

Marc Lamont Hill: The 'Nobody' Interview

By Kam Williams for The Skanner News

Marc Lamont Hill is one of America's leading intellectual voices. He is currently the host of "BET News" and "VH1 Live," as well as a political contributor on CNN. Marc has received

prestigious awards from the National Association of Black Journalists, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance against Defamation and the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences, to name a few. He holds a Ph.D with distinction from the University of Pennsylvania and currently serves on the

faculty of Morehouse College as its Distinguished Professor of African-American Studies.

Here, he talks about his new book, "Nobody: Casualties of America's War on the Vulnerable, from Ferguson to Flint and Beyond."

Kam Williams: Hi

Marc, thanks for this opportunity to speak with you.

Marc Lamont Hill: My pleasure.

KW: I really enjoyed the book. What inspired you to write it?

MLH: It started with the death of Michael Brown. When I got to Ferguson to cover the funeral and the aftermath of the shooting for "BET News," I found more than I expected. I realized that there was so much more to the story than what was being

represented in the news. It was deeper than [Police Officer] Darren Wilson and Mike Brown. It was also about all these other factors that made Mike Brown nobody long before he ever walked onto Canfield Drive the day of the shooting

was shot? Also, the grand jury concluded that he never said, "Hands up, don't shoot!" Wouldn't it be better to rally around a more deserving victim? Whatever happened to

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represented in the news. It was deeper than [Police Officer] Darren Wilson and Mike Brown. It was also about all these other factors that made Mike Brown nobody long before he ever walked onto Canfield Drive the day of the shooting. I really just intended to tell the story of Ferguson, but then Daniel Pantaleo

ing prosecuted everywhere that allows the state violence to occur in the first place.

KW: Do you have any qualms about using Mike Brown as the poster child of the Black Lives Matter Movement when he was caught on tape robbing a convenience store a few minutes before he

Dr. King's notion of judging not by the color of the skin but by the content of the character?

MLH: Black Lives Matter emerged months before Michael Brown was ever killed. So, the movement had already started. It certainly got a lot of energy and focus after his

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FILM REVIEW: 'Hell or High Water' a Captivating Cat-and-Mouse Crime Thriller

By Kam Williams For The Skanner News

Tanner (Ben Foster) and Toby Howard (Chris Pine) are siblings but about as different as night and day. The former is impulsive, reckless and sociopathic, a combination which helps explain why he's spent a long stretch in prison for a violent crime. By comparison, his younger brother is a relatively stable, sensitive and chivalrous soul.



'Hell or High Water'

raised the amount needed to retire the debt. The two proceed to embark on a spree aimed solely at the avaricious institution that had taken advantage of their very vulnerable mom.

However, the heists soon come to the attention of the Texas Rangers, and the case is assigned to Marcus Hamilton (Jeff Bridges) a wily old veteran weeks away from retirement. It's not long before he and his half-breed Comanche partner (Gil Birmingham) are on the pair's trail.

Thus unfolds "Hell or High Water," a captivating, cat-and-mouse crime thriller directed by Brit David Mackenzie (Starred Up). Between Taylor Sheridan's (Sicario) engaging, character-driven script and a plethora of powerful performances by Jeff Bridges and company, this bona fide sleeper would be generating tons of Oscar buzz if it hadn't been released in the dog days of August.

A neo-noir masterpiece not to be missed!

Excellent ★★★★★

Rated R for graphic violence, pervasive profanity and brief sexuality

Running time: 102 minutes

While Tanner was behind bars, divorced Toby has divided his time between raising his two sons (John Paul Howard and Christopher W. Garcia) and caring for his terminally-ill mother. So, it's no surprise that upon his mom's recent demise, she cut that ne'er-do-well black sheep of the family out of her will entirely, leaving her sizable estate to her only honorable offspring.

Unfortunately, a shady loan officer (Richard Christie) had duped her into taking a reverse mortgage on her cattle ranch for a pittance. Consequently, a predatory lending institution is holding a lien on land which Toby has just learned is sitting atop a fortune in untapped oil reserves. But unless the note is paid off by Friday, Texas Midlands bank will follow through on its threat to foreclose, "Come hell or high water."

Toby wants to save the property and sign it over to his boys. Trouble is, he can't raise the cash. The dilemma has him considering breaking the law for the first time in his life.

Enlisting the assistance of his just-paroled brother, he hatches a plan to rob Texas Midlands branches until they've

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