin Hood' Premiere: Russell, Salma, Kate, Cate, Benicio & More (PHOTOS)
The Cannes Film Festival kicked off Wednesday night with a gala premiere for 'Robin Hood.' Below are some of the photos, featuring Russell Crowe and...

More News Posts: « [First](#) [Prev](#) [1](#) [2](#) [Next](#) [Last](#) »

More in Entertainment...

Andy Samberg, Johnny Knoxville To Star In...

HuffPost Review: Season of the Witch...

Camille Grammer's Porn Past Comes Back To...

Raven-Symone Shows Off Dramatic Weight Loss, Talks...

Comments 15

Pending Comments 0

[View FAQ](#)

Comments are closed for this entry

[View All](#)

▼ [Recency](#) | [Popularity](#)

HUFFPOST SUPER USER

Nate Carter 04:10 PM on 5/14/2010
22 Fans [Follow](#)



New Rule: Crowe must do a project against type or risk losing all relevance. We know you can do epics, gotcha. Try a comedy on for size. An action-thriller maybe? Russell Crowe in this film is as unexpected as a fat person 'supersizing it'. And that's why Iron Man will be #1 again this weekend. No one really cares about this \$237 million waste of a film. When it bombs, some studio suit should lose their job.

[Permalink](#) | [Share it](#)

rboylern 06:53 PM on 5/13/2010

13 Fans

I've seen the trailers for this film on TV. The romance seems a bit overdone and there's an awful lot of general screaming and yelling. These things tell me to put this on my "must miss" list. Give me the Robin Hood of Errol Flynn - hardly historically accurate, but an all-around engaging film.

[Permalink](#) | [Share it](#)

HUFFPOST BLOGGER

Michael Giltz 07:14 PM on 5/13/2010
59 Fans



Nothing can match Errol Flynn. But I would say that the romance is handled pretty subtly, doesn't dominate the action and the two do have good chemistry. It's certainly not a

Baby Bump

Bristol Palin's New Radio Gig?

Lohan ticketed

MOST DISCUSSED RIGHT NOW



PHOTOS: Ellen DeGeneres & Portia de Rossi's Exotic Vacation
151 Comments



PHOTOS: 'Teen Mom' Farrah Shows Off Boob Job In A Bikini
95 Comments

[f](#) HOT ON FACEBOOK



Camille Grammer's Porn Past Comes Back To Haunt Her
897 Comments



PHOTOS: Olivia Wilde Dons See-Through Bikini
90 Comments

[t](#) HOT ON TWITTER



PHOTOS: Raven-Symone's Dramatic Weight Loss
470 Comments



Beastie Boys Rapper Beats Cancer
76 Comments

HUFFPOST'S BIG NEWS PAGES



Katie Holmes



Harry Reid



Wikileaks



Pollster



Twitter



LA Restaurants



LA Around Town



The Fed



Guantanamo Bay

[MORE BIG NEWS PAGES »](#)

romance with some action; quite the opposite. Thanks for commenting.

[Permalink](#) | [Share it](#)

SILVANUS 02:17 PM on 5/13/2010
138 Fans



Crowe said it: "My theory would be, if Robin Hood was alive today, he would be looking at the monopolization of media as the greatest enemy."

Yep

All the same. All dull. All dumb. All slick. All FORGETTABLE.

[Permalink](#) | [Share it](#)

esolesek 02:00 PM on 5/13/2010
22 Fans

Sounds like Ridley Scott doesnt want to challenge his media paymasters of threaten his movie's support. Too bad. The entire point of Robin Hood is rabble-rousing and the Nottingham Sheriff is supposed to be an oppressor. Thought about seeing this, not anymore. Dont need Maid Marion as Aeon Flux either. Same old stupid formula dreck.

[Permalink](#) | [Share it](#)

bswell 03:44 PM on 5/13/2010
75 Fans

What do you expect from this type of blockbuster "dreck"? Although Scott made "Bladerunner," he also makes a few bucks from bad tv, presumably to finance the films he's making now. The reviewer needs to focus more on the films as films, and less what he would like them to be. Robin Hood is not even a historical character, so whatever is done, said or filmed bears no relation to history; it's what the director wants it to be. Check out such minor items as the cinematography and the mise-en-scene, if you can, prior to rendering critical judgments. Stay away from all the plot summarizing.

[Permalink](#) | [Share it](#)

bswell 03:53 PM on 5/13/2010
75 Fans

Sorry. That should be "presumably," and "less on what he would like them to be."

[Permalink](#) | [Share it](#)

There are More Comments on this Thread. [Click Here To See them All](#)

NewsCorpse 01:13 PM on 5/13/2010
41 Fans

The best part of the press conference for Robin Hood was what Crowe said about the media:

See Robin Hood vs. The Tea Baggers: <http://www.newscorpse.com/ncWP/?p=1643>

"My theory would be, if Robin Hood was alive today, he would be looking at the monopolization of media as the greatest enemy."

A brilliant analysis. Robin Hood would be a great symbol to counter the Tea Party. He is a heroic progressive and one of the early practitioners of "redistributing the wealth."

[Permalink](#) | [Share it](#)

MajorKong 11:35 AM on 5/13/2010
1047 Fans



So is this Robin Hood or "Gladiator - Sherwood Forest"?

FOLLOW HUFFINGTON POST



[Permalink](#) | [Share it](#)

SILVANUS 02:17 PM on 5/13/2010

138 Fans



"BladeMoney"

[Permalink](#) | [Share it](#)

dora rice 11:19 AM on 5/13/2010


28 Fans

Russel Crowe don't matter what movie role he plays, he is special. His earthy qualities , like the land in Australia, distinguishes him from any superficial hero in Hollywood.

[Permalink](#) | [Share it](#)

HUFFPOST SUPER USER

Bush-Rolled 03:43 PM on 5/13/2010

110 Fans  Follow



Gotta agree!

[Permalink](#) | [Share it](#)

HUFFPOST BLOGGER

Michael Giltz 07:19 PM on 5/13/2010

59 Fans



Yep, he's a very good actor and gives this film what heft it has by his performance.

[Permalink](#) | [Share it](#)

OutsideLookingIn 11:58 PM on 5/12/2010

7 Fans

The reason "The Lord of the Rings" was such a success was that Jackson did not fiddle with Tolkein's archetypes - the lost king, the humble commoner given world-saving quest, etc.

Robin Hood is an archetype - and one very apposite to our age with its ordinary folk oppressed by robber bankers rather than robber barons - but in running "in fear from any plot device even remotely similar to the Robin Hood myth we know so well" Ridley Scott clearly totally misses the mark in a way the original Robin Hood never would have.

[Permalink](#) | [Share it](#)

SEARCH

FRONT PAGE	POLITICS	BUSINESS	MEDIA	ENTERTAINMENT	COMEDY	SPORTS	STYLE	WORLD	GREEN	FOOD	TRAVEL	TECH	
LIVING	HEALTH	DIVORCE	ARTS	BOOKS	RELIGION	IMPACT	EDUCATION	COLLEGE	NY	LA	CHICAGO	DENVER	BLOGS

[Advertise](#) | [Log In](#) | [Make HuffPost your Home Page](#) | [RSS](#) | [Careers](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Contact Us](#)

[User Agreement](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Comment Policy](#) | [About Us](#) | [Powered by Movable Type](#)

Copyright © 2011 TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. | "The Huffington Post" is a registered trademark of TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. All rights reserved.

