

# On the move

## 'Finding Nemo' is search for son; 'The Italian Job' is heist-turned-hunt

BY NICOLE STAFFORD  
STAFF WRITER

What could *The Italian Job*, a sexy-looking, stunt-packed film starring Mark Wahlberg have in common with a cute computer-animated tale about fish called *Finding Nemo*? Both are adventures and hunts.

In *Finding Nemo*, which opens Friday, Marlin, an overly cautious father fish, is separated from his curious son Nemo in the Great Barrier Reef. Marlin must find his son — a dangerous undertaking with a heroic ending.

In *The Italian Job*, which also opens Friday, Wahlberg's character Charlie Croker and his gang pull off an unbelievable gold heist in Italy only to discover one partner has double-crossed him. His goal: Track down the bad partner and steal back the money. Joining in the quest is Stella, a safe expert played by Charlize Theron.

Hopefully, the fun comes after these plot set-ups, neither of which could be described as innovative. The good news is that *Finding Nemo* comes to us from the Academy Award-winning creators of *Toys Story*, *A Bug's Life* and *Monsters, Inc.*, all hits with family audiences and success stories at the box office.

Pixar Animation Studios, which created the film in partnership with Walt Disney Pictures, has a lot riding on the film, too.

*Finding Nemo*, a Buena Vista Pictures release, is rated G.

What's promising about *The Italian Job* is that it's a remake of Paramount's 1969 classic of the same name. At the very least, we know we have a classic plot on our hands.

And, the turn of events in the contemporary version does look interesting. Charlie Croker's plan to recover his stolen gold comes down

manipulating traffic signals and creating havoc on the streets of Los Angeles.

There's also a surprise star in the wings — stunts and chase scenes featuring the recently redesigned British Mini Cooper. If you haven't spotted one of these truly adorable, pint-sized autos around town, you'll no doubt get a big look on the big screen.

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Dory, (left to right), Marlin and Bruce are three of the stars in the animated film 'Finding Nemo,' which comes from the creators of 'Toy Story,' 'A Bug's Life' and 'Monsters, Inc.'

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## Classic film series starts at Michigan Theater

BY NICOLE STAFFORD  
STAFF WRITER

Calling all classic film fans. The Michigan Theater's annual series of classic movies begins Sunday, June 1 with a screening of Frank Capra's Academy Award-winning

romantic comedy *It Happened One Night* starring Clark Gable. The series, which runs every Sunday and Tuesday through Tuesday, Sept. 2 plus a special screening on Labor Day, is a tradition at the restored historical movie palace.

"People really adore seeing

classic films at the Michigan Theater. There's something romantic about the experience," said Emily Phenix, who programmed this year's series and is the theater's marketing director. "There's something about sitting in a beautiful movie palace with the smell of popcorn and experiencing the movie with an audience."

Likewise, Gene Kelly's famous dance moves in *Singin' in the Rain*, which is set to run July 6 and 8, simply aren't as grand on a television screen.

"You get a richness in film production that you just can't get on the small screen," said Phenix.

This year's lineup includes a handful of perennial favorites, but most of the films are classics that have not been screened at the Michigan Theater in several years. "I was looking for films that we haven't played for a while," added Phenix.

Although films and dates have been set for the entire series, screening times will be determined on a weekly basis. To learn about upcoming showtimes or obtain additional information, call the theater's 24-hour information line at (248) 668-TIME or visit www.michtheater.com on the Internet.

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