The next 'Hunger Games:' Best-selling 'Divergent' hits theaters Thursday - Tulsa World: Movie News



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The next 'Hunger Games:' Best-selling 'Divergent' hits theaters Thursday

■ 'Divergent' is set in dystopian future



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Sixteen-year-old Tris learns that she is unique because she does not strictly belong to one of five factions of a dystopian society in "Divergent." Courtesy



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By MICHAEL SMITH World Scene Writer | • 0 comments

In the world of "Divergent," the latest youngadult novel (turned into a movie opening this week) set in a dystopian future, Beatrice Prior lives in a city divided into five factions of people.

Those factions are Abnegation (those individuals who are selfless), Dauntless (the brave), Candor (the honest), Erudite (the wise) and Amity (the peaceful).

Along with other 16-year-olds, she is required to take an aptitude test. Its purpose is to determine which faction a person is best suited for, and then they must decide: stay with their family, or leave their loved ones behind.

When "Tris" learns that she is unique because she does not strictly belong in any of the five factions, it's the beginning of a universal story: She's a teen who, literally, does not fit in.

Tris is "Divergent," which means she cannot



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be easily controlled by government officials, and that makes her dangerous.

If it sounds familiar that such a story is being made into a major Hollywood film, centered around a strong heroine, it should.

There's a reason that Melissa Smith is throwing a party.

"The biggest attraction is the 'Hunger Games' series becoming so popular with both teens and adults," said Smith, the teen library associate at Hardesty Regional Library, where those ages 12 to 18 engaged in the world of "Divergent" can gather at the library on 2 p.m. Wednesday.

"Then there's the fact that 'Divergent' is a page-turner, with a story that's relatable to teens: being self-absorbed, feeling like you're invincible, all those things that are a part of the growing-up process. Not to mention, we'd all like to be that strong person, like Tris, who fights back, whether that's against an oppressive government or something else."

Smith's "Divergent Movie Party" will, like the story, center around the five factions. Those attending will find five "stations" set up in the auditorium, at which they can play a game, make a craft or eat a snack. At a sixth station, they can take a short quiz to determine which faction they are best suited to join.

"Then we'll guide them to that faction, where they will make a button to represent their faction, which they can wear to the movie if they want."

The movie opens with Thursday night showings at theaters nationwide, which will likely be well-attended locally with it being spring-break week for most local students.

"That was our thought, that it would give them something to do during spring break, something fun tied to the movie," Smith said. "Now it's just a matter of trying to plan, not knowing how many might show up. But our other (movie parties) have been very popular."

So have all of author Veronica Roth's books in this series. In January, she accomplished a feat that only a handful of writers — including Suzanne Collins of the "Hunger Games" books — has accomplished: "Divergent," its sequel "Insurgent" and the third book, "Allegiant," held the top three positions on the best-seller list.

'Divergent' in theaters

Opens: Thursday showings start at 8 p.m.; multiple showtimes daily beginning Friday

Cast: Shailene Woodley (of "The Descendants" and "The Spectacular Now") plays Tris; Theo James ("Underworld: Awakening") plays Four; Kate Winslet plays Jeanine; Miles Teller ("The Spectacular Now," "That Awkward Moment") plays Peter; Jai Courtney ("A Good Day to Die Hard") plays Eric; Zoe Kravitz ("X-Men: First Class") plays Christina.

Theaters: in IMAX and digital at Cinemark Tulsa and AMC Southroads 20; also at Cinemark Broken Arrow, Starworld 20, RiverWalk, Owasso, Eton Square and Sand Springs





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Running time: 2 hours, 19 minutes

Rated: PG-13 (intense violence and action, thematic elements and some sensuality)

'Divergent' movie party

What: for ages 12-18, a celebration of the film based on the best-selling young-adult novel, to include games, crafts and trivia

When: 2-4 p.m. Wednesday

Where: Hardesty Regional Library, 8316 E. 93rd St. in Frossard Auditorium

More 'dystopia' to come

"Divergent" is a young-adult novel that depicts a dystopian future. We've seen such a depiction recently in the first two "Hunger Games" movies as well as "Ender's Game." We'll see it in three more films to come this year.

"The Giver" (August)

The 1993 novel by Lois Lowry is seen as beginning this genre of books, and now its story of a young boy's life and attempt to learn about a world beyond his seemingly perfect community (your life's work is assigned at age 12, babies are raised in Nurturing Centers) comes to theaters. Young Brenton Thwaites stars and gets support from Jeff Bridges, Meryl Streep, Taylor Swift and Alexander Skarsgaard.

"The Maze Runner (September)

TCC narrows field of president candidates

Set in a post-apocalyptic world, Thomas has his memory erased and awakens inside a maze called "The Glades" in which many other boys are also trapped, knowing they must join forces with fellow "runners" for a shot at escape. Starring Dylan O'Brien (TV's "Teen Wolf") and Will Poulter ("We're the Millers").

"The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1" (November)

This is the beginning of the end when it comes to telling the story of Katniss Everdeen. Now a symbol of the full-blown revolution in Panem, she meets new challenges, both physical and political, that are as dangerous as any she faced in the arena.





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