

MOVIE REVIEW

Scott’s ‘The Dog Stars’: A tender postapocalyptic love story

BY MARK KENNEDY  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

It says something about us that dogs are critical when it comes to postapocalyptic movies. Tom Hanks had an adorable terrier in “Finch” and Will Smith had a heroic German shepherd in “I Am Legend.” Another German shepherd is due to accompany Brad Pitt in next month’s “Heart of Beast,” but until then we have “The Dog Stars” and its four-legged Malinois star.

The pup is named Jasper in Ridley Scott’s adaptation of Peter Heller’s novel, a tale of man and man’s best friend trying to find purpose in a brutal, post-pandemic Colorado. What this proves is you can’t tell a story about humanity without a little canine.

Scott’s movie is a welcome if slightly odd addition to the postapocalyptic canon, a movie less centered on the kill-or-be-killed mutant hellscape than the costs of survival itself. Ignoring one unhinged sequence toward the end, “The Dog Stars” is a quiet love story set amid sniper fire, RPGs and fuel cans. It’s even



Fabio Lovino/20th Century Studios | AP Photo

This image released by 20th Century Studios shows Jacob Elordi, left, and Margaret Qualley in a scene from “The Dog Stars.”

THE DOG STARS

2.5 out of 4 stars  
MPAA Rating: R  
Running Time: 118 minutes

optimistic.

Jacob Elordi stars as Hig, a mechanic and pilot who has survived a pandemic that wiped out most of humanity, including his beloved wife. He’s holed up at an abandoned airport in Erie, Colorado, accompanied

by the ever-alert Jasper — who’s a good boy? — and an ex-military man, Bangley, played by Josh Brolin. He’s not such a good boy.

Hig spends his days flying his Cessna into Denver to scavenge for food and supplies,

or looking after other pockets of survivors, like a Mennonite community whose connection to the land and simple ways seem perfectly suited for the End Days.

Scott and screenwriter Mark L. Smith haven’t quite figured out what nasty things are out there, lurking in the dark. Sometimes it’s just roving survivalists and sometimes it’s a wave of incoherent, shirtless, heavily tattooed cultists who suddenly swarm, like from “28 Years Later: The

Bone Temple.”

Our hero hopes there are other sane uninfected folk out there, but his gruff pal disagrees. “What do you expect to find?” Bangley asks. Stay in the compound, with power, weapons and food, he argues: The virus pulled the mask off civilization. Stay and wait to die.

Hig disagrees — “I can’t do this anymore” — and sets off for Grand Junction, where he thinks he heard a radio transmission. First, though, he comes across a young widow and her protective father, played by Margaret Qualley and Guy Pearce. Elordi, already a hangdog hottie, now shifts into pure smoldering gear; Qualley, despite apparently not having showered in years, sizzles. (Did you know jean shorts survive the apocalypse?)

There’s loads of survivor’s guilt to get through before these stupidly beautiful people can think about romance. One lovely scene has them confessing what they miss most about their lives before the virus — driving to music, even traffic. Watching Qualley as she hears recorded music for the first time in years, the joy washing

over her face, is a delight.

Just as this quiet love story gets going, it’s time for more knife-slitting and killer hordes. And for Allison Janney to appear in what surely will be 2026’s most bananas performance by an actor in a post apocalyptic airport. It’s a sequence that really doesn’t fit, but are you going to turn away as Janney downs martinis to “Fly Me to the Moon (In Other Words)”?

What Scott and Smith have managed is very hard, putting a tender love story into a zombie flick, like that Trojan Horse trick from “The Odyssey.” One odder decision is to film this Colorado-specific tale in Italy, with the Dolomite mountains filling in for the Rockies.

The filmmakers found the perfect song — Hozier’s gorgeous “Like Real People Do” plays at the beginning and end — to go with the perfect postapocalyptic couple. And that dog — such a good boy.

“The Dog Stars,” a 20th Century Studios release in theaters starting Friday, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for “strong violence and language.” Running time: 118 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

Shakes returns with new album after 11 years

BY MARK KENNEDY  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Alabama Shakes has returned with the band’s first album in 11 years and it turns out that craft beer played a big part in the reunion. Not drinking it, exactly.

Singer and guitarist Brittany Howard was chilling following her second solo album, 2024’s “What Now,” when she was contacted by Bo Hicks, the co-founder of the Druid City Brewing Company in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

He asked her if she might come and perform, helping the brewery’s bottom line and a local food pantry along the way. Sure, replied Howard. Hicks, after all, had taken in the band members and fed them long before the Grammy wins.

Howard reached out to her Shakes bandmates — guitarist Heath Fogg and bassist Zac Cockrell — to see if they wanted to get together and rehearse some songs. Of course, they did.

“So that’s what we did, and it felt pretty nice,” says Howard. “Then we were like, ‘Well, should we do this again? Should we do more? This was nice.’ And it did snowball after that.”

The snowball ends this month when the Shakes unveil “I Must Be Dreaming,” an 11-track album none of the members initially intended to make but one that felt right, a mixture of love songs and wry social observations.

“I did approach this differently, and I found that I did have kind of surprising

things to say — things in me that I didn’t know were quite there,” says Howard.

“Watching these songs transform into a full album was just remarkable. I mean, everything around this group to me feels a little bit miraculous,” she adds. “I’m just very excited to share our work with everybody.”

‘I FEEL HOPE COMING’ IS AN UNABASHED POLITICAL SONG

One highlight is the track “I Feel Hope Coming,” an unabashed political song with a whiff of Curtis Mayfield. “I don’t want your martial law / I want clean air,” Howard sings, before coming to a happy thought: “I feel love coming / I feel hope coming.”

“I’m looking at the world around me, and I think we all feel like everything’s chaotic and sped up, but I feel like the resistance is finding joy, still finding peace and still finding a center,” she says.

“I do feel hopeful, because people are waking up to the world around them. And the lies that have been told to them to keep people in line, doing what the powers want them to do. And it’s all changing now.”

Other songs include the teasing love song “Garden,” which draws on Howard’s love of the natural world. “If you don’t water your garden I will,” she sings to a rival. “If you don’t show her you love her, I will.”

“When I think of love, it is kind of like a garden,” says Howard. “You’ve got to put work into it, and don’t start

it if you’re not going to take care of it. To me, they’re kind of one and the same. So I just wanted to frame a love song that was a little mischievous.”

Justin Eshak, co-chairman and CEO of Island Records, says Howard and the Shakes are pushing forward sonic boundaries at a time when much of the rest of the music world is looking backward.

“Brittany Howards don’t really come along very often,” he says. “We’re obviously running a business, but you leap at the opportunity to work with Brittany Howards, not just because it sort of feeds the soul.”

A REUNION OVER A DECADE IN THE MAKING

Alabama Shakes didn’t exactly break up. They just sort of quietly disbanded. After their 2012 debut “Boys & Girls” and the 2015 follow-up “Sound & Color,” the trio just stopped.

“It was time to take a break,” says Howard. “It was very important to all of us to protect the band and the music we love to make with each other. I think it was time to just let it be for a second. Not everything has to be a race to the top. Not everything has to be a big bucket that you fill with money. Sometimes you just care about what you do and that’s enough.”

In the interim, drummer Steve Johnson, who had a child abuse charge that was dismissed against him in

2021, left. Howard put out two solo albums and Fogg had his own, under the name Sun on Shade.

When they reunited for the brewery, the idea was to write a few new songs and tour. But Cockrell had a load of demos and it turned out they had eight songs altogether, so an album was within reach.

“I’ve found that we’ve all grown up and we’re much gentler, more sensitive people, which has been like a wonderful surprise,” she says. “It feels new, it feels fresh again.”

The band is currently on a North American tour that will take it from Tanglewood to Radio City Music Hall, the Santa Barbara Bowl to the Ohana Festival.

Howard’s favorite song on the album is “Tea

Time,” a hypnotic slow burner built over a chunky Cockrell bass line and melody by keyboardist Paul Horton where Howard sings: “I’m building a kingdom / In my soul / Where the fires first burned / Let flowers grow.”

“Something about it was both ancient and unknown, but super-familiar. I heard it and it reminded me of feudalism, serfism, and I knew exactly what to do with it. So I pictured all these medieval scenes and I kind of imagined me now living

in that time,” she says.

“Everyone wants safety, and I think, at the end of the day, everybody wants to lay down in peace and dream a better day for their loved ones. I just wanted to sing about the possibilities of maybe we could figure out a way to do that.”



Living Estate Sale

Tommy and Galena Fulkerson  
775 Revlett Drive  
Calhoun KY 42327

Thurs., August 27, 9am-4pm  
Fri., August 28, 9am-4pm  
Sat., August 29, 9am-2 pm

Tommy and Galena have relocated and have left a complete house full of very well cared for items. cherry Queen Anne dining furniture including table and chairs, china cabinet, silverware chest, sideboard, curio cabinet, two tea carts, mahogany china cabinet, painted Bombay chest, glass top coffee table, Tom Blue cherry queen bed and lingerie chest, maple rocker, mahogany sleigh bed, antique rocker, antique trunk, white French console/desk, small pine cupboard, kitchen island, oak dining table, six ladder back chairs, three oak chairs, blanket box, oak roll top desk, oak curio, antique wall phone, old school desks, maple end tables and hutch, plaid couch and club chair, iron full size bed, cherry bookcase desk, arched top curio cabinet, lots of prints including Ray Harm and More-heads, mirrors, lamps, pottery and crocks, glassware including milk glass, Fenton, figurines, floral sofa, vintage high chair, kitchenware, area rugs, flatware, three antique barber chairs, ladders, push mower, leaf vacuum (needs work) lawn and garden tools, weed eaters, chain saws, Cummins generator, air compressor, vintage bike, grinder, antique plow, outdoor furniture including wire bench, park bench, concrete lawn items including urns and large statue of a lady, John Deere riding mower, Christmas decor, NordicTrack commercial treadmill, cardio glide, rattan furniture and much more.

Cash or check with proper ID, 3% fee will be added to credit/debit card purchases. We also accept Venmo. All sales are final. No returns or refunds. KY sales tax of 6% will be added unless buyer presents a resale exemption certificate. All items purchased are as-is. We are not responsible for accidents.

YOU MUST bring help to move large items as we DO NOT have staff to assist. All items must be removed by 2pm on Saturday. Please bring boxes and paper to pack your items. Call Donna at 270-903-7859 with questions.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF ZONING HEARING REGARDING 521 E. PARRISH AVENUE**

A request has been filed with the Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission by Gary Boswell to rezone 0.085-acres of land from I-1 Light Industrial to R-1T Townhouse, located at the address noted above, between Triplett Street and Sweeney Street.

The above proposal is to be considered at a meeting of the Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission on September 10, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. CST/6:30 p.m. EST in the 4th Floor Auditorium of City Hall, 101 E. 4th St., Owensboro, KY.

Bill Weikel, Secretary  
Skyler Stewart, Chair

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF ZONING HEARING REGARDING 808 BIRK COURT**

A request has been filed with the Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission by Berry Hill Farms, LLC to rezone 0.12-acres of land from R-4DT Inner-City Residential to B-2 Central Business, located at the address noted above, at the terminus of Birk Court.

The above proposal is to be considered at a meeting of the Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission on September 10, 2026 at 5:30 PM CST/6:30 PM EST in the 4th Floor Auditorium of City Hall, 101 E. 4th St., Owensboro, KY.

BILL WEIKEL, SECRETARY  
SKYLER STEWART, CHAIR

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF ZONING HEARING REGARDING 521 E. PARRISH AVENUE**

A request has been filed with the Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission by Gary Boswell for a Variance in order to eliminate the required 10-foot wide landscaping buffer consisting of a 6-foot tall continuous element and 1-tree per 40-linear-feet, all located along the eastern property line where the subject property adjoins I-1 Light Industrial zoning.

The above proposal is to be considered at a meeting of the Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission on September 10, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. CST/6:30 p.m. EST in the 4th Floor Auditorium of City Hall, 101 E. 4th St., Owensboro, KY.

Bill Weikel, Secretary  
Skyler Stewart, Chair

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that Leslie Clements and Chris Kincaid of 5606 Southland Blvd. Louisville KY 40214, has filed an application with the Engergy and Environment Cabinet to construct a single family residence elevated on posts above BFE. The property is located approximately at -87.331051 degrees W, 37.39316 degrees N. The property is located at 6005 1st St. Curdsville KY, 42301, 0.1 miles NE from the northernmost end of Main St., along the Green river.

Any comments or objections can be submitted via email to: DOWFloodplain@ky.gov Kentucky Division of Water, Floodplain Management Section, 300 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601. Call 502-564-3410 with questions.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF ZONING HEARING REGARDING 800 W. 10TH STREET**

A request has been filed with the Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission by Dolly A. Horton & Brian D. Horton to rezone 0.170-acres of land from I-1 Light Industrial to R-4DT Inner-City Residential, located at the address noted above, between Walnut Street and the western terminus of W. 10th Street.

The above proposal is to be considered at a meeting of the Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission on September 10, 2026 at 5:30 PM CST/6:30 PM EST in the 4th Floor Auditorium of City Hall, 101 E. 4th St., Owensboro, KY.

BILL WEIKEL, SECRETARY  
SKYLER STEWART, CHAIR

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**JANAKI INC. DBA DERBY MART**

with a mailing address of 3024 W 4TH ST OWENSBORO, KY 42301 hereby declares intention(s) to apply for a **Nq Retail Malt Beverage Package License** no later than **October 3, 2026**

The premises to be licensed are located at **3024 W 4TH ST. OWENSBORO, KENTUCKY 42301**

doing business as **DERBY MART**

The (owner(s); Principal Officers and Directors; Limited Partners; or Members) are as follows: **OWNER, SANJAY KUMAR OF 3140 SPRING RUN OWENSBORO, KY 42303**

Any person, association, corporation, or body politic may protest the granting of the license(s) by writing the Dept. of Alcoholic Beverage Control Mayo-Underwood Building 500 Mero St., 2NE33 Frankfort, Ky, 40601, within 30 days of the date of this legal publication.