

# Film Review: 'Ghostbusters' Far Funnier Than the Original



Leslie Jones, Melissa McCarthy, Kristen Wiig, and Kate McKinnon star in the new 'Ghostbusters' movie.

By Kam Williams  
For The Skanner News

Released way back in the summer of '84, "Ghostbusters" raked in almost a quarter-billion dollars at the box office, making it the most successful comedy of the 1980s. Enough time has apparently passed to remake the much-beloved farce, though director Paul Feig ("Bridesmaids") has seen fit to tweak the plot, starting with changing the gender of the leads from male to female.

Wisely, Feig has not only tapped a quartet of consummate comedienne in Melissa McCarthy, Kristen Wiig, Kate McKinnon and Leslie Jones but craft-

Holtzmann (McKinnon), Professors of the Paranormal at the mythical Higgins Institute of Science.

The eccentric academics are gung ho to explore the haunted house, despite the fact that they have been unable to prove the existence of any apparitions. En route, they pick up Abby's estranged BFF, relatively-skeptical Columbia Professor Erin Gilbert (Wiig), and Patty Tolan (Jones), a token booth clerk scared by a spook she saw in a subway tunnel.

But the fallout from bad buzz causes all the profs to lose their jobs. Undeterred, they proceed to turn a loft above a Chinese restaurant into a research lab, hire a handsome, half-wit-

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ed a script which plays to each of their respective strengths. The upshot is a hilarious reboot that pays homage to the first film while remaining refreshingly unique in its own right. Plus, the movie features surprisingly-amusing appearances by original cast members Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd, Sigourney Weaver, Ernie Hudson and Annie Potts in new roles.

The point of departure is stately Aldridge mansion in Manhattan, where we find a tour guide (Zach Woods) inadvertently releasing the disembodied spirit of Gertrude Aldridge (Bess Rous), a serial killer who had been permanently locked in a dungeon and fed through a slot in the door after killing all of her family servants in 1894. An attack by the evil apparition prompts the slimed victim to enlist the assistance of Abby Yates (McCarthy) and Jillian

ted secretary (Chris Hemsworth) and convert a hearse borrowed from sassy Patty's mortician uncle (Ernie Hudson) into the official Ghostbusters mobile. Cue the resuscitated, Oscar-nominated theme song.

Soon, these self-proclaimed "Conductors of the Metaphysical" develop an arsenal of high-tech gadgets ranging from ray guns to a ghost shredder to a motion-activated proton glove. And not a minute too soon, since the next thing you know, New York City is being invaded by an army of menacing apparitions.

A laugh-a-minute, female empowerment fantasy far funnier than the original.

Excellent ★★★★★  
Rated PG-13 for action and crude humor  
Running time: 116 min

# The 'Ghostbusters' Interview: Who You Gonna Call? Kate and Leslie!

By Kam Williams  
For The Skanner News

Comedienne Leslie Jones was hired as a writer by Saturday Night Live in 2014 and quickly gained popularity after a memorable on-air appearance during the show's "Weekend Update" segment. So, she was subsequently officially invited to join SNL's ensemble cast during the show's 40th season.

Earlier this year, Leslie shared the stage with Tracy Morgan, Chris Rock and Whoopi Goldberg in an epic Academy Awards sketch in a montage re-imagining some classic, Oscar-winning films with black actors. Her movie credits include Chris Rock's "Top Five," Judd Apatow's "Trainwreck," and the upcoming Masterminds, co-starring Kate McKinnon and Kristen Wiig.

Currently, Leslie can be seen on TV in an Allstate Insurance commercial that's in heavy rotation.

Kate McKinnon is also an SNL cast member and has been nominated for three Primetime Emmy Awards for her work on the show. Since coming aboard in April 2012, she has entertained viewers with her critically-acclaimed impersonations of Hillary Clinton, Justin Bieber and Ellen DeGeneres.

Kate was recently seen in Sisters opposite Tina Fey and Amy Poehler, and as the voices of Wife Fish in Finding



Leslie Jones

Dory and of Stella in The Angry Birds Movie. In December, she'll co-star opposite Jason Bateman and Jennifer Aniston in Office Christmas Party.

**Kam Williams:** Hi Leslie, hi Kate. Thanks for the interview.

**Kate McKinnon:** [Shouts] Kam! how are you?

**Leslie Jones:** Hey, Kam.

**KW:** I'm doing great, and I absolutely loved this film.

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