‘Bound for Glory’ reignites TNA wrestling

By Jay’Mi Vazquez
Managing Editor

If ever there was a night TNA Wrestling needed to live up to the name “Bound for Glory,” it was Oct. 12.

In front of a reported 7,794 fans at the Tsongas Center in Lowell, Massachusetts, TNA presented its biggest event of the year with high expectations and the pressure to prove it belongs in today’s rapidly evolving wrestling landscape.

The company responded with a card full of title changes, nostalgic returns and unpredictable moments.

Some of these were effective, while others were overdone.

At the top of the card, Mike Santana defeated Trick Williams to win the TNA World Championship in a main event that blended emotion with chaos.

It was a hard-hitting match that spilled outside the ring and into the crowd, a fitting end to a show designed to feel bigger than TNA’s usual scale.

Santana’s win drew one of the loudest reactions of the night and capped off a months-long push that now makes him the face of the brand.

The event also featured a unique twist in the Call Your Shot Gauntlet, which ended with both Frankie Kazarian and Nic Nemeth declared winners after a controversial double finish.

While the result confused some fans in the moment, it opened the door for creative title implications heading into TNA’s next phase.

Steve Maclin captured the TNA International Championship, further establishing himself as a key part of the company’s roster.

However, his win gave little room to breathe amid a packed card that leaned heavily on legacy acts and extended segments.

That legacy was front and center in the Hall of Fame ceremony, where Mickie James and The Beautiful People were inducted.

The segment added historical weight to the show and earned a warm response from the crowd, though it also emphasized how much of “Bound for Glory” was dedicated to looking back rather than pushing forward.

The most obvious example of that was the long-hyped One Final Table match between The Hardy Boyz and The Dudley Boyz.

The match was slow, filled with familiar spots, and ultimately more about nostalgia than competition.

For longtime fans, it delivered expectations, but it also highlighted how much of the show depended on names from another era.

That reliance on the past is part of the challenge TNA faces and has faced in the pst.

While Bound for Glory 2025 felt like a step forward in terms of scale and visibility, it also exposed the company’s ongoing struggle to fully shift focus to its current roster.

Moments for wrestlers like Chris Bey, Jordynne Grace and Joe Hendry were brief or relegated to undercard spots. TNA has talent capable of leading the brand, but they need consistent booking and room to grow.

In the short term, the company will be able to celebrate the attendance milestone and a mostly well-received main event. But, long-term success will depend on what happens next.

A single night called “Bound for Glory” is not enough. Glory must be sustained.

Bottom line: TNA Wrestling delivered a solid pay-per-view with “Bound for Glory,” one that brought energy back to the brand and gave fans moments worth talking about.

But, the event also leaned too heavily on its past, and unless the company shifts more focus to building new stars and clearer weekly stories, the momentum will not last.

PHOTO |INSTAGRAM

Mike Santana celebrating his title win with his daughter.

PHOTO | FIGHTFUL

The Hardy Boyz and The Dudley Boyz hugging after their final match.

YouTube beats subscriptions

By Jay’Mi Vazquez
Managing Editor

In the current landscape of digital entertainment, nearly every major movie or television series appears to be restricted by a subscription model.

Platforms such as Netflix, Hulu, Disney Plus and HBO Max often require monthly payments, and in some cases, more than one subscription is needed in order to access a broad range of films.

In contrast, YouTube’s free movies with ads section offers a more accessible and cost-effective solution for viewers who prefer not to pay premium fees.

Subscription fatigue is becoming a common issue among consumers. As the number of streaming services increases, so does the cost of staying subscribed to all of them.

Many people find it unnecessary to spend a significant amount of money each month on streaming platforms, especially since these services were originally meant to be a cheaper alternative to traditional cable.

YouTube has traditionally been associated with content and user-created videos, but it now hosts a legal and legitimate library of free, full-length films that are available without the need for a paid subscription.

This allows consumers to access movies without relying on unauthorized websites or pirated content.

The presence of advertisements is the trade-off for free access to films.

However, the ads shown on YouTube are relatively minimal compared to those on traditional television. They tend to be shorter and less frequent than those found on cable networks.

For many viewers, brief advertisements are a small inconvenience in exchange for free access to full-length movies. This model is similar to ad-supported plans offered by other platforms without the added cost.

One of the most appealing aspects of YouTube’s free movie section is the variety of content available.

Although it does not include the most recent theatrical releases or major blockbuster titles, it features a wide selection of classic films, independent productions, documentaries and lesser-known movies that are still worth watching.

This makes it an excellent resource for individuals who are open to exploring different genres or revisiting older films that may not be available elsewhere.

Accessibility is another major strength of the platform.

YouTube can be accessed through nearly any internet-connected device, including smart televisions, smartphones, tablets, laptops and gaming consoles.

There is no need to download additional applications, create new accounts or learn how to navigate a new interface. The process is simple: select the movies and shows section, browse through the free with ads category and begin viewing.

For many households, this level of convenience reduces the friction often associated with streaming services.

It provides a straightforward way to find and watch a wide range of movies without financial commitment. This is especially useful for families, occasional viewers or anyone managing a limited budget.

YouTube’s free movie offering is not heavily promoted, which means it is often overlooked.

However, it serves as a reliable and practical digital equivalent of a video rental shelf.

YouTube allows for the discovery of hidden gems, rewatching nostalgic titles, or casual entertainment without any monetary cost. Something that, aside from public libraries, is rarely available legally.

In many cases, it also saves time that would otherwise be spent searching multiple platforms to find where a specific movie is available.

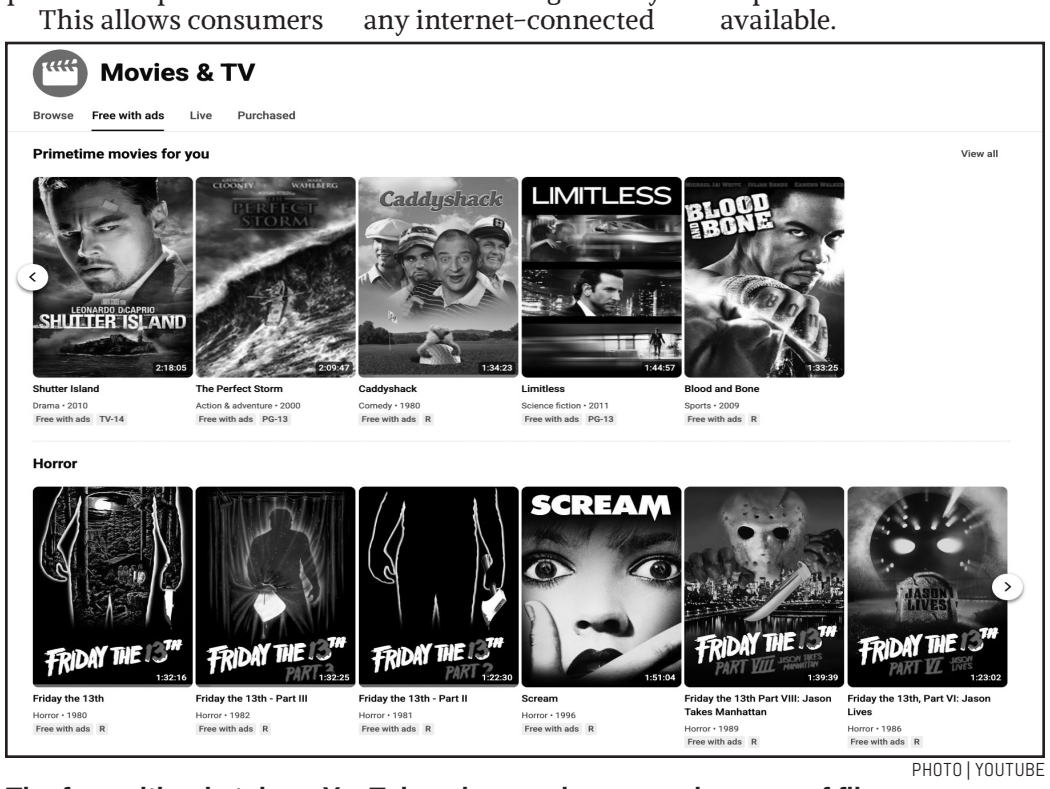

PHOTO | YOUTUBE

The free with ads tab on YouTube, showcasing several genres of films on Monday, Oct. 20.

Fast food is not affordable

By Solé Scott
Editor-in-Chief

Fast food is no longer affordable, and I blame McDonald’s for getting rid of the dollar menu and charging an arm and a leg.

There was once a time when I craved a Happy Meal with four-piece Chicken McNuggets, animal crackers, apple slices, a small fry and a drink, all for less than $4.

That was well over 10 years ago. Now that same meal, minus the animal crackers, costs $8 plus tax.

The McChicken sandwiches are no longer $1, but a whopping $4. The Filet-O-Fish has also gone up in price to almost $6. A Filet-O-Fish meal is now $11, a significant increase from its original price before COVID-19.

That is disappointing considering the company was created on affordability.

Recently, McDonald’s introduced the extra value meals for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Breakfast meals are $5, while lunch and dinner combo meals are $8. A Big Mac meal for $8 is a steal compared to the original price of $14.

However, the downside is that this offer is only for participating locations for a limited time.

I understand that this deal is location based, but I have noticed that most of the McDonald’s I go to do not advertise these meals on their drive through menu.

Yet, when I open the McDonald’s app, I see the value meals, and I can order from a nearby location.

This defeats the purpose of these value meals because most customers do not use the app. It is not fair to people like my grandma, who is old school and is unaware of the cheaper meals.

I just wonder why the most popular fast-food chain in the world would eliminate an affordable section on their menu that was accessible to all customers.

The menu is not as packed as it once was. McDonald’s has gotten rid of chicken selects, artisan chicken sandwich, salads, cheesy bacon fries, animal crackers and so much more.

Snack wraps would have been on that list, but they reintroduced them on the menu this summer. Yet, they do not taste the same at all, as the chicken seems like leftover McNuggets.

Another problem with McDonalds is that they let their competitors like Wendy’s, Burger King and Dairy Queen dominate in the meal deal market.

Wendy’s is the most successful when it comes to meal deals, as they offer their popular Biggie Bags. The seven bags are between $5 to $8, and customers can choose from a variety of mixes and matches.

Dairy Queen, which is underrated for their food, has introduced a $7 meal. Customers can choose between a cheeseburger meal and a 3-piece chicken strip meal.

Last winter into spring, Burger King had $5 duos and $7 trios where customers could choose from a limited menu of a Whopper Jr, bacon cheeseburger, original chicken sandwich, medium fries, 8-piece chicken fries and a medium soft drink.

These kinds of deals keep customers coming back. Unfortunately, McDonald’s joined the trend late, while their competitors had a head start.

At the end of the day, McDonald’s is a name we all know and will continue to know for generations to come, but it is losing its audience by not keeping prices affordable.

The chain now leaves customers wondering if it is cheaper to go to the grocery store or continue buying fast food.

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