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SOCIETY FOR FEATURES JOURNALISM | SFJ17
That’s entertainment!
Facebook Live

Everyone used Facebook Live this year in different ways. At the Sun Sentinel and SouthFlorida.com, our entertainment website, we launched a weekly entertainment show called What’s Up South Florida. The host highlights what’s happening that weekend, usually with guests or other reporters talking about what’s going on. Sometimes she goes on location. In this episode we brought a local band into our studio.

What’s Up South Florida: https://www.facebook.com/SouthFloridaDotCom/videos/1156264781172323/

Sun Sentinel | SouthFlorida.com
Newsday film critic Rafer Guzman doesn't often see a movie so bad it's only deserving of a half-star, or worse, no stars — but it does happen. Readers seem to like behind-the-scenes peeks into how things work, so he wrote up what can make a movie so. Bad. And then we posted a photo list story reminding readers all his zero- and half-star reviews with the most damning quotes pulled out.

Newsday
In the company of zeroes

By Maria Golden

Here are good movies, movies and bad movies and anything worse, than a bad movie? Yes, Virginia, there is. And I have seen my share.

For decades, Newsday has used a four-star rating system for its film reviews. When Variety joined the Newsday operation, Variety's critic, John Thumer, had figured out how to top Newsday's review system. It's rare to see a four-star movie — according to the Newsday system, that's the highest you'll get.

Thumer, however, has been known to make a movie, such as the recent "Battleship," somehow rise above its origins. Thumer is a true film critic.

Yet, even with his critical acumen, he still needs help. His reviews are often too long, too wordy, too dense.

Some critics, however, believe that a movie is worth the effort. And some critics believe that a movie is not worth the effort.

But, as Thumer once said, "It's not about the movie, it's about the audience."

There are two main types of movie critics: those who love movies and those who hate movies.

The worst of the worst

All about Steve (2008): Steve Jobs (Robin Williams) is a biopic about the co-founder of Apple, the computer company. It's a biopic about the co-founder of Apple, the computer company. It's a biopic about the co-founder of Apple, the computer company. It's a biopic about the co-founder of Apple, the computer company.

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We realized the Muny (our outdoor theater which will celebrate season 100 next year) had undergone a number of changes, but that we really hadn’t written about them as a whole, so we did this illustrated guide to a St. Louis institution:

St. Louis Post-Dispatch
Where NOLA Eats

Our entertainment coverage has been greatly curtailed recently due to layoffs and reorganization, but we still have depth in food and dining -- a popular subject in New Orleans. We raised the profile of that coverage under a new brand, called Where NOLA Eats. The social accounts were rebranded with that name. We added two pages to the Wednesday living section for food and dining stories. And we created a Facebook Group, which in three months has gained 10,000 followers and become a resource for readers and a constant source of story ideas for us.

NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune
We still dedicate extra space each year to summer and holiday books guides. For summer, we did a wrap around the usual features section. For winter, we added a bit of extra space. And for both, we created an online tool for easy perusal of our picks (true horror story: our site is not responsive). By really pushing these efforts on social media, we got more traffic and higher engagement than ever before.

Star Tribune
Artist of the Year 2016: Prince's memorials were the year's rock stars

An impromptu street gathering in the grim hours following Prince's death lit a spark that shined through a year of tributes.

By Chris Riemenschneider Star Tribune | DECEMBER 30, 2016 — 4:38PM

A hand reached out to touch Prince's star at First Avenue on April 21, 2016, the day he was found dead.

It took only about three hours for the Twin Cities' definitive cultural moment of 2016 to come together, and a few more hours for it to set the tone for the months that followed.

The staff at 89.3 the Current got an early tip from a source in Chanhassen on the morning of April 21: A body had been removed from Paisley Park. While holding out hope that it wasn't Prince, the radio station's brass met right away to discuss the worst-case scenario. A plan to go with an all-Prince playlist on air seemed easy enough. But was it enough?