

There is nothing quite like sitting down after a long week and watching a movie. Besides reading, catching a baseball game, and playing disc golf, watching movies is my favorite pastime. If you've read my other columns, you probably already know that! Nothing relaxes me more than sitting cozily on the couch eating microwave popcorn, maybe sipping on a cocktail or a glass of wine for a couple of hours while my favorite actors tell stories. I have been obsessed with movies (and television) longer than I remember. I used to rush home from school, hop on the computer, and look for any news I could find about long awaited movies. I think I knew everything about Spider-Man 2 before I even stepped foot in the movie theater. Every Friday my family would make an evening of visiting the most popular movie rental store (you know the one) and taking out five or six movies just to fill a weekend. Most families go camping or play board games, but my family watched movies and we watched lots of them.

With today's infinite streaming possibilities it is easy to get lost just trying to find a movie (I think one of my previous columns was about this very conundrum). One of my favorite ways to find a movie to watch is to peruse the collection at the Kirkland Town Library. Not only do they have hundreds of movies, but they always have titles that haven't yet been uploaded to the void of streaming services. This means the KTL is usually the first place to have highly anticipated movies before everyone else! Excitingly, it has on its shelves three of the most anticipated from the past year, and two of them received serious critical acclaim.

Two of the biggest movies of the year, uncharacteristic of Hollywood blockbusters, hit theaters on the exact same weekend. You might have heard of people flocking to the movie theater to see both on the same day, a phenomenon that came to be known as Barbenheimer. The movies in question couldn't be more different in genre, theme, or tone. With one title based on an astronomically popular children's toy and the other featuring the father of the atomic bomb, there was something for everyone in this magical weekend of cinema. Of course, I'm referring to *Barbie* (2023) and *Oppenheimer* (2023). While thematically they shouldn't be mentioned in the same breath, they actually complement each other quite well. Both were directed by two of the most acclaimed directors of this generation, and the stories they tell will leave you on edge. Even *Barbie*, although based on a toy, is caked in drama. If available at the same time, I recommend checking them both out and experiencing Barbenheimer yourself.

Okay, so the next new movie wouldn't necessarily be labeled as critically acclaimed; in fact nobody seems to be talking about it at all! But what made this movie much anticipated is that it is the definition of nostalgia. Released 21 years after the first of its name and six years after the second, *My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3* (2023) pulls us back into the comedic chaos of the Portokalos family. Instead of a wedding this time, the main character Toula travels to Greece to locate her late father's childhood friends in an attempt to bring them all back together to celebrate her father's life. Most of the loveable cast returns for this third entry of the romantic trilogy.

If you don't want to wait to get your hands on these titles -- and I am sure they will be very popular -- you can come join us during the Kirkland Town Library's Afternoon Movies series Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m. *Oppenheimer* will be showing on December 5th and *My Big Fat Greek*

*Wedding 3* will be screening on December 12th! You can request *Barbie* through our catalog or, if you're feeling lucky, pop in to see if it's on the shelf and see what other movies you can find too. The Kirkland Town Library's collection is enough to satisfy any cinephile.