

Review

## In 'Jason Bourne,' a digital dragnet tightens

Jason Bourne, as played by Matt Damon across four movies, is forever disappearing off the grid only to reluctantly resurface years later and again menace the CIA. He's the spy who came in from the cold only to return to the cold, come in again, and, yet again, head back to the cold. In the chilly and bleak "Jason Bourne," the amnesia-ed assassin has been resurrected again, along with director Paul Greengrass, with whom Damon returns to the franchise after a nine year break. Bourne is still brooding. Greengrass' hand-held camera is still frenetic. And the saga's lethal precision is still sharp.

The spy game, already far from a martini-sipping affair in previous installments, is resolutely grim in "Jason Bourne." The superspy, now a hulking mass of bullet-scarred muscle, is spending his days torturing himself in bare-knuckle brawls, haunted by his past. In shattering set-pieces and terse emotion-less dialogue, any remaining sunlight has been drained away. The amount of people brazenly killed by Vincent Casell, the "asset" in Bourne's pursuit, may well outnumber the words spoken by Bourne in the entire film.

### Digital dragnet

Though first conceived in 1980 by Robert Ludlum, Bourne is perhaps the ultimate post-9/11 hero. Especially in the hands of Greengrass (who also employed his gritty realism in the Sept. 11 drama "Flight 93"), Bourne is a wrecking ball of accountability for America's clandestine past. He's part fantasy (his preternatural control of out-of-control events is reassuring) and part reality (American disillusionment made visceral). In "Jason Bourne," the digital dragnet is tightening around Bourne. The film is self-consciously set in a post-Snowden world; the CIA is hacked by Nicky Parsons (Julia Stiles, whose smarts have given all of these films a kick), who's threatening to reveal the covert Treadstone operation.

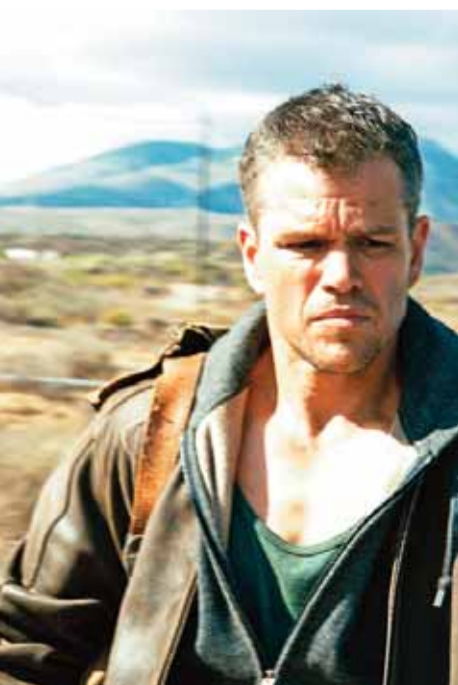
The film, penned by Greengrass and Christopher Rouse (editor of previous "Bourne" films, and also this one), introduces a tech magnate (Riz Ahmed) whose celebrated social networking platform is secretly feeding information to CIA director Robert Dewey (Tommy Lee Jones, whose wonderful sad face at this point has everything good and bad about America written all over it). In a way, Bourne is himself a leak. He's a rogue weapon who can't remember his own encryption code. Here, the mystery he's trying to solve revolves around his father's role in his initial recruitment.

### National identity

But aside from updating to today's surveillance state, "Jason Bourne" largely sticks to the franchise's familiar moves, and they often don't have the same kinetic finesse they used to. Here again are scenes of digging through old CIA documents, breathless stretches of crowded escapes and public rendezvous where Bourne fools lurking agents. The film is essentially sandwiched between two mammoth, extended set pieces: First, a fiery riot in Athens where Bourne comes out of hiding to meet Parsons; and later, a showdown in Las Vegas that brings him back to US soil. Both outstay their welcome (a vehicle plowing through traffic in Vegas has unfortunate shades of the tragedy in Nice) and the franchise's propulsion gives way to a pummeling blunt force.

The exception is Alicia Vikander, who enters the franchise as the CIA's cyber ops head and has her own motives of tossing aside the agency's old guard. Whenever she's on screen, her steely but agile presence brightens the film's dour gaze. Yet even when "Jason Bourne" doesn't click with the same rhythm as its predecessors, it has a weight that outclasses nearly every other big action movie around. National identity is investigated and violence has repercussions: both astonishing things in a summer blockbuster.

But if Bourne re-emerges again, hopefully Greengrass and company can at least give him someone to talk to. "Jason Bourne," a Universal Pictures release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for "intense sequences of violence and action and brief strong language." Running time: 123 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four. — AP



In this image released by Universal Pictures, Matt Damon appears in a scene from 'Jason Bourne'. — AP



File photo shows Rihanna arrives onstage to perform 'Love On The Brain' at the Billboard Music Awards in Las Vegas. — AP photos



File photo shows James Hetfield of Metallica performs at the Rock in Rio music festival in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

## Rihanna, Metallica set for Global Citizen Festival

Rihanna, Metallica, Kendrick Lamar, Major Lazer and Selena Gomez will headline the 2016 Global Citizen Festival this fall. The free concert will take place Sept 24 on the Great Lawn in New York's Central Park. Special guest performers include Chris Martin, Usher, Eddie Vedder, Cat Stevens, Ellie Goulding and Yandel. The multi-hour event, in its fifth year, will broadcast live on MSNBC. Co-hosts include Chelsea Handler, Neil Patrick Harris, Salma Hayek Pinault, Priyanka Chopra, Seth Meyers, Hugh Jackman and his actress-wife Deborra-lee.

Fans can earn free tickets by promoting the importance of education on the festival's website. A limited number of VIP tickets will go on sale Thursday. Last year's festival featured Michelle Obama, Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai (mah-LAH'-lah YOO'-suhf-ze) and Beyonce. — AP



File photo shows Kendrick Lamar performs at Power 106's 'Cali Christmas' 2015 in Inglewood, Calif.



## Secret 'Blair Witch' sequel unveiled at Comic-Con

Participants at Comic-Con that went into a screening for upcoming horror movie "The Woods," last week were surprised to come out from the movie having watched the sequel to the 1999 found-footage horror film hit, "The Blair Witch Project." The subject and title of Lionsgate teaser film "The Woods" was kept under wraps since it began production but was unveiled at San Diego's pop culture event as "Blair Witch," the third installment of the franchise, in theaters on Sept. 16. "Blair Witch, it's all about the mystery," director Adam Wingard told Reuters. "I think the way we're advertising it is in spirit of that."

The surprise reveal follows in the footsteps of JJ Abrams' Bad Robot company, which unveiled "10 Cloverfield Lane," sequel to 2008's "Cloverfield," in January, just two months before its release in theaters. The "Blair Witch Project" was a box office hit in 1999 and ushered in a new era of found-footage horror. The movie featured footage from video tapes found from three documentary filmmakers who went missing in a remote forest as they tried to uncover the local legend of the Blair Witch.

The new "Blair Witch" film follows the brother of one of the missing filmmakers as he takes his friends out to the same forest to search for his sister. Events quickly go downhill when the group loses track of time and their location and get lost in the woods. "Blair Witch" skips over the events of the 2000 sequel "Book of Shadows: Blair Witch 2" that was derided by fans. "We've changed the mythology in a lot of ways just to kind of introduce new features and new ideas," writer Simon Barrett said. The original "Blair Witch Project" filmmakers - writer-directors Eduardo Sanchez, Daniel Myrick and producer Gregg Hale - also disregarded the failed sequel and said they are on board with the latest film as executive producers.

"The thing that we liked about this project when Lionsgate approached us, especially with Adam and Simon working on it, is that they really stuck to the original mythology," Myrick told Reuters. "They came at it with a very authentic approach to the film which we felt was with love for the first movie so it was all done for the right reasons." — Reuters

## Joy Williams gets acting bug after Showtime role

Ex-Civil Wars singer Joy Williams doesn't want to be that cliché of a musician-turned-actor, but after getting her first role in the Showtime series "Roadies," she admits she's got the acting bug. "I am learning there is the cliché for a reason 'cause there is a lot of overlap," she said in an interview last week at her home in Nashville, Tennessee. "I am still really committed to making music, but if the right role came up again, I totally caught the bug," Williams probably couldn't have picked a better show to dip her toes in the water. Created by Cameron Crowe, "Roadies" pulls back the curtains on the motley crew of a major touring rock band, an experience that Williams knows a bit about after spending years on the road performing in the Grammy-winning Civil Wars duo with John Paul White.

"You become this strange patchwork quilt family when you're on the road," Williams said. Williams and Crowe met on Twitter, then developed a friendship after she and her family moved to Venice Beach, California. Alongside lead actors Luke Wilson and Carla Gugino, "Roadies" - which airs Sundays - includes cameos from other real musicians like Lindsey Buckingham, My Morning Jacket's Jim James and the Head and the Heart. But Williams said Crowe wanted her to

audition for a non-musical role. Williams plays Janine, the ex-girlfriend of the band's lead singer. She said she can relate to the character "trying to find her own voice and trying to stand up for herself." After the

Civil Wars formally announced their breakup in 2014, Williams said she went on a journey to rediscover her voice as a solo artist. She released "Venus" in 2015 and threw fans for a loop by recording an album full of electronic-

based music, a departure from the country folk music that marked her work in the Civil Wars. "For me, I needed to create an entirely new sonic space where I could feel my pulse again," Williams said.

After moving back to Nashville with her husband and manager Nate and 4-year-old son Miles, she felt grounded again to acoustic music. On Friday, she released a seven-song record, "Venus (Acoustic)," that includes acoustic versions of songs from her solo album, as well as some new songs that didn't make the final cut. "I wasn't placating people by going back to an acoustic sound," Williams said. "It was something that I really missed." Williams said she's glad the two creative paths, her music and her acting, are converging at the same time. Acting has given her another "insta-family," she said, but "music will always be a priority for me." — AP



Photo shows singer Joy Williams poses in Nashville, Tenn. — AP

## Rap tycoon Dr Dre handcuffed outside home

Dr Dre, who made his name rapping about police brutality before becoming one of the wealthiest entrepreneurs in music, was handcuffed by sheriff's deputies in a dispute near his home, officials said. Sheriff's deputies headed Monday to Dr Dre's exclusive house on the Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu after receiving a complaint from a motorist who parked outside the home. The motorist had alleged that the 51-year-old rap mogul, whose real name is Andre Young, pulled a gun on him as he demanded that he leave. "Due to the nature of the call, the person was searched, handcuffed and briefly detained in a patrol car while deputies investigated the incident," the Los Angeles County sheriff's department said in a statement.

But deputies did not find any gun on Dr Dre, an executive at Apple, who said he had been reaching for his phone to record the incident. The motorist, however, insisted that Dr Dre threatened him and pursued a citizen's arrest, which is allowed under California law when a private individual witnesses a crime. The sheriff's department said it gave Dr Dre a citation in connection with the citizen's arrest but did not take any further action. Dr Dre is one of the wealthiest people in the music industry with Apple in 2014 buying his Beats company, best known for its high-end headphones, for \$3 billion.

Born in the rough Los Angeles County city of Compton, Dr Dre rose to stardom with gangsta rap pioneers N.W.A. where he was in charge of the sound. N.W.A. shocked much of white America with its unyielding criticism of law enforcement's treatment of minorities, notably on the 1988 song "Fuck tha Police." The incident with Dr Dre comes amid a renewed spotlight on police around the United States after a series of killings by officers of African Americans. After N.W.A., Dr Dre went on to become a successful solo artist and producer, notably championing Eminem, but in the past decade has focused on corporate life. Last year he released "Compton," which he said would be his final album, to accompany a biopic on N.W.A., "Straight Outta Compton." — AFP