

# COWBOYS & ALIENS

**Director** Jon Favreau **Stars** Daniel Craig, Harrison Ford, Olivia Wilde  
**In Cinemas** 12 August **On Disc** December

This Daniel Craig/Harrison Ford-starring, John Favreau-directed graphic novel adaptation is the ultimate showdown: science fiction vs the wild west. Favreau's got form when it comes to putting his own spin on traditional comic-book stories and we can expect a joyously inventive action romp as the grizzled men of the Old West take on an alien invasion. Just don't expect any 3D:

Favreau is remaining a traditionalist, gunning for a vintage Western feel. He's not convinced about a franchise either. "If we do a sequel, we've got problems," he admitted at Comic-Con. "Cowboys & Vampires? Cowboys & Aliens & Martians? Thankfully, this one's going well, so those are good problems..." **DISC PREDICTIONS** Favreau's *Iron Man* films have seen decent discs, particularly on Blu.

*Cowboys & Aliens* is another labour of love, so expect decent extras - though we doubt they'll include the early Comic-Con footage.

**This One's For Fans Of...** Inventive sci-fi. Guaranteed to be better than *Alien Vs Predator*. And with Ford and Craig, cowboys, and aliens, what's not to like?

# CONAN

**Director** Marcus Nispel **Stars** Jason Momoa, Ron Perlman, Rachel Nichols  
**In Cinemas** 19 August **On Disc** January 2012

Arnie's not back, but Conan is... in 3D no less. *Stargate Atlantis'* Jason Momoa plays the rebooted barbarian in a film that's spent the best part of a decade in development hell and now has summer blockbuster stamped all over it.

After witnessing his father's death and his people being massacred, Conan sets out to - what else? - crush his enemies, via a

spot of thieving, pirating and battling monsters and witches. Director Marcus Nispel's said to be taking inspiration from Frank Frazetta's iconic Conan illustrations along with his own childhood imaginings of the character. Rose McGowan, who plays a sorcerer, says the film is "unreal looking"... **DISC PREDICTIONS** Nine years in the making and based on a Marvel comic

inspired by pulp fantasy novels, there's plenty of fodder here for an in-depth Making Of and a Nispel commentary.

**This One's For Fans Of...** Bone-crushing action. This should be one to watch if you appreciate the primal violence seen in the likes of *Apocalypto* - and, of course, the original *Conan The Barbarian*.

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# TINKER, TAILOR, SOLDIER, SPY

**Director** Tomas Alfredson **Stars** Gary Oldman, Tom Hardy, Benedict Cumberbatch  
**In Cinemas** 16 September **On Disc** February 2012

John Le Carré's Cold War-era spy novel provided the source material for an acclaimed 1979 BBC serial, which won Alec Guinness a BAFTA for his portrayal of retired spy George Smiley. A tough act to beat, but the roster of names involved in bringing *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* to the big screen has serious potential, with *Let The Right One In* helmer Tomas Alfredson directing such excellent thespians as Gary Oldman, Colin Firth and Benedict Cumberbatch.

The film will remain fairly faithful to the book and certainly won't be shifting the action from the Cold War era, although it's likely to throw in the odd surprise. Taking on Alec Guinness' role as Smiley, Gary Oldman is "just perfect", according to Alfredson - not

that that's any surprise. "He's got the quiet intensity and intelligence that's needed," claims the director. A year into his retirement from a British intelligence agency known as The Circus, Smiley is asked to help root out a spy without any official resources or back-up. "Initially I was worried," Oldman says of stepping into Guinness' shoes. "I remember watching it, it was beautifully acted."

"Of course, I know what a British treasure this is," says Alfredson. "The book, the BBC adaptation... you can dwell on these for two minutes, then you have to move on." While *Let The Right One In* occupied different genre territory, Alfredson draws connections between the two films, in that both have a horror and coldness to them. "*Tinker, Tailor,*

*Soldier, Spy* is a horror precisely because you do not know how far the conspiracies and lies stretch," Alfredson says. "It could be much worse than you think."

**DISC PREDICTIONS** There's a lot of scope for decent DVD features here, from digging into the background of the original John Le Carré story and the real-life history that inspired it. That, and we're hoping Alfredson rounds up the cracking cast for a really good, insightful audio commentary.

**This One's For Fans Of...** The spy game - particularly 1965 Le Carré adap *The Spy Who Came In From The Cold*. Also a must-watch for anyone who loves a really stellar British casting line-up.

