

Battle of the sexes at the movies

BY JUSTIN POWELL

The first "Transformers" movie wasn't a great film, the same way "The Godfather" and "Schlinder's List" — or even "The Dark Knight" — are great films.

But if you're looking for mindless, summer entertainment, "Transformers" is about as good as it gets.

One of my friends actually claims the movie is his favorite film of all time. That seems to be higher praise than warranted, but he claims it has everything you need in a movie: suspense, huge action sequences, a little comedy and at least two hot women.

You'll notice he didn't include an engaging and thought-provoking plot in that list.

Well, he's in luck, and so are the rest of the many "Transformers" fans out there. This week the sequel, "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen," hits theaters, promising more of the same. Megan Fox has even said in interviews that people looking for a good story should go elsewhere. This film knows exactly what it is, and everyone involved is proud of that fact.

"Transformers" is one of two movies with a nationwide release this week, along with the drama "My Sister's Keeper," based on the best-selling book by Jodi Picoult.

■ "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen"

(Opens nationwide Wednesday)

We'll start with the bad — one of the main hot actresses from the original (Rachel Taylor) is not in this film. But don't worry, they brought in a new actress (Isabel Lucas) who is equally as attractive. And, of course, you'll still have Megan Fox to look at.

I'm not trying to be one-sided here — there are also plenty of good-looking guys for the ladies to look at. Even if you're not a Shia LaBeouf fan, Josh Duhamel and Tyrese Gibson reprise their roles from the original.

Looking good — that's basically what this movie is all about. From the actors to the explosions to the Transformer robots themselves, it's all surface level, but that's exactly what a lot of people are looking for in a movie.

As for that plot, which Fox has publicly pushed to the side, in this film Decepticon forces come back



This week's new releases — "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen," and "My Sister's Keeper," — will likely appeal to vastly different audiences.

to Earth to kidnap Sam Witwicky (LaBeouf) after he learns the truth about the origin of the Transformers. Helping protect the humans is Optimus Prime, who joins forces with armies across the country to defeat Megatron and his friends.

John Turturo reprises his role as Agent Simmons, and Rainn Wilson (Dwight from "The Office") joins the cast as Professor Colan.

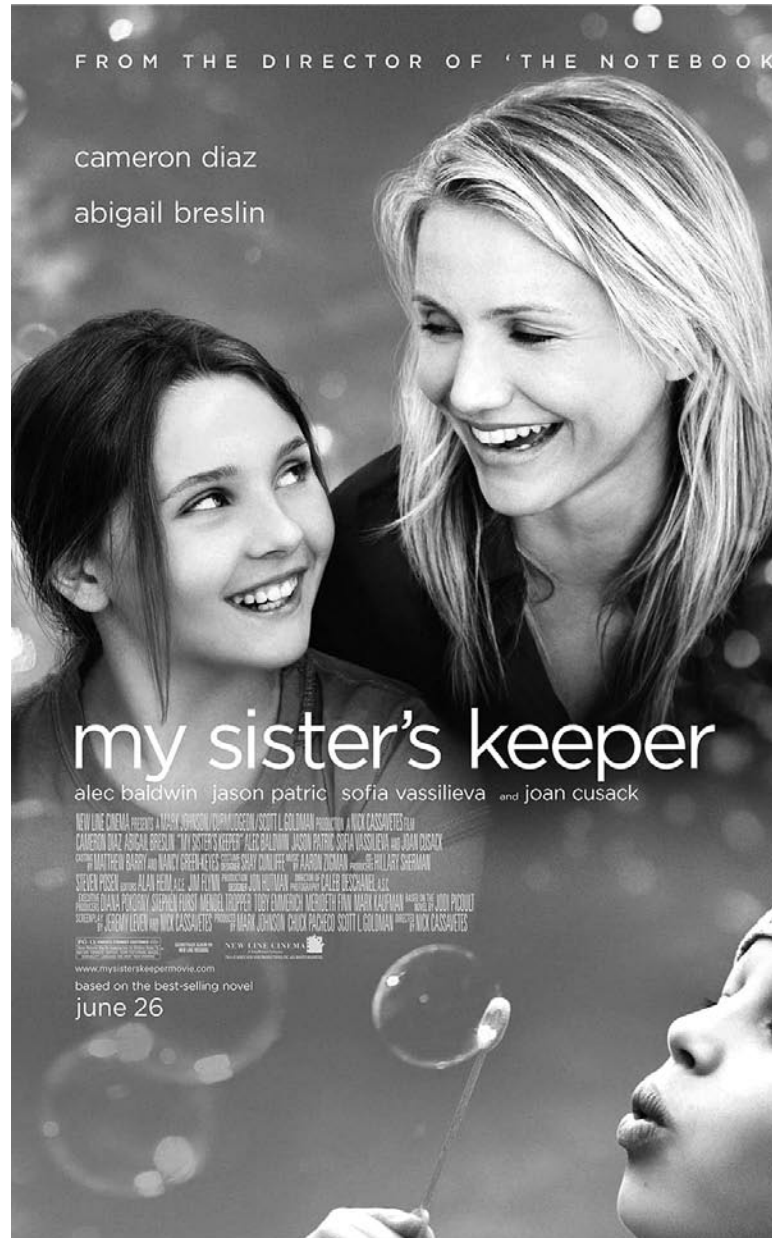
Michael Bay is back in the director's chair, which is a guarantee that this edition of "Transformers" will have even more action and even more chase scenes than the original.

That's how he rolls.

■ "My Sister's Keeper"

(Opens nationwide Friday)
If you don't like watching explosions and cars that turn into robots, this is your alternative for the weekend. And it's an intriguing film in its own right.

Based on the popular novel, this drama revolves around Kate (Sofia Vassilieva) and her younger sister, Anna (Abigail Breslin). Kate has



Provided photos

leukemia, and Anna is her key to survival, simply because of the genetics she has to offer.

But things change when Anna, at age 11, decides she doesn't like her role anymore and hires a lawyer to get medical emancipation from her parents. Cameron Diaz and Jason Patric star as her parents, and Alec Baldwin plays the lawyer she hires.

It's a bit of a tear-jerker, and the film is by "The Notebook" director

Nick Cassavetes, who obviously knows a thing or two about making tear-jerkers.

The simplistic explanation is to say this is the perfect option for women this weekend, while "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen" is the perfect option for men, but there will be tons of exceptions to that rule. I might be one of them. I'm sure I'll lose a few "guy points" for saying this, but I liked "The Notebook" more than I liked the original "Transformers."

What can I say? I'm a sucker for sad stories.

DVD releases

■ "Inkheart"

Heading to the theater? Visit Funcoast.com for local movie times and listings

How to party at the sandbar

BY CHRISTY SEYLER

Summer is here and that means sandbar barge parties are back. But before you pack up your boat and head to one of best places around, we need to talk about do and don'ts. I have been to the barge parties and they are a really good time, but I do have some advice for first timers and die hard sandbar party goers, so here we go!

Lets go over the do's first, because they are more fun then the don'ts.

1) Find a friend that has a boat and head out to the sandbar. It's a long swim to the sandbar and how would you get your cooler there? Also make sure you give your friend some money for taking you out because it is really expensive to own a boat and you are hitching a ride.

2) Remember your sunscreen. That one is simple, right?

3) Pack food! Simple foods like hotdogs wrapped in foil and placed in a small cooler are really awesome after a few cold beers. A few more favorites are watermelon (other fruits, too), cheese and crackers, veggies and anything pre-made because sandy food kinda sucks, though if you drink enough you might not care.

4) Bring plastic bags. Why, you ask? Well, the sandbar does not have docks and if you want your cell phones, cameras, cigarettes (if you smoke... you shouldn't, but if you do) and anything else you want to stay nice and dry.

5) Pick up after yourself. I won't get in to this too much because I go over that in the don'ts. But for real, clean up after yourself.

6) If you are not camping out on the sandbar, make sure you have a sober driver for the boat. I know people are always talking about driving drunk in cars, but really bad things can happen in a boat, too, if you don't have a responsible captain.

7) If you are camping on the sandbar, make sure you bring your own firewood.

8) Finally, do have a great time and make new friends. Boaters are great, friendly people so go up to someone you don't know and say hi.

Now we need to talk about the don'ts on the sandbar.

1.) Forget to pick up your butts. I'm talking cigarettes, here. If you are coming to the sandbar party and you are a smoker, do not throw your



Spotted photo

The Lake Erie Sand Bar Barge Party will be June 27, with music starting at 1 p.m.

nasty cancer sticks in the water. To each his or her own as far as smoking goes, but let's not kill our beautiful

lake. Plus it is really gross to be swimming around listing to good music and then a cigarette butt comes

floating by. Here is another use for the zip lock bags; carry one around

with you and put all the butts in it.

2.) Throw your beer cans in the water for the same reasons as in number one. The sandbar is a great place for families and partiers, but the only way it will stay that way is if

we make sure we take care of it. We really don't want an island of trash

in our wonderful lake, right? I'm taking extra trash bags out and so should you. They aren't expensive, so make sure you do your part to keep it clean.

3.) Bring glass out the sandbar; it's just not a good idea. It can break and then we have a huge mess that could have been prevented. Lot and lots of beers come in plastic bottles.

I prefer cans, but if you have to have that bottle, get plastic so no tootsies get cut up.

Well, I think that's it. Funcoast.com will be hanging out all day at the sandbar barge party, so come out and say hello. Remember, you can party hard and be responsible, too!

Ready to party?

- **WHAT:** Lake Erie Sand Bar Barge Party
- **WHEN:** June 27 (live music starts at 1 p.m.)
- **WHERE:** The sandbar in the bay

Independence Day Concert

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