



### "The Smashing Machine" (R)

Filmmaker and actor Benny Safdie ("Uncut Gems") directs this biographical sports drama starring Dwayne Johnson ("Moana 2"). In a much different vein than some of his previous works like "Jungle Cruise" and "Red One," Johnson is gunning for critical acclaim for his performance as wrestler and MMA fighter Mark Kerr. Teaming up again with his "Jungle Cruise" co-star Emily Blunt, Johnson underwent an extensive transformation to become Kerr, whose intense journey with fighting is documented throughout the film. The multifaceted and talented Blunt plays Kerr's girlfriend, Dawn, but even their chemistry and his transformation couldn't pull in more than \$20 million against its original \$50 million cost. Still, it might be worth the watch. Out now to rent. (Apple TV+)

### "Playdate" (PG-13)

For those who miss the hilarious Kevin James ("Grown Ups") on their screens, this comedy-action film features him in his element! Starring alongside the massively buff Alan Ritchson ("Motor City"), James plays Brian Jennings, a stay-at-home stepdad who recently got fired from his job. As he tries to ease into his role as stepfather, he naturally accepts an invitation for his stepson to go on a playdate with another kid, where he meets Jeff (Ritchson). To appease his stepson, Brian attempts to befriend Jeff, only to find out that this is not an ordinary playdate with another father and son. Jeff is on the run to protect his son from some dangerous men, and now Brian and his stepson are along for the chase! Premieres on Nov. 12. (Amazon Prime Video)

### "A Very Jonas Christmas Movie" (TV-PG)

"Let it bro, let it bro, let it bro" is the tagline of this new holiday movie starring none other than Jonas

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Brothers as themselves! Almost like a parody of their real life, the movie picks up as the band finishes playing a show in London and is ready to head back home to New York in time for Christmas festivities with their family. When their travel plans go awry, the boys are forced to put their talented brains together in order to get home, but absolutely nothing goes as planned. But once they employ a bit of Christmas magic and remember the true meaning of Christmas, the JoBros should be able to get home -- hopefully in one piece. Premieres Nov. 14. (Disney+)

### "A Merry Little Ex-Mas" (PG-13)

Recently separated couple Kate

(Alicia Silverstone) and Everett's (Oliver Hudson) divorce is imminent, but with Christmas approaching, Kate is determined to have one last happy Christmas that includes the whole family. Shortly after she sets her plans in stone, Kate receives news that Everett's new girlfriend, Tess (Jameela Jamil), will be joining them for the holidays to make everything way more awkward. Now that the bubbly, beautiful and younger Tess is lingering around, it stirs up emotions for both Everett and Kate, who decides to make her ex jealous with a younger man (Pierson Fode). There's nothing like some romantic drama to get into the cozy holiday mood! Premieres Nov. 11. (Netflix)



Alicia Silverstone, left, and Oliver Hudson star in "A Merry Little Ex-Mas."



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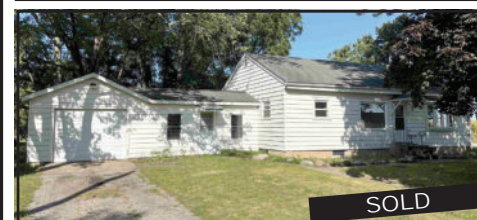
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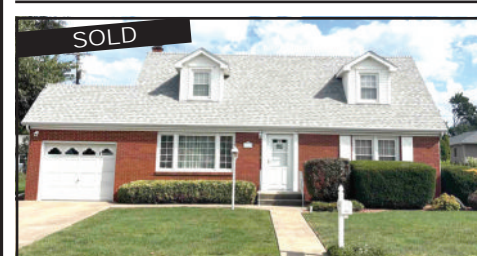
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