

Movie Review: ‘San Andreas’



Still from ‘San Andreas’

By Kam Williams
For The Skanner News

If you were afraid to swim in the ocean after watching Jaws, you might be just as reluctant to visit San Francisco after seeing this spectacular disaster flick. Directed by Brad Peyton (Journey 2), San Andreas features a character-driven plot as riveting as its dizzying special f/x. The film stars Dwayne Johnson as Ray Gaines, a highly-decorated helicopter pilot with over 600 rescues on his resume. At the point of departure, we find the fearless L.A. Fire Department chief risking life and limb to pluck an accident

victim (Stephanie Johnston) from a car dangling preciptously over a deep canyon. To you or me, attempting such a dangerous maneuver would be unthinkable, but to Ray, it’s merely business as usual.

(Will Yun Lee) detects some unusual seismic activity in the vicinity of the Hoover Dam, the two quake chasers rush off to observe the event firsthand. They arrive in time to witness the considerable wrath

‘San Andreas’ unfolds like a classic Seventies disaster flick

Meanwhile, Professor Lawrence Hayes (Paul Giamatti) is delivering a lecture at California Institute of Technology on the incredible power of earthquakes. Then, when a colleague

wrought by a shift in tectonic plates registering 7.1 on the Richter scale. Worse, their state-of-the-art gizmo indicates that this event wasn’t an anomaly but rather a precursor to an

impending disaster of much greater magnitude. The ensuing rip in the San Andreas fault wreaks havoc all across the State of California. Of course, Chief Gaines jumps into action, plucking his estranged wife, Emma (Carla Gugino), from the roof of a teetering skyscraper before pointing the chopper in the direction of the epicenter, San Francisco.

That’s where their terrified daughter, Blake (Alexandra Daddario) called from after being abandoned by her mom’s billionaire boyfriend (Ioan Gruffudd). At least she is in the company of a couple of chivalrous, young British lads (Art Parkinson and Hugo Johstone-Burt).

Nevertheless, the search is on, as the desperate parents negotiate a perilous gauntlet to the Bay Area via air, sea and land, encountering everything from turbulence to tsunamis to landslides en route. Unfolding like a classic Seventies disaster flick, “San Andreas” serves up a smorgasbord of readily-identifiable archetypes: the musclebound hero, the effete coward, the damsel in distress, the terminally-nerdy professor, and so on, each played with perfect aplomb by a talented cast.

Still, the best reason to catch this bombastic summer blockbuster is for the eye-popping panoramas which must be seen in 3-D to be appreciated fully.

Excellent ★★★★★
Rated PG-13 for intense action, incessant mayhem and brief profanity
Running time: 114 min.
Studio: Warner Brothers Pictures

Movies
Opening
Friday, May 29

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BIG BUDGET FILMS

Aloha (PG-13 for profanity and suggestive comments) Oscar-winner Cameron Crowe (for Almost Famous) wrote and directed this romantic comedy about a disgraced astronaut-turned-defense contractor (Bradley Cooper) who divides his time between a feisty Air Force pilot (Emma Stone) and a long-lost ex-girlfriend (Rachel McAdams) while on assignment in Hawaii. Supporting cast includes Alec Baldwin, Bill Murray, John Krasinski, Jay Baruchel and Danny McBride.

San Andreas (PG-13 for action, mayhem and brief profanity) 3-D disaster flick, unfolding in the wake a devastating earthquake, about a helicopter pilot (Dwayne Johnson) who flies with his ex-wife (Carla Gugino) from L.A. to San Francisco to rescue their missing daughter (Alexandra Daddario). With Paul Giamatti, Ioan Gruffudd, Archie Panjabi and Will Yun Lee.

INDEPENDENT & FOREIGN FILMS

Barely Lethal (PG-13 for sexuality, profanity, violence, drug references and underage drinking) Action comedy about a teenage spy (Hailee Stein-

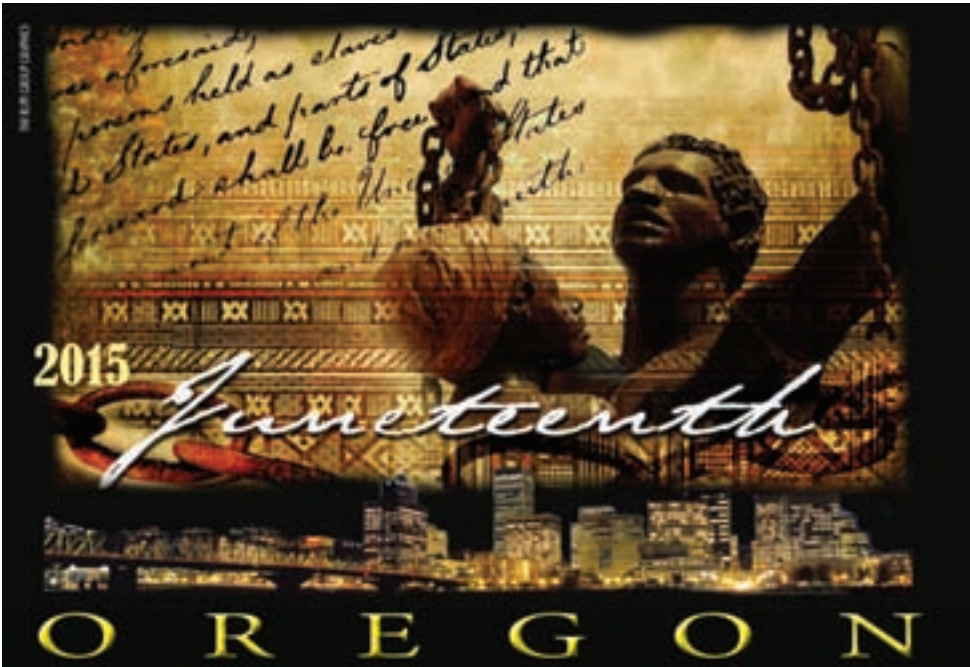
feld) who fakes her own death in order to have a normal life, only to find the treacherous waters of a suburban high school as challenging as international espionage. Featuring Jessica Alba, Samuel L. Jackson and Jaime King.

Gemma Boverly (R for sexuality, nudity and profanity) Screen adaptation of Posy Simmonds’ graphic novel of the same name, set in Normandy, about a baker’s (Fabrice Luchini) pursuit of a British beauty (Gemma Arterton) who has just moved to town with her furniture repairman husband (Jason Flemyng). With Isabelle Candelier, Niels Schneider and Mel Raido. (In French and English with subtitles)

Heaven Knows What (R for violence, sexuality, disturbing images, graphic nudity, pervasive profanity and incessant drug use) Screen adaptation of Mad Love in New York City, Arielle Holmes’s unpublished memoir, a tawdry tale of self-destruction and love between a couple of heroin addicts (Holmes and Caleb Landry-Jones) living on Manhattan’s Upper West Side. Support cast includes Eleonore Hendricks, street legend Buddy Duress gore rapper and Necro.

I Believe in Unicorns (Unrated) Bittersweet

See MOVIES on page 11



From Africa to America
150 Years of Freedom

CLARA PEOPLE’S FREEDOM TRAIL PARADE

Parade begins at 11 am on Martin Luther King Jr Blvd,
starting at N Jarrett St

Saturday June 20, 2015

Legacy Emanuel Field - N Williams Ave & N Graham St

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Meet Historical People

This is a family-friendly rain or shine event
Free to the public 12:00 Noon to 6:00 pm

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Saturday, June 27th • 11am-10pm Parade (NE MLK)
Sunday, June 28th • 10am-9pm

Lillis Albina Park
North Flint St. and Russell St., Portland, OR



LIVE MUSIC: Jazz • Blues • R&B • Latin • Pop
Conscious Hip/Hop • NEO-Soul • DJ intermission

Multicultural Food • Marketplace • Information Village • Parade

Visit The Kids Space on Saturday and Sunday from 12-6pm for exciting games, face painting, puppet shows, and Legacy’s Emanuel “Trauma Nurses Talk Tough” \$6 discounted bicycle helmet sale and general bike repair.

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