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FILM

'Black Swan'
Director Darren Aronofsky's last film, "The Wrestler," had plenty of gore with star Mickey Rourke taking staples to the body. His latest, "Black Swan," at first looks like a classy departure, but it may be just as physically brutal as it is psychologically twisted. Natalie Portman (above) stars as a veteran ballerina who must embrace her dark side to fend off a rival (Mila Kunis) for a plum role. In theaters Friday.

2



CONCERT

Kix-Mas
After all these years, the big-hair bands of the '80s can still take themselves way too seriously. (We're talking about you, Axl.) But not so for Baltimore's own Kix. The band gets it just right by putting on potent, rock-heavy shows a couple of times a year and not wearing out its welcome with devoted fans. Kix performs Saturday at Rams Head Live, 20 Market Place. Doors open at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25. Call 410-244-1131 or go to ramshheadlive.com.

3



DVD

'Despicable Me'
The title of this animated feature describes Gru, a loathsome creature (well, he's certainly not nice), with plans to steal the moon because ... well, because he can. But then three adorable orphans enter the picture and have at his heart (supposing he has one). With the voices of Steve Carell, Jason Segel, Russell Brand, Julie Andrews and Kristen Wiig. In stores Tuesday.


4



VARIETY SHOW

Holiday Spectac-u-thon
Trixie and Monkey's "Holiday Spectac-U-Thon" promises "more nuts than the Nutcracker, more cheese than a cheese log and more fruitcakes than your family reunion." Need any more details? How about acrobatics, trapeze acts and a psychedelic striptease? Shows held at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the Creative Alliance at the Patterson, 3134 Eastern Ave. Tickets are \$18-\$20. Call 410-276-1651 or go to creativealliance.org.

5



TV

'Wishful Drinking'
Delving into her often-stormy life growing up and becoming a star in Hollywood, Carrie Fisher brings her saucy one-woman stage show to a mass TV audience. It isn't quite as polished as the movie "Postcards From the Edge" (a fictional take on the same material), but it's a great confession. Airs 9 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12, on HBO.

10 things not to miss
from A&E editor Tim Swift

Swift picks



FILM


'Tron: Legacy'
Some remakes have left us scratching our heads. (Is another version of "Total Recall" really necessary?) But the special-effects upgrades to this "Tron" alone make it worth the redo. Garrett Hedlund (below) stars as a tech-savvy son looking for his long-missing father. He not only finds Dad (Jeff Bridges), but also an entire virtual world of Pop's making. Only problem is dear old dad is no longer in control. In theaters Friday.



6

EXHIBIT

'Walter Wick: Games, Gizmos and Toys in the Attic'
His picture-riddle books (the "I Spy" series) are huge with kids, but his detailed photos — whether straight photography, optical illusions or digitally enhanced — are decidedly not kids' stuff. See dozens of Wick's amazing photos as the show reaches its final weeks. Runs through Jan. 2 at the Walters Art Museum, 600 N. Charles St. Tickets are \$6-\$10. Call 410-547-9000 or go to walters.org.



7

ART

Dr. Sketchy's Anti-Art School: Baltimore
MICA students aren't the only ones able to appreciate the human form through a sketch pad. This national movement of burlesque-inspired art classes is steadily gaining a following in Baltimore. Starts at 7 p.m. Monday at the Windup Space, 12 W. North Ave. Admission is \$8. Call 410-244-8855 or go to thewindupspace.com.



8

HOLIDAY

Symphony of Lights
There are plenty of places to scope out over-the-top holiday displays. But nothing beats the drive-through convenience of the Symphony of Lights. For the next few weeks, 70-odd light displays are ready for you to "oooh" and "aaaah" at in toasty comfort. Runs through Jan. 2 at Merriweather Post Pavilion, 10475 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia. Admission is \$20 for cars. Call 410-740-7840 or go to hcg.org/symphonyoflights.



9

FAMILY

Kwanzaa Family Day
Although it doesn't kick off until Dec. 26, Kwanzaa begins early at the BMA with a whole day of African-inspired arts and crafts, live performances and more. DishiBem Traditional Contemporary Dance and Jali-D are among the performers. Starts at 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12, at the Baltimore Museum of Art. Free. Call 443-573-1700 or go to artbma.org.



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