

Arts & Entertainment

FILM REVIEW: Casey Affleck and Rooney Mara Co-Star in Surrealistic 'A Ghost Story'

By Kam Williams
For The Skanner News

C(Casey Affleck) and M (Rooney Mara) are a nondescript young couple living in a modest ranch house in suburban Texas. Nothing of note transpires between the happily-married lovebirds besides carnal canoodling interrupted by things that go bump in the night.

The next morning, bliss turns to tragedy when he suddenly passes away in a car crash at the mouth of their driveway. Grief-stricken M is summoned to the morgue where she only lingers long enough to identify her husband's body.

But as soon she leaves, matters enter another dimension when the ghost of C miraculously stands up and walks out of the place under the white sheet covering the corpse. Like a homing pigeon, the disembodied spirit proceeds to make his way back to his humble abode, deliberately traipsing across a rolling, verdant field to take

the most direct route.

By the way, C's flowing white linen covering (with a couple of eyeholes conveniently poked out) has somehow been rendered invisible to the naked eye. This ghost is mute, so there's no "Honey, I'm home!" when he literally walks through the door.

M mourns, oblivious of C's ethereal presence, despite his hovering over her obsessively. He might be frustrated by his inability to make contact. Or he might just want to protect. It's hard to

“A pretentious speculation on loss from the perspective of the dearly departed

tell, since he never talks. Then, when she vacates the premises, he stays behind, and starts to spook the new residents, as if scaring them away might bring his wife back.

Thus unfolds "A Ghost Story," a pretentious speculation on loss from the perspective of the dearly departed. The tortoise-paced production



'A Ghost Story'

might be best described as a series of stark, shadowy tableaux, like an Ed-

ward Hopper painting come to life.

The picture was written and directed by David Lowery (Pete's Dragon), and co-stars a couple of consummate thespians in Oscar-winner Casey Affleck (for Manchester by the Sea) and two-time nominee Rooney Mara (for "Carol" and "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo").

The pair's considerable talents are underutilized, here, since Casey's hidden under a Halloween costume 90 percent of the time, and Rooney's character disappears about halfway through the movie.

Though Casey is earnest in his attempt to convey a range of emotions from under the sheet, ultimately, it's the cinematic equivalent of watching a little kid try to fight his way out of a paper bag.

Good ★★

Rated R for brief profanity and a disturbing image
Running time: 87 min.

BOOK REVIEW: 'Book of Black Heroes' Looks at Political Leaders

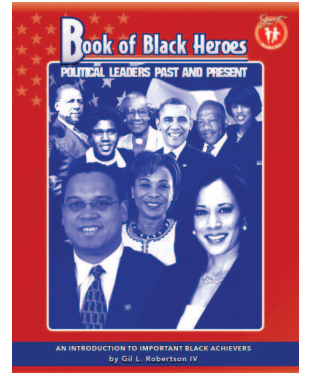
By Kam Williams
For The Skanner News

"The first African-American political leaders began to serve following the Civil War...Known as Reconstruction, this period represented a window of opportunity for African-Americans..."

Many [Black] political leaders emerged during this period, using their political power and influence to push for equality and justice for all Americans... Unfortunately, the Reconstruction period was short-lived, lasting only from 1865-1877.

States in the South... passed laws that essentially took away the citizenship rights of African-Americans... These legislative measures were called Jim Crow laws.

It would take nearly 100 years and ... the Civil Rights Movement before African-Americans would again be guaranteed the right to vote and



hold elected office... A new generation of Black political leaders is active today.

[This book] will acquaint readers with leaders of the past and will introduce new ones... Through their stories, I hope others, especially young people, will be inspired to become leaders in their own right."

—Excerpted from the Introduction (pages ix-x)

Despite the historic election of Barack Obama as the first African American president, the American Dream

See BOOK on page 8

"A Taste of Lents"

FESTIVAL

Presented by
African American Alliance for Homeownership

Saturday, July 29, 2017
12:00pm to 6:00pm
Lents Park
(Corner of SE 92nd and Holgate)

Free Ice Cream!

Live Music
Erotic City Prince Tribute Band,
Fito Roberts featuring Canacul, 2 for 30
& Ice Cold Blue

Paint Sessions by: Paint & Potion – Prince Tribute (1:00, 2:00 & 3:00pm)

Youth Activities: Blow up Basketball, Water Slide
Arts/Crafts • Vendor Sales

Local Resources & Homeownership Opportunities

FREE and Open to the Public

Sponsors
Fairway Independent Mortgage • HomeStreet Bank
Wells Fargo • Umpqua Bank
Woodland Park Neighborhood Association

www.aaah.org 503-595-3517

Over 400 FREE summer events in Portland parks!

- FREE MOVIES
- FREE LUNCH + PLAY
- FREE CONCERTS
- FREE SWIMS + MORE!

SUMMER FREE FOR ALL

FREE SUMMER FUN

IN THE PARK

SCHEDULES AND DETAILS AVAILABLE AT
portlandoregon.gov/parks/sffa

PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION™
Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

COMCAST