

The Gamecock

# Game Boy's new release full grown

■ Nintendo's Game Boy Advance, a far cry from its predecessor, hits racks June 11

BY BILLY O'KEEFE  
COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE

In the coming months, young men and women everywhere will receive their degrees and diplomas as a symbol of their transition to full-on adulthood.

Nintendo's Game Boy, on the other hand, will receive something else — namely, a larger screen, longer battery life, a huge graphics and speed upgrade, and the ability to play games like no handheld gaming system before it.

Slated for a June 11 stateside debut and priced at a cool 99 clams, the Game Boy Advance is more than another upgrade for Nintendo's wildly popular handheld, which has sold more than 100 million units in its extraordinary 11-years-and-counting lifespan. This time, it's a whole new set of gears.

The most obvious sign of Game Boy manhood is in the games. For one thing, the Game Boy Advance's graphics make all other handheld games look like fingerpainting. And the games themselves move at breakneck speed without any of the blur or wash-up colors that could really hurt the Game Boy's performance. Anyone who longs for the days of 16-bit gaming, when the Super NES and Sega Genesis ruled the Earth, is in for a very good summer, because the GBA is all that and more. Still, fans of the original Game Boy and Game Boy Color should feel fairly at home with the GBA. The button layout, while adding shoulder (L and R) buttons to the mix, remains largely the same, and while the shape of the GBA is horizontal to the Game Boy's vertical arrangement, the small system should be an easy fit for anyone who could tame the system's clunky ancestors.

The best news of all for Game Boy fans: backward compatibility. While exceptions may spring up from time to time in the future, every one of the Game Boy's 500-plus titles, whether



it came out in 1989 or 2001, is expected to play just fine on the GBA. Perhaps the most drool-worthy news, however, is not the GBA's backward compatibility, but its forward compatibility.

Nintendo has fashioned the handheld to work in tandem with its equally drool-worthy next-generation console, the Gamecube. Players will be able to exchange data between Gamecube and GBA versions of select games, and the GBA even doubles Gamecube controller, functioning much like the Sega Dreamcast's innovative Visual Memory Unit controller.

For gamers who itch for a little company, the GBA's multiplayer capabilities are a most welcome addition. Whereas the original Game Boy allowed two players to link up their systems and duke it out, the GBA allows up to four. And while both players needed separate copies of the same game to engage in Game Boy warfare, only one copy is necessary for a similar bloodbath on the Game

Boy Advance, a huge plus. Nintendo has been ridiculed in the past for repeatedly pushing back hardware release dates, but the Advance's June 11 coming-out party should cause no such headaches if the wildly successful March launch in Japan is any indication. Not only did Nintendo deliver the system on time in Japan, but it took on a huge mountain of pre-orders and satisfied them all.

Are you listening, Sony?

Nintendo plans to roll out at least 15 games on launch day, including Tony Hawk's Pro Skater, Dodge Ball Advance, Mega Man EXE, Ready to Rumble Boxing and GBA-exclusive versions of Nintendo's own Super Mario Bros., Mario Kart and F-Zero franchises.

The company says that it expects to have more than 60 GBA titles on the shelves by the time Christmas — and the arrival of the Gamecube — are in full swing.

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**MOVIE DIRECTORY**

**DUTCH SQUARE 14**  
800 BUSH RIVER ROAD  
750-3576

**The Adventures of Joe Dirt (PG-13)**  
1:20, 4:30, 7:20, 10:05  
**Along Came A Spider (R)**  
1:40, 4:30, 7:30, 9:50  
**Blow (R)**  
1:10, 4, 7, 9:30  
**Bridget Jones' Diary (R)**  
1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:40, 9:50  
**The Brothers (R)**  
1:20, 4, 7, 9:20  
**Down To Earth (PG-13)**  
1:20, 4:50, 7:30, 9:30  
**Exit Wounds (NR)**  
2, 4:40, 7:20, 10  
**Heartbreakers (PG-13)**  
1:30, 4:20, 7:20, 10  
**Josie and the Pussycats (PG-13)**  
1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:50, 10  
**Just Visiting (PG-13)**  
1:50, 4:10, 7:40, 9:35  
**Kingdom Come (PG)**  
1:40, 4:10, 7:30, 9:40  
**Pokemon 3**  
1, 3:15, 5:50, 7:20  
**Someone Like You (PG-13)**  
1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30  
**Spy Kids (PG)**  
1, 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10  
**Traffic (R)**  
9:20

**WYNNSONG 10**  
5320 FOREST DRIVE  
782-8100

**Blow (R)**  
1:10, 4:20, 7:10, 9:45  
**Bridget Jones' Diary (R)**  
1:45, 4:45, 7:30, 9:45  
**The Brothers (R)**  
1:15, 4:15, 7, 9:15  
**Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon (PG-13)**  
1, 4:30, 7, 9:30  
**Josie and the Pussycats (PG-13)**  
1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 9:40  
**Just Visiting (PG-13)**  
1:45, 4:15, 7, 9:20  
**Kingdom Come (PG)**

1, 1:30, 4, 4:30, 7, 7:30, 9:15, 9:45  
**Pokemon 3 (G)**  
1:20, 4:20, 7, 9:10  
**Someone Like You (PG-13)**  
1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:40

**CARMIKE CINEMA 14**  
NEXT TO COLUMBIANA  
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781-3067

**The Adventures of Joe Dirt (PG-13)**  
1:45, 4:15, 7:30, 9:30  
**Along Came A Spider (R)**  
2, 4:30, 7, 9:30  
**Exit Wounds (NR)**  
1, 4, 7:30, 9:45  
**Finding Forrester (PG-13)**  
1, 4:15, 7, 9:45  
**Heartbreakers (PG-13)**  
1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:45  
**Just Visiting (PG-13)**  
1:45, 4:15, 7:30, 9:30  
**Malena (PG-13)**  
2, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30  
**The Mexican (R)**  
2, 4:30, 7, 9:30  
**Say It Isn't So (R)**  
1:45, 4, 7:15, 9:30  
**Shadow of a Vampire (NR)**  
1:30, 4, 7:15, 9:30  
**Spy Kids (PG)**  
1:15, 4, 7:15, 9:30  
**Tomcats (R)**  
1, 4, 7:30, 9:30  
**Traffic (R)**  
1:15, 4, 7, 9:45  
**The Wedding Planner (PG-13)**  
1:30, 4:15, 7:15, 9:30

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**Blow (R)**  
1:45, 4:25, 7:10, 9:45  
**Bridget Jones' Diary (R)**  
1:15, 2:05, 3:30, 4:35, 6:45, 7:30, 9  
**The Brothers (R)**  
2:45, 5, 7:45, 10:15  
**Chocolat (PG-13)**  
4:05, 6:55, 9:25  
**Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon (PG-13)**  
1:40, 4:20, 7:05, 10:10  
**Enemy at the Gates (R)**  
1:10, 4:10, 7:15, 9:45  
**Hannibal (R)**  
1:20, 4:05, 7:05, 9:35

**Josie and the Pussycats (PG-13)**  
1:50, 4:15, 7:20, 9:30  
**Kingdom Come (PG)**  
1:25, 2:55, 3:45, 5:10, 7:25, 8, 10  
**O Brother, Where Art Thou? (NR)**  
2, 4:30, 6:50, 9:20  
**Pokemon 3 (G)**  
1, 4, 7, 9:10  
**See Spot Run (PG)**  
1:35  
**Someone Like You (PG-13)**  
2:20, 5:25, 7:35, 9:40

**ST. ANDREWS ROAD**  
527 ST. ANDREWS  
772-7469

**102 Dalmatians (PG)**  
2:40, 5  
**Emperor's New Groove (G)**  
2:20, 3:50, 5:20, 6:50  
**Family Man (PG-13)**  
2:30, 5:10, 7:30  
**Finding Forrester (PG-13)**  
7  
**Miss Congeniality (PG-13)**  
2, 4, 6, 8  
**The Wedding Planner (PG-13)**  
8:20  
**What Women Want (PG-13)**  
2:10, 4:30, 7

**REGAL CINEMA 7**  
RICHLAND MALL  
748-9044

**Along Came A Spider (R)**  
12:25, 1:25, 2:40, 4, 5, 7:10, 7:40, 9:40, 10:10  
**Enemy at the Gates (R)**  
1:20, 4:20, 7:05, 9:55  
**Exit Wounds (NR)**  
3, 5:10, 7:30, 10:15  
**Heartbreakers (PG-13)**  
1:10, 4:10, 7:15, 10  
**Joe Dirt (PG-13)**  
12:45, 2:50, 4:55, 7:25, 9:45  
**Spy Kids (PG)**  
12:40, 2:55, 5:05, 7:20, 9:50  
**Tomcats (R)**  
12:50

**NICKELODEON**  
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**Before Night Falls (R)**  
3, 7, 9:30

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