Arts & Entertainment

Deepwater cont'd from pg 8



'The Birth of a Nation'

dollars in damages to thousands of aggrieved parties.

Directed by Peter Berg (Battleship), "Deepwater Horizon" revisits the infamous incident primarily from the perspective of the rig's Chief Electronics Technician, Mike Williams. The picture reunites Berg with Mark Wahlberg with whom he previously collaborated on Lone Survivor.

Wahlberg plays Williams, a working-class hero of unquestioned integrity. As the film unfolds, we find him bidding adieu to his family before departing for a 21-day tour on the Horizon. If only Mike had heeded warning signs like his wife's (Kate Hudson) premonitions and his daughter Sydney's (Stella Allen) science project with a Coke can geyser gone kabluey, he might have had the good sense to call in sick.

The same could be said of his colleague Andrea Fleytas (Gina Rodriguez), a mechanic who couldn't get her car started that same morning. Even the helicopter ferrying them to work experienced an ominous bird strike en route to the platform. And upon landing, they're greeted by a pal with a macabre skull and crossbones emblazoned on his hard hat.

Of far more significance are Don Vidrine (John Malkovich) and Bob Kaluza (Brad Leland), the bigwig BP bureaucrats who begin bullying their employees from the minute the chopper lands on the deck. This clueless pair of villains prove willing to put profits before any safety concerns, so it's no surprise when the platform's unstable drill pipe pops its cork.

The spectacular, pyrotechnic calamity which follows affords Mike an opportunity not only to play hero in a sea of fire but to later shame the cowardly culprits responsible in court. A harrowing tale of survival topped off by justice duly being served. What more could you ask for from an action-oriented morality play?

Excellent $\star \star \star \star$

Rated PG-13 for intense action sequences, disturbing images and brief profanity

Running time: 107 min. Distributor: Lionsgate Films

Stars Expose Problems, Seek Solutions on 'America Divided'

Documentary series looks at housing, education, health care, education and voting rights

NEW YORK (AP) – Norman Lear, a show business legend and full-throated humanist, set out last spring to rent a modest apartment in the Bronx.

The landlord welcomed this incognito white man with a couple of offers.

Not so lucky was an African American man who had come to him the day before. The landlord, insisting nothing was available, brusquely turned that man away.

This undercover mission, as well as Lear's

subsequent blowing the whistle on the landlord, was filmed for "America Divided," a star-driven, eye-opening probe into systemic inequality in the U.S. today not only in housing but also education, health care, labor, criminal justice and voting rights.

The five-week docuseries, which premieres Friday at 9 p.m. EDT on Epix, employs the 94-year-old Lear (armed with a hidden camera) as one of its correspondents as well as an executive producer.

"I'm happy to have reached the 1 percent," said Lear, back in New York, where he spent part of his childhood,



This image released by Epix shows Rob Robinson, left, with producer Norman Lear in a scene from the documentary, "America Divided." The five-week docuseries, which premieres Friday at 9 p.m. EDT on Epix.

to shoot his report, "but I started as a kid in the Depression whose father was serving (prison) time. But what was wonderful about America was it offered me opportunity. And it promised that opportunity to everybody else, regardless of the color of their skin. After all these years, that promise has yet to be delivered on. I care about that." Others who care include:

- Hip-hop artist and actor Common, who explores diaparities in the arimi
 - who explores disparities in the criminal justice system in his hometown of Chicago in the aftermath of the 2014 police killing of teenager Laquan Mc-

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Movies cont'd from pg 8

for gun reform legislation in the wake of the mass murder of 6 teachers and 20 students at an elementary school.

Theo Who Lived (Unrated) Radical Islam documentary chronicling the harrowing ordeal of Theo Padnos, an American journalist who was kidnapped by terrorists in Syria and held for 22 months, but lived to tell the tale.

Torchbearer (Unrated) Faith-based documentary delineating the philosophy of Phil Robertson, patriarch of the family featured on the reality-TV series Duck Dynasty. Voiceless (PG-13 for violence and mature themes) Pro-life drama about a Born Again war veteran (Rusty Joiner) who relocates with his wife (Jocelyn Cruz) to Philly where he puts his marriage and new job in jeopardy by taking a stand against an abortion clinic opening

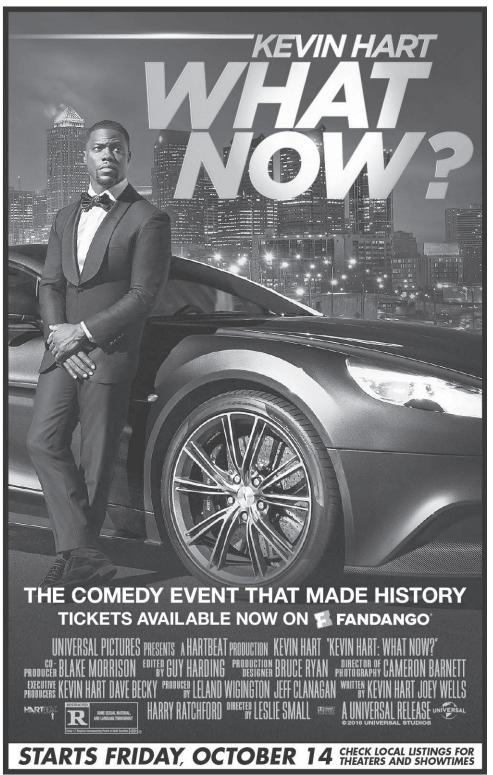
across the street from the church where he works. With Paul Rodriguez, James Russo and Victoria Gates.

Voyage of Time: Life's Journey (PG-13 for nudity and disturbing im-

ages) Terrence Malick directed this ethereal eco-documentary, narrated by Cate Blanchett, exploring the Earth's past as well as humanity's future prospects on the planet









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