

# Legend of Zelda video bonanza



On the topic of The Legend of Zelda I brought up a couple of posts ago, here are a few videos I turned up at Youtube/Google Video. Enjoy!

[google-video]<https://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=2967926040995072267>[/google-video]

Hilarious live action parody. College video, so has some foul language at a couple of points.

Japanese Legend of Zelda dance. 'Nuff said.

Different live action video. Funny soundtrack too.

Remember I mentioned getting so into the first Zelda that I had a book of maps I drew? Well, this could have been me if I had a video camera at the time and was more outgoing...

Legend of Zelda the movie! Wait, what was that release date again?

[google-video]<https://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=427555552047254064>[/google-video]

Two in one- Super Mario Bros. and Legend of Zelda live in concert! Be warned, this is a two hour video and has the music from these games in the styles of Jazz, Latin, Country and Bluegrass. Performed September 14th, 2003 at the Nihon Seinenkan Hall in Tokyo, Japan. I haven't watched this yet but it looked interesting enough to post here.

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## Pedal To The Metal

Yes, a fun day indeed, if you read Jamiahsh's blog, then you know what I'm talking about. To get our minds off of certain medical dramas (not like House or Grey's Anatomy or anything like that – our real-life medical dramas taking place right now are much worse than some crappy tv), we decided to have a day of fun. It began with go-carting, which is always fun but even more so if you can fill up the track and drive with people you know – which we were able to do. I like the place we went to because they don't charge any extra if you take a kid along with you, and seeing as how we had a few nice adults who didn't mind chauffeuring some little kids, all 3 of our daughters got to go around the track a bunch of times. But I'm the dummy who forgot my camera, so I didn't get a picture of my little almost 2-year-old in a go-cart like I wanted. It's funny because I had the camera with me, just forgot to use it, which should signal how scatter-brained I've been

lately because of the worry and lack of sleep resulting from my husband's as-yet-unidentified medical condition. And while we're on that subject, we won't know anything until next week now, because they've ordered further tests for Thursday, and they won't get the results back until next week. But they've eliminated gallstones, so at least we know that much. He blogged a little update here.

But anyway, enough *tangents*, back to the fun day. After go-carting, we decided to practice in the batting cages for our upcoming annual theater softball game. The batting cages reminded me how hilarious last year's game was – I mean, theater people playing softball? It was a riot!

After that, we went to a nice little restaurant we like on the river. If you sit outside, you get to enjoy the beautiful weather, the view, and a game of cornhole while you wait for your food. I like cornhole; if anyone has a set, we should bring it to the theater family fun day and play that along with softball... Why is it called cornhole? Is that a NW Ohio term for it? They have that where I come from in Illinois too, but I don't think they call it cornhole. In case you aren't from NW Ohio and you don't know what I'm talking about, I'm referring to the game with the wooden ramps with holes in them... you have 2 of these and station them about 15-20 feet apart with half of the team at each end; then you throw bean bags into the holes – hopefully.

After dinner, the kids fell apart (what else is new? They've been acting HORRIBLY lately!), so we had to leave, but I hear the rest of the group went mini-golfing. I was actually tempted to mini-golf earlier in the day but I knew the kids would drive me nuts because they get bored of it after about 6 holes. So we left, thinking maybe the kids would fall asleep in the car, giving me and hubby a much-deserved and needed night alone together to watch a movie. Didn't happen. And starting with the kids spazzing out at the restaurant about bees (and there weren't that many – our almost 9-year-old is a

wimp about certain things and her craziness got her sisters going – don't you love how they chain-react to one another? Hence the name of my blog), things went from bad to worse.

I'm going to blame Carol and Megan for this one, since they brought it up earlier in the day, but what a coincidence – we got pulled over on the way home. So thanks Carol and Megan for jinxing us!! Just kidding, of course it's not your fault... I guess poor Chris really got used to putting the pedal to the metal on those darn go-carts. The state highway patrol officer who pulled us over had the personality of a housefly, and she wasn't going to act like a human being and be thankful we weren't drunk driving or even think about giving us a break on labor day, so our fun day ended up being pretty expensive when you include the \$100 speeding ticket. Our luck SUCKS lately, but if we can get the all-clear on my husband's health, then I will stop complaining.

Oh yeah, so anyway, when we got home, our almost-2-year-old was the last one awake, and since she had only napped for about 10 minutes during the day, we thought we were almost home-free for a nice evening together – WRONG! About 30 minutes into the movie, our oldest came down, asking for a snack. No biggie, but "Did you wake your sister?" we asked her, panicked beyond belief because our 4-year-old has been a little hellian again lately. She said she didn't think she woke her up, but 5 minutes later, guess what happens? Sammie comes down the stairs, and now we're in the middle of an R rated movie with all 3 kids awake and downstairs. So much for our peaceful early night, sigh. We sent the oldest 2 upstairs, and that's actually the last we heard from Sammie, believe it or not. Disney, the youngest besides the baby (and he's not old enough to cause any trouble yet, thank goodness!), got so OVER-tired that she started crying for about 45 minutes straight until she finally fell asleep. But then Taylor, the oldest, must have come down the stairs at least 3 more times because she was worried about various bugs

that were in her room and in the house, according to her anyway. If this were still the age of the VCR, our movie would have been eaten by the VCR by now because of all the pausing and unpausing we were doing... but ultimately, we just gave up anyway because I was falling asleep during the first part of the movie, and we could tell Taylor was going to be “bugging” us all night... So we missed the end of [No Escape](#) – some crappy [Ray Liotta](#) action film from the 90’s. I think it was crappy anyway, I really didn’t see much of it – let me know if it’s any good and maybe we’ll go back to it.

But for what it was worth, the day provided a nice distraction from the worries that have been plaguing us lately, so thanks to all who participated. Now we just have to wait *another* week to find out more medical test results... ugh, I hate the waiting!

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## The Pineapple Express

I actually hadn’t heard much about this movie before I saw it, but it happened to be playing at the time we needed in order to be able to see a movie that day. Having 4 kids = a hectic life. Our weekly date night has become a date day (still weekly though, YAY!), partly because my husband is in a show and we have rehearsal or meetings most nights, and partly because the baby still has his days and nights mixed up, thus guaranteeing that he sleeps during the date if it’s during the day. But anyway, back to the [Pineapple Express](#). The movie is all about marijuana. I did read the plot synopsis before I went, but I didn’t realize exactly how much drug content there would be – the characters smoke pot constantly! It tells the tale of a stoner ([Seth Rogen](#) – does he smoke pot in every movie he’s in?) who witnesses a murder committed by a cop.

The whole movie has him fleeing the bad guys – while smoking marijuana, of course – with his drug dealer, who he didn't know all that well before they fled together. Seth Rogen wrote the screenplay for this film, and I like his natural way of delivering lines. He's not a very diverse actor, but his characters seem like real people because of the way he delivers his dialogue.

The movie entertained me; some parts were funny; although it did get pretty violent. I missed some of the violence though because I fell asleep... just tired, I wouldn't call the movie terrible or anything like that. It's not one of my favorites, though, and I'm not sure if it even has replay value. But if you read my blog regularly, you'll know that my husband and I see LOTS of movies, so this was just another theater experience, and those are always fun!

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## Archaeology Is A Dangerous Job

...according to the movies, anyway. Not one but two well-known movie franchises have plots revolving around adventure-seeking archaeologists, Indiana Jones and The Mummy. I couldn't resist the hype of the [new Indiana Jones movie](#) and made that my first experience with Indiana Jones earlier this year. It was entertaining, though I still don't really get what all the fuss is about, although I'm told the latest (and last, supposedly) Indiana Jones movie is not the best one by far. So for date night last week, we decided to give the latest Mummy movie, [Tomb of the Dragon Emperor](#) a try, and again, I don't see what all the fuss is about. I did like it better than [Hellboy 2](#), but I really think that has more to do with

how sick I was when I saw Hellboy 2 because I just wanted to leave the theater. My husband liked Hellboy 2 better. I'm comparing the two because they are somewhat similiar movies; both action-fantasies involving the raising of ancient asian things. But anyway, back to the latest Mummy movie... Archaeology is dangerous in the movies!

[Brendan Fraser](#) plays an archaeologist who is hired to guard a precious artifact as it makes its journey to become a gift. There's a guy who is trying to raise this emperor from the dead; it has something to do with a curse. So the emperor is raised, and that's what I really liked about the movie. The emperor was made out of what looked like metal and fire, and I really enjoyed these special effects. When they were coupled with the emperor's voice, it made for a nice scary villian – I hope you appreciate the oxymoron of *nice scary villian* ☐ The one thing I didn't understand about the movie is why they threw in the random yetis. You'll have to see it to know what I'm talking about, I guess, but let's just say that there were some yetis all of a sudden and they didn't seem to have much to do with the rest of the plot. As far as the plot goes, it wasn't really my kind of movie, but it was a \$3 matinee, buy one get one free, so for that price, I was thoroughly entertained. Three random notes I have are: 1. I didn't realize the Mummy movies take place in the past, in the 1940's. 2. Is it a requirement for sequels to have extremely cheesy references to the original movie? This movie is no exception. 3. Anyone visiting Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida should definitely try the Mummy ride. It is a thrill ride with special effects; a haunted house roller coaster, and it's unlike any other roller coaster I've ever experienced – totally awesome!

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# Ignorant Viewpoint of Iron Man

I've never read a comic book in my life, so why did I go see [Iron Man](#)? Easy – Tuesday is movie night for us, my local movie theater had 3 movies available, and it only cost \$3 for both of us to see one. The choices were [What Happens in Vegas](#), which I wasn't going to touch with a ten foot pole. I don't like [Ashton Kutcher](#), I'm not a big fan of [Cameron Diaz](#), and I heard a reviewer say something about the audience being tortured, not to mention that the premise itself sounded terrible – more like a Saturday Night Live skit than a movie. Another choice was [Prince Caspian](#), which I was somewhat open-minded about watching since I did read the first of the Narnia books way way back when, but my husband wasn't interested in seeing that one at all, and the 2 hour and 20 minute running time kinda turned us away also. So Iron Man it was.

The movie started out interesting enough – it was never boring, so don't let the fact that I fell asleep fool you. That's just what I do when I don't have time to nap during the day and I see a movie too early before I've gotten my second wind that carries me through the evening. So I would say that there was too much of a backstory given, even for people like us who had never really heard of Iron Man before and especially didn't know his backstory. The backstory seemed to go on and on, but my husband liked that, and since I was sleeping through most of it, I can't really fairly say that it was too long. Super hero movies are not even close to being my favorite kind of movie, but I did enjoy this one. It had the perfect amount of action (too much action makes my mind wander), cool special effects, and an interesting story line. The acting wasn't horrible or even bad, but what do you expect with veterans like [Robert Downey Jr.](#) and [Gwyneth Paltrow](#)? They had good chemistry; the love story wasn't too cheesy,

and I liked the ending of the movie. I really enjoyed seeing all the technology as Robert Downey Jr. was working in his "cave" and whatnot, and the huge enemy suit was really fun to watch in the showdown between good and evil. The people behind us came close to ruining things though, since it was a grown woman exclaiming things like, "Cool! That's awesome! I wish I could do that!" I'm glad she was enjoying herself, but it was distracting to the rest of us.

Since I'm not a comic book fan, I will pose a question to those who are. What percentage of superheros are filthy rich tech geeks who develop their weapons in reclusive mansions? This seems to be a common theme, but maybe it's just in the superhero movies I've seen. But anyway, I liked the movie; it tempted me to possibly check out Dark Knight this summer, unless I'm too busy like, having a baby or something. Iron Man was well worth our \$3. I don't think I would have said the same for What Happens in Vegas.

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## **OPA!**

Good news from our date night this week – we found a new restaurant in a neighboring town that has good gyros! Finally, no more trekking to Toledo or further just for gyros off the spit! And for you Greek food fans, stay tuned because we are currently trying to convince the owner to offer Saganaki, another one of our favorites in Greek cuisine! He said it's a difficult thing to carry since many waitresses won't serve it because of the fire involved. Yes, I said fire! For those of you who are unfamiliar, Saganaki is a greek dish made of sheep or goat cheese, and they bring it to your table, splash brandy on it, yell OPA! and light it on fire. A large flame erupts, the entire restaurant turns to

stare at you, children cry, they extinguish it with lemon juice, and then the other restaurant patrons begin asking questions – what is that? Is it safe? What does it taste like? Can I have some? One time we ordered it from a restaurant and 3 more tables ordered it after seeing ours! It is DELICIOUS! Just for fun, here is a video of a waiter serving it, though he begrudgingly *mumbles* opa while he's really supposed to be yelling it while smiling.

My 8-year-old daughter can eat a whole Saganaki appetizer herself. She is part Greek, of course, but the stuff is that good. It is my dream to get to Greece someday to try actual Greek food – if I ever had the babysitter, time, and money, it might just be enough (along with heavy sedatives or alcohol) to get me back on a plane..

Now onto the movie, I've been wanting to see the movie [Baby Mama](#) since I'm expecting and it looked like a cute comedy based on pregnancy – dumb title though I have to say. For some reason, our local theater didn't have it until now, so we finally got to see it. It actually wasn't quite as funny as it looked in the previews, but it did have a better plot and better acting than I was expecting – it did not disappoint. [Steve Martin](#) was hilarious as a very hippy-ish owner of a large company; I would consider his character the CEO of the Walmart of organic food. My favorite gag in the movie happened when [Amy Poehler](#) and [Tina Fey's](#) characters were fighting in the car and Amy Poehler's character couldn't get out of upper-class Tina Fey's "space car". So Tina Fey's character goes, "Quit touching the door handle while I'm trying to unlock it for you!" That is hilarious, I can't tell you how many times that's happened to us that the car door won't unlock while an impatient person is touching the handle. Whether you like comedies about pregnancy or just feel like watching one, I would recommend Baby Mama.

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## 21

There's been lots of talk of this number on my blog lately, but this time I'm referring to the movie [21](#), not the tv show. I have to admit, I was a little reluctant to see this movie because the previews reminded me of [Ocean's 11](#), and I was not

a big fan of that movie. I also thought I might have trouble following the movie 21 because I don't know how to play many of the popular card games prominent in Las Vegas; like poker, and most importantly Blackjack. But I didn't have trouble following the movie, and I actually enjoyed it from start to finish. It was a good mix of action, thoughtful dialogue, good acting, and plot twists; all of which add up to a well-balanced and entertaining film.

The movie revolves around a college professor, played by the enjoyable and versatile Kevin Spacey, who trains a "club" of gifted math students to excel at the game of Blackjack. They develop a system and take trips to Las Vegas to win lots of money. Enter student Ben Campbell, the club's newest recruit, who only wants enough money to pay for his dream of attending Harvard medical school. He gets caught up in the lifestyle, however, and it's interesting to see what happens next... I won't spoil it – it's a good movie, go see it!

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## Game Days Past

For some reason, the old game show ["Sale of the Century"](#) from the 1980's crossed my mind the other day. I enjoyed this show tremendously as a kid, so I looked on youtube to see if I could find any episodes because I don't really remember what it was all about. They didn't have any full episodes, but I did see enough bits and pieces to enjoy the nostalgia. And I came across this clip of Simon Cowell's first tv appearance as a contestant on the British version of this show:

Watching vintage game shows on youtube got my husband thinking about the movie [Quiz Show](#), which is about the game show scandal of the late 1950's. It was a time when quiz shows were very popular, and one of the most popular shows of the time called "[Twenty-One](#)" was exposed for being rigged – in other words, the producers would tell the contestants the correct answers, and when to answer correctly or incorrectly to guarantee or fix the outcome of the show. On youtube, we were able to find the actual episode of "Twenty-One" that was chronicled in the movie and where the scandal broke. [Click here](#) to see it – it's in 3 parts, so you can find parts 2 and 3 off to the side where it says 'related videos'. We also watched a "Time and Again" documentary about the scandal, which included interviews with the contestants involved and was very interesting – [click here](#) to see part 1 of 5 of that show; again, the remaining parts can be linked from the right side of youtube. Surprisingly, the movie "Quiz Show" is very true to the real story of the scandal. When watching the episode of "Twenty-One" that started it all, my husband noted that it was very close to how the movie portrayed it. It's been awhile since I've seen the movie, so I will have to see it again because I didn't remember whether it was close or not.

After watching the interesting "Twenty-One" videos, we moved onto the game show "[Press Your Luck](#)" from the 1980's. It's the one where people get spins on a big game board, and they yell, "No Whammys, no whammys, STOP!" A whammy was like a 'lose-your-turn'. When a contestant spun one, a cartoon character (the whammy) would come out and do something different on the tv screen, like a dance or something silly, but it meant no money and the end of the contestant's turn. If you were like me and a kid watching the show when it was on, then you were waiting for people to get the whammys so you could see the little cartoons. For this reason, I would NOT have liked the episodes that aired with a contestant named Michael Larson, an unemployed ice cream truck driver who

memorized the pattern of the board, and spun a whopping 47 times! He won the following prizes:

1. \$104,950 in cash
2. 1 sailboat worth \$1015
3. 1 trip to Kauai worth \$1636
4. 1 trip to the Bahamas worth \$2636

This amount of cash was unheard of for this show, and the host kept making dumb jokes about how the contestant could now *buy* the Bahamas or CBS. After the show, they gave Michael Larson a hard time about collecting his winnings, but in the end, it was found that his memorizing the board's patterns was not cheating. They reconfigured the game show board, of course, but sadly, Michael Larson's story did not have a happy ending. He had some struggles over the years, and ended up dying of throat cancer in 1999. His life during and after the "Press Your Luck" appearances makes for a very interesting story though; perhaps they should make a movie about that – [read it here](#). They pulled those episodes of "Press Your Luck" in syndication, but they have shown them in multiple specials that aired on tv, most notably the game show network. They even invited Larson's brother to compete against the newly configured Press Your Luck whammy board to see if he could beat it, and he could not. Below are Larson's appearances on "Press Your Luck". Note the reactions of his fellow contestants as well as those of the host. A few interesting notes: While waiting to be on the show, Larson met Ed Long, a Baptist preacher booked for his fourth taping. They struck up a conversation. When it was Ed's turn to go on, Michael said to him, "I hope we don't have to face each other on the show." His wish wouldn't come true, as Ed had won his previous game with \$11,516. Watch for Ed on the clip. Also note the host of the show, Peter Tomarken, who was killed in a plane crash in 2006. He was a private pilot who volunteered for an organization that flew low-income patients for medical needs. His airplane had engine trouble, and he and his wife were killed when their plane crashed into the Santa Monica Bay.



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# Parenthood

After all this piñata talk (found the ñ symbol!), we had to pop in the movie [Parenthood](#) the other night. Along with the hilarious piñata scene (ok, now I am over-using the ñ a little bit), I had actually forgotten how entertaining this movie really is. It's a really good blend of comedy and drama, and it's not just another silly comedy – it actually has a valuable life lesson. I highly recommend it to anyone who has kids, but I do not recommend it for the whole family since it's rated PG13 and can actually be somewhat crude at points. It has *great* directing and acting and 2 academy award nominations to boot.

The movie revolves around the Buckman family – elderly, empty-nesters (sort-of) and their 4 grown children and their families who are all facing regular life problems of their own. [Steve Martin](#) plays Gil, a man whose own overused stress responses to everyday life are mirrored in his son, and that situation only stresses him out further! He is such a worrywart that he has lost all ability to enjoy regular life and its trials and tribulations, and my favorite part of the movie is when he realizes this; thanks to the wise, if confused, words of his very elderly grandmother. This scene is hilarious and heartwarming at the same time, and if you're anything like me (someone who tends to be a worrywart, sweats the small things), a movie like this really helps to keep the small bumps of life in perspective.

Watching this movie again as a parent made me appreciate it so much more than I appreciated seeing it as a teenager. Again, I'd really recommend it to any parent, and if you've seen it already, I'd say try it again if it's been awhile. That's what I did, and I would have to say that it's now one of my

favorite movies!

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## I am Legend

I betcha you're thinking, wow, she thinks highly of herself... I am Legend, geez... but no, I was just realizing how it's been a REALLY long time since I've reviewed a movie! Part of it is because we aren't watching nearly as many, just been pretty busy lately. With the time change, it stays light out until 8, so we like to take family walks after dinner. By the time the kids get settled after that though, there hasn't been any time for movies, so we've been watching old episodes of [The Office](#) instead... not that there's anything wrong with that, it's been fun, but I just haven't seen many movies lately. The other night, we did manage to pop in "[I am Legend](#)", an end-of-the-world movie starring [Will Smith](#). It chronicles the story of the very last man on Earth (well, kinda) as he strives to find a cure for the virus that is responsible for exterminating mankind. I said he's *kinda* the last man on Earth because he co-exists with these creatures who used to be humans, until the virus turned them into creepy, maniacal, flesh-devouring beasts. Luckily for Smith, they can only come out at night because light proves fatal to them, so he spends his days collecting samples and information to study and do experiments in his lab at night, hoping to find a cure for the virus, a virus that interestingly mutated from what humans originally believed was a cure for cancer.

The movie was entertaining, though I have to admit when I first starting watching it, I had a bit of "[Doomsday](#)" dread – see my previous post of the same name about one horrible movie – if you dare. However, "I am Legend" ended up only sharing generic end-of-civilization-as-we-know-it characteristics with

the movie "Doomsday", thank goodness for that. Speaking of end-of-the-world movies, the creatures in "I am Legend" also reminded me a bit of the ravaging monsters in "[28 Weeks Later](#)", but in a genre like this, I guess it's difficult to be entirely unique.

It might seem lonely being the last man on Earth, but Will Smith's character does have a faithful companion, a dog named Sam. I'm going to risk a minor spoiler here so I can tell you what I really liked about their relationship. In a moment of weakness, Will Smith is cradling his strong dog buddy Sam, and we learn that the dog's name is actually Samantha. The symbolism here is very well done and notably appreciated – you'll have to see the movie to get it, even though I probably just spoiled that part for you – oops.

Overall, as I said, it was entertaining to watch, and pretty creepy at times. The overuse of computer animation was annoying to say the least. There were lots of animals in the film – beasts roam the deserted shell of what's left of New York City – but they were all computer animated. I agree with the person who reviewed the movie on [imdb.com](#), I can live with the animals being computer generated, but the virus-addled humanesque beasts, now THAT was BEYOND annoying! They could be pretty scary at times, but it was probably due to the snarling noises more than the way they looked. During most of the action scenes involving the creatures, the computer animation was horribly fake-looking and even laughable, which of course takes away from the mood of a film such as this.

If you like the mankind-is-extinct type of movies or are a Will Smith fan, I think you should see this movie. The best parts were the scenes of him roaming a deserted New York City – those were pretty cool to see. But if you're the type of person who doesn't like the hopelessness or loneliness one might feel when imagining the end of the world, not to mention watching frightening creatures unleash terror and violence, skip "I am Legend" and go for "[The Fresh Prince of Bel Air](#)"

instead – classic Will Smith the whole family can enjoy!