

MARRIAGE MALAISE

Concussion is an intimate study of sexual politics and ennui

CONCUSSION: Written and directed by Stacie Passon. Cinematography, David Kruta. Editing, Anthony Cupo. Starring Robin Weigert, Maggie Siff, Julie Fain Lawrence, Johnathan Tchaikovsky, Emily Kinney. Radius (Weinstein Co.), 2013. R. 96 minutes. ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

The blow to the head that occurs during the opening scenes of *Concussion* has so little to do with what this smart, subtle movie is really about that the title almost seems like, at best, a MacGuffin — something dramatic inserted by writer/director Stacie Passon just to get her where she wants to go with her story. It just so happens, however, that Passon herself, just before writing the screenplay, suffered a mild concussion. Art is funny that way: From pain is born investigation and inspiration, and in this case, a knock on the noggin has resulted in a very fine film about sexual politics and personal freedom, or lack thereof.

Long story short: Abby (the wonderful Robin Weigert, of *Deadwood* fame) and Kate Abelman (Julie Fain Lawrence) are a middle-aged couple living a seemingly comfortable suburban life with their two young kids. Their existence is smooth and pleasant, if a bit mild and routine. All this changes when Abby is hit in the temple by a baseball thrown by her son. She quickly grows restless, and begins to seek the sexual connection that has been severed altogether with her wife. Abby sees an escort, and then becomes one.



The fact that *Concussion* revolves around the marriage of two lesbians is relevant only in the sense that this social fact is taken completely for granted. No undue attention is drawn to the social context of Abby and Kate's union, nor does Passon have any political axes to grind. This portrayal of acceptance is more than refreshing: for many of us, it is fact. And it allows the director to focus on the nitty gritty of a relationship in crisis. This movie is not about identity politics. It's about sexual politics and the tension of intimate relationships that have settled into routine — out of comfort, fear, need — despite an intrinsic lack of passion.

Weigert gives an amazing performance; her face alone is capable of registering a storm of tangled emotions at once, and as she dives deeper and deeper into her double

life, we witness the gorgeous and terrible conflicts that take place among sexual desire, personal freedom, honest commitment and loving loyalty. And it is a credit to Passon's skill as both a writer and a director that *Concussion* rarely takes the easy road. Abby's infidelities are neither morally condemned nor entirely celebrated; rather, the movie's frank, often touching depiction of sexuality is troublingly erotic and sentimentally complicated. It raises more questions than it answers. Those questions — What is the difference between need and want? Is it worth staying in an otherwise good relationship if the intimacy is absent, and if so, do I step out? — and how they are posed rank this as one of the more sophisticated and adult romantic dramas to come out in recent years. ■

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Fri. - Sat. 11:15 AM 6:15 PM

ENDER'S GAME [CC,DV] (PG-13) ★
Fri. - Sat. (10:35 12:00) 4:05 6:50 9:40

FREE BIRDS IN REALD 3D [CC] (PG) ★ Fri. - Sat. (11:35 AM)

FREE BIRDS [CC] (PG) Fri. - Sat. (2:00) 4:40 7:05 9:25

LAST VEGAS [CC] (PG-13) Fri. - Sat. (11:30 2:05) 5:15 7:50 10:30

JACKASS PRESENTS: BAD GRANDPA [CC,DV] (R)
Fri. - Sat. (11:50 2:15) 5:10 7:40 10:15

THE COUNSELOR [CC,DV] (R) Fri. - Sat. (11:50) 4:20 7:10 9:55

CARRIE [CC,DV] (R) Fri. - Sat. (10:45 AM)

CAPTAIN PHILLIPS [CC,DV] (PG-13) ★
Fri. - Sat. (12:25 3:35) 6:55 10:20

GRAVITY IN REALD 3D [CC,DV] (PG-13) ★
Fri. - Sat. (2:20) 4:55 7:25 10:05

GRAVITY [CC,DV] (PG-13) Fri. - Sat. (11:45 AM)

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THOR: THE DARK WORLD IN REALD 3D [CC,DV] (PG-13) ★
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FREE BIRDS IN REALD 3D [CC] (PG) ★ Fri. - Sat. (3:30 PM)

LAST VEGAS [CC] (PG-13) Fri. - Sat. (11:00 3:45) 6:40 9:30

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JACKASS PRESENTS: BAD GRANDPA [CC,DV] (R)
Fri. - Sat. (14:50) 4:45 7:40 10:15

GRAVITY [CC,DV] (PG-13) Fri. - Sat. (3:50 PM)

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FREE BIRDS IN REALD 3D [CC] (PG) ★ Sat. (3:50 PM)

FREE BIRDS [CC] (PG) Sat. (11:00 PM) 6:40 PM 9:00 PM

CARRIE [CC,DV] (R) Sat. (1:30) 4:20 7:20 9:45

PRISONERS [CC,DV] (R) Sat. (1:00 PM) 4:45 PM 8:00 PM

Times For 11/08 - 11/09 © 2013 www.REGmovies.com

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ABOUT TIME (DIG) R
12:20, 3:40, 7:00, 10:00

CAPTAIN PHILLIPS (DIG) PG-13
11:40, 3:25, 7:05, 10:10

CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS 2 (3D) PG
SPECIAL EVENT PRICING: \$3.00
UPCHARGE ALL TICKETS
1:45, 7:20

CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS 2 (DIG) PG
11:05, 4:35, 9:55

DESPICABLE ME 2 (DIG) PG
2:20, 7:50

ENDER'S GAME (DIG) PG-13
10:45, 11:35, 1:40, 2:35, 4:40, 5:35, 7:40, 8:35, 10:25

ESCAPE PLAN (DIG) R
12:25, 3:20, 7:10, 10:05

FREE BIRDS (3D) PG
SPECIAL EVENT PRICING: \$3.00
UPCHARGE ALL TICKETS
12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:35, 10:15

FREE BIRDS (DIG) PG
10:55, 1:25, 3:55, 6:25, 8:55

GRAVITY (3D) PG-13
SPECIAL EVENT PRICING: \$3.00
UPCHARGE ALL TICKETS
11:45, 2:15, 3:35, 4:45, 6:05, 7:15, 8:40, 9:50

GRAVITY (DIG) PG-13
10:35, 1:00

JACKASS PRESENTS: BAD GRANDPA (DIG) R
11:00, 12:15, 1:35, 2:45, 4:00, 5:15, 6:35, 7:45, 9:00, 10:15

LAST VEGAS (DIG) PG-13
10:40, 1:20, 4:05, 7:25, 10:00

PERCY JACKSON: SEA OF MONSTERS (3D) PG
SPECIAL EVENT PRICING: \$3.00
UPCHARGE ALL TICKETS
4:50

PERCY JACKSON: SEA OF MONSTERS (DIG) PG
11:10, 10:25

THOR: THE DARK WORLD (3D) PG-13
SPECIAL EVENT PRICING: \$3.00
UPCHARGE ALL TICKETS
10:30, 12:30, 1:30, 3:30, 4:30, 6:30, 7:30, 9:30, 10:30

THOR: THE DARK WORLD (DIG) PG-13
11:30, 2:30, 5:30, 8:30

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AUSTENLAND PG-13
12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:35, 10:25

ELYSIUM R
12:15, 2:40, 5:10, 7:50, 10:15

GROWN UPS 2 PG-13
11:45, 2:10, 4:45, 7:10, 9:45

MONSTERS UNIVERSITY G
11:50, 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:40

MONSTERS UNIVERSITY (3D) G
SPECIAL EVENT PRICING: \$2.00
UPCHARGE ALL TICKETS
1:00, 3:30, 6:05, 8:35

MORTAL INSTRUMENTS PG-13
12:10, 3:10, 7:00, 9:55

PLANES PG
12:00, 2:25, 4:35, 7:20, 9:35

RUNNER RUNNER R
12:35, 2:55, 5:05, 7:45, 10:20

RUSH (DIG) R
12:25, 3:20, 7:25, 10:10

SMURFS 2 PG
11:55, 2:20, 4:55, 7:30, 9:50

WE'RE THE MILLERS R
12:20, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:05

THE WOLVERINE PG-13
12:05, 3:15, 7:15, 10:00

CC Assistive Listening and Captioning System Avail

SHOWTIMES FOR WEEK OF FRI, NOV 8 - THURS, NOV 14

BIJOU ART CINEMAS 492 E. 13th Ave.
Tel: 541-686-2458
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HOW I LIVE NOW (R)
Fri-Sun 3:15, 4:45, 7:00, 9:10
Mon 4:45, 9:10
Tues-Thurs 4:45, 7:00, 9:10

WADJDA (PG)
Fri-Sun 1:00, 5:30
Mon-Thurs 5:30

ENOUGH SAID (PG-13)
Fri-Sun 12:30, 2:35, 7:45
Mon-Thurs 7:45

DON JON (R)
9:45

LONE SURVIVOR (R) (free advance screening!)
Mon 7:00

BIJOU METRO 43 W. Broadway
Tel: 541-686-2458
bijou-cinemas.com/bijoumetro

Bijou Classics Series present Stanley Kubrick's DR. STRANGELOVE OR: HOW I LEARNED TO STOP WORRYING AND LOVE THE BOMB Fri 5:00
Sat-Weds 5:00, 7:15
Monday night screening hosted by Tom Blank

Izakaya Meiji Company presents Bijou Retro Anime Series: NAUSICAA OF THE VALLEY OF THE WIND Fri-Weds 2:15 9:30
Thurs 2:15, 5:00, 9:30
(afternoon shows dubbed, all others subtitled)

INEQUALITY FOR ALL (PG) Fri 12:45, 2:50
Sat 12:45, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10
Sun 7:10
Mon-Thurs 12:45, 2:50, 5:00, 6:30

EUGENE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
Fri-Sun: visit our website for showtimes and details (\$12/General Admission; no Bijou passes accepted)

CELEBRATE AFRICA FILM FESTIVAL
Fri-Sun: visit our website for showtimes and details (regular ticket rates apply; festival passes available for \$14)

ASS BACKWARDS (NR) Fri 8:40

AFTER TILLER (PG-13) Fri-Sun 7:15
Mon-Thurs 5:00

Friday screening followed by NRO panel discussion

CONCUSSION (R) Fri-Sun 9:10
Mon-Thurs 2:45, 7:00, 9:10

2013 SUNDANCE SHORTS (final week!) Fri 12:10
Sun 9:00
Mon-Thurs 8:35

LEE DANIELS' THE BUTLER (PG-13) Fri 2:15
Sun 6:15
Mon-Thurs 1:00, 3:45

EUROPA REPORT (PG-13) (held over!) Fri 12:00
Sat-Sun 9:15
Mon-Thurs 7:10, 9:15

BLUE JASMINE (PG-13) (held over!) Fri-Sun 12:00
Mon-Thurs 12:30

Gathr Preview Series presents **FILMMAKER MAGAZINE: 25 NEW FACES OF INDEPENDENT CINEMA** (\$10/no passes; members welcome) Thurs 7:30

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SHOWTIMES STARTING THURSDAY
NOV. 7TH - NOV. 13TH
*Cancelled Nov. 7th

Before Midnight* 5:20pm
Pan's Labyrinth 5:20pm
The Conjuring 7:25pm
Much Ado About Nothing* 7:25pm
Pacific Rim* 9:25pm
Shaun Of The Dead 9:25pm

OREGON VS STANFORD
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