

Kam's Kapsules: Movies Opening Friday, Dec. 25, 2015

BIG BUDGET FILMS

Concussion (PG-13 for profanity, mature themes and disturbing images) David vs. Goliath saga about the National Football League's attempt to discredit the forensic pathologist (Will Smith) whose research established a link between hits to the head and the early onset of a host of neurological disorders in football players. Cast includes Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Alec Baldwin, Albert Brooks, Hill Harper, Richard T. Jones, Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje and Eddie Marsan.

Daddy's Home (PG-13 for profanity, crude humor, suggestive material and mature themes) Dysfunctional family dramedy about the competition between a resurfacing biological father (Mark Wahlberg) and his ex-wife's (Linda Cardellini)



Kam Williams
Kam's Kapsules Movie Reviews

Rossellini, Virginia Madsen, Edgar Ramirez, Diane Ladd, Melissa Rivers, Susan Lucci and Drena De Niro.

Point Break (PG-13 for violence, profanity, sexuality, mature themes and drug use) Remake of the 1991 thriller about an FBI Agent (Luke Bracey) who infiltrates a gang of globe-trotting, extreme sports daredevils suspected of staging a string of daring, financial market heists. With Edgar Ramirez, Teresa Palmer and Ray Winstone.

The Revenant (R for profanity, graphic vio-

lence, gory images, brief nudity and a rape) Adaptation of Michael Punke's tale of survival, set in Wyoming in 1823, about a frontiersman's harrowing ordeal after being mauled by a bear and left to die in the wilderness by members of his hunting party. Support cast includes Tom Hardy, Domhnall Gleeson and Will Poulter. (In English, French and Native American dialects with subtitles)

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INDEPENDENT & FOREIGN FILMS

45 Years (R for profanity and brief sexuality) Marital crisis drama about a couple (Charlotte Rampling and Tom Courtenay) whose 45th anniversary party plans are jeopardized by the discovery of the corpse of his girlfriend missing more than a half-century. With Geraldine James, Dolly Wells and Hannah Chalmers.

TransFatty Lives (Unrated) Bittersweet biopic featuring writer/director Patrick O'Brien filming himself after being

Film Review: 'Concussion' Delivers Will Smith Offers Oscar-Quality Performance

By Kam Williams
For The Skanner News

In 2002, Will Smith landed his first Academy Award nomination for *Ali*, a riveting biopic about Muhammad Ali directed by Michael Mann. Although a cultural icon in his own right, Smith managed to disappear into the role in the process of delivering a brilliant performance as the greatest boxer of all time.

Despite his being able to "float like a butterfly and sting like a bee," the

sport eventually exacted a devastating toll on the champ. For Ali would become afflicted with a host of neurological disorders as a consequence of taking so many hits to the head.

While fans call it being "punch drunk," the clinical term for the condition is Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE). What's ironic is that Will Smith is on the verge of landing another Oscar nomination for *Concussion*, a picture in which he plays Dr. Bennet Omalu, the Nigeria-born

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Jennifer Lawrence stars in 'Joy', which is based on a true story, of a housewife turned inventor

new husband (Will Ferrell) for the affection of the kids (Scarlett Estevez and Owen Vaccaro) from the first marriage. With Thomas Haden Church, Alessandra Ambrosio and Cedric Yarbrough.

The Hateful Eight (R for profanity, frontal nudity, graphic gore and a scene of eroticized violence) Quentin Tarantino directed this post-Civil War saga set in Wyoming revolving around a bounty hunter (Kurt Russell) whose stagecoach runs into trouble while bringing an apprehended fugitive (Jennifer Jason Leigh) to justice. Featuring Samuel L. Jackson, Channing Tatum, Michael Madsen, Bruce Dern, Tim Roth and Zoe Bell.

Joy (PG-13 for brief profanity) David O. Russell wrote and directed this fact-based drama about the cash-strapped single-mom (Jennifer Lawrence) who turned her family's fortunes around by inventing the Miracle Mop. Ensemble cast includes Bradley Cooper, Robert De Niro, Isabella

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30 OREGON LOTTERY

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