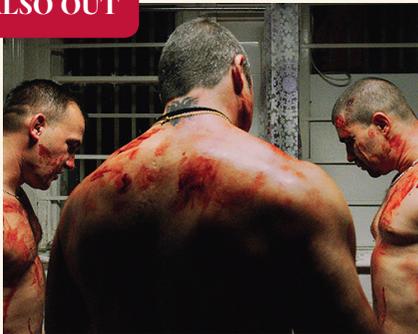


ALSO OUT



**Hyena**

★★★★★

FROM NOW / RATED R18+

DVD BR

London copper Michael Logan (Peter Ferdinando) is violent, corrupt and usually high, but gets the job done... with severe qualifications. Harassed by a police complaints investigator (Stephen Graham) and ruthless new Albanian crime bosses on his Queensway patch, Logan tries to stay in the game at any cost. Writer-director Gerard Johnson and chameleon-like star Ferdinando impressed with their serial killer movie *Tony*, and continue their strong collaboration here. This is a tragedy of people trapped in webs of their own making, struggling as bad things loom closer. Bonus star for The The's soundtrack.

EXTRAS None. KN



**The 33**

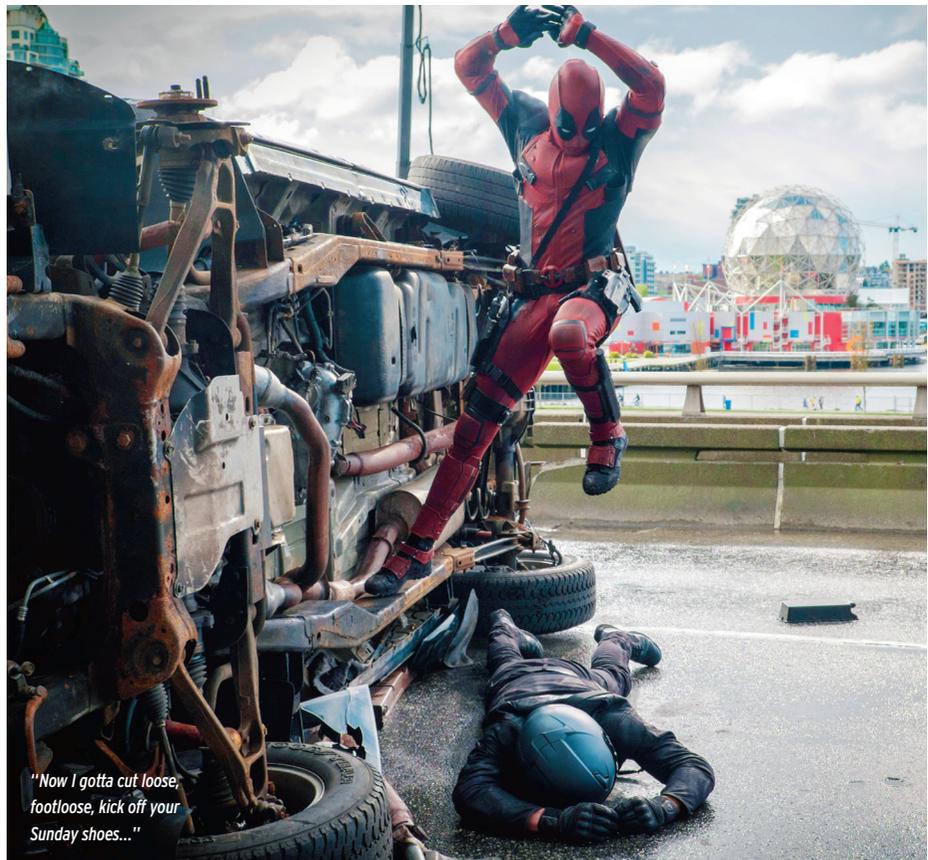
★★★★★

FROM NOW / RATED M

DVD BR

The uplifting news story of 2010, the ordeal of 33 Chilean miners trapped in a collapsed mine for 69 days deserves a better movie than this. Beneath ground, it draws a crew of thinly sketched types led by a too-good-to-be-true Antonio Banderas. Above ground, it is possibly worse, drilling into disaster movie-style rescue attempts (represented by the none-more-Chilean Gabriel Byrne) and sudsy family dramas (represented by the none-more-Chilean Juliette Binoche). The bones of the story work, but you want the film to nail the emotional truth. Instead we get a heavy-handed score that hits you over the head with a panpipe.

EXTRAS None. IAN FREER



**Deadpool**

★★★★★

FROM NOW / RATED MA15+ / DIRECTOR TIM MILLER / CAST RYAN REYNOLDS, MORENA BACCARIN, T.J. MILLER, ED SKREIN, BRIANNA HILDEBRAND

DVD BR UV 4K

COCKPUNCHER TRIUMPHANT



IF THE THOUGHT OF ultraviolent superhero films crammed with crude humour fill you with unbridled glee, you're in luck: the astonishing success of the mid-budget *Deadpool* — it's clocked a worldwide gross of \$US761 million and is the highest grossing 20th Century Fox film ever not directed by George Lucas or James Cameron — all but guarantees a slew of them will be headed our way (expect the filmic Wolverine to finally get as stabby as his comic book counterpart in next year's *Wolverine 3*). In a perverse twist, all it took to create a game changer that now stands as one of the biggest comic book movies of all time was simply additional dick jokes and a slew of severed limbs. *Deadpool* would surely be pleased.

Now that the dust and decapitated heads have somewhat settled, it's a little easier to see *Deadpool* for what it is: a self-referential, lightly refreshing superhero-film semi-pisstake with a rote revenge plot that overflows with a relentless barrage of fourth-wall breaking, pop-culture-reference-heavy quips (many of them dated; it's unlikely anyone under 30 will smile knowingly at jokes involving Wham! and Voltron) that land

about half the time, coupled with occasionally inventive bloody action (see the brilliantly staged opening freeway action sequence, previewed in leaked test footage from a few years back that led to the film being greenlit — a sequence the film struggles to top). It may be an exhilarating ride on the rollercoaster while you're on board, but afterwards it's unlikely you'll be reminiscing about all the surprising twists and turns.

Making up for the basic storyline — cancer-stricken mercenary Wade Wilson seeks revenge on super-powered no-good Ajax (an unmemorable Ed Skrein doing British baddie-by-numbers) for turning him into a scarred freak with advanced healing abilities — is Ryan Reynolds, the man who championed the film for years before it was given the go-ahead (some speculate Reynolds is the one who leaked the aforementioned test footage). Reynolds has charisma and quick wit to burn, and *Deadpool* is the perfect playground for the Canadian actor to show the world what he's got after an unfortunate string of mostly forgettable films (hello *R.I.P.D.*, *Self/less*, *The Change-Up* et al.). It's his innate charm and motormouthed cheek that in large part sells the film, proving that superhero films don't necessarily need a barrage of expensive CGI and a serious tone to strike a chord — just a rapid succession of cock punches and a semi-forgotten '90s Salt-N-Pepa hit on the soundtrack.

EXTRAS Audio commentaries from Ryan Reynolds, screenwriters Rhett Reese and Paul Wernick, director Tim Miller and *Deadpool* co-creator Rob Liefeld; deleted and extended scenes with commentary by Tim Miller; *From Comics To Screen... To Screen* featurette; Gallery, gag reel and something called 'Deadpool's Fun Sack'...

JAMES JENNINGS