

Arts & Entertainment

FILM REVIEW: Kids Hunt Killer Clown in Creepy Adaptation of ‘It’

By Kam Williams
For The Skanner News

Written by master of suspense Stephen King, “It” was the bestselling book in the U.S. during 1986. The riveting pageturner was set in deceptively serene Derry, Maine, where a sadistic clown living underground in the sewers disrupted the peace of the picturesque city by preying primarily on children.

In 1990, King’s 1,184-page opus was turned into an Emmy-winning miniseries starring Tim Curry in the title role of It, better known as Pennywise. Now, the novel has been fairly-faithfully adapted to the big screen with Bill Skarsgard playing the demonic harlequin.

As the film unfolds in the fall of 1988, we find 11-year-old Bill Denbrough (Jaeden Lieberher) busy building a small sailboat

for his little brother, George (Jackson Robert Scott). One can’t help but notice a pair of observing eyes glowing ominously from a darkened corner of the spacious basement.

Then, during a heavy downpour, a grateful George launches his new toy in the freshet flowing along the gutter in front of his house. The “S.S. George” floats to the corner of the block where it is promptly swallowed by the sewer.

And when the unsuspecting kid peers down the storm drain to retrieve it, he is greet-

ed by an ingratiating stranger who playfully introduces himself as Pennywise, the Dancing Clown. After being promised a balloon, popcorn and the return of his boat, George lets his guard down long enough to be dragged into the sewer, leaving behind only a blood-stained street.

Fast-forward to the last day of the school year. Still-grieving Bill is now the leader of the Losers Club, a motley crew of social outcasts who decide to spend their summer vacation solving George’s mysterious disappearance. Of course, they have no idea they’re up against a formidable foe in the elusive, shape-shifting Pennywise.

Instead of apprehending the perpetrator, the body count merely continues to rise as other names are added to the Missing Persons list. Eerie atmospherics, a talented ensemble of adolescent actors and the creepiest clown since



The “Losers Club” in ‘It’

Heath Ledger’s Joker combine to create a macabre masterpiece that will continue to haunt you long after you leave the theater.

I can’t pass a sewer anymore without half-expecting Pennywise’s frightening face to appear!

Excellent ★★★★★

Rated R for violence, profanity and bloody images

Running time: 135 minutes

Production Studio: New Line Cinema

Distributor: Warner Brothers Pictures

To see a trailer for It, visit: TheSkanner.com.

FREE MOVIE SCREENING

WAKE OF VANPORT

Digital narratives and storytelling from flood survivors and residents

FRIDAY, SEPT. 29, 2017 • 1 PM

KENNEDY SCHOOL THEATER 5736 N.E. 33rd Ave., Portland, OR

Free to the public. Limited seating. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.

★★★★★ Together, this touching collection of truly heartfelt remembrances paint a poignant portrait of a short-lived, idyllic oasis —Movie Critic Kam Williams

REGISTER ONLINE AT <https://wake-of-vanport.eventbrite.com>

PHOTO: Survivors gather on high ground to watch the destruction of Vanport. May 30, 1948. Photo by Allen deLay (1915-2005) ©Thomas Robinson

ESSAY CONTEST

2 WINNERS CHOSEN

What are the Lessons You’ve Learned from Vanport?

Submit an essay telling us, in your own words, what you have learned about the lost city of Vanport and the flood that destroyed it

Essays must be no more than 700 words and will be judged by The Skanner editorial staff. Two winners will be chosen. \$1,000 will be given to the writer of each winning essay at “The Wake of Vanport” event on September 29, 2017 at The Kennedy School Theater beginning at 1:00 p.m. Participants must be present at the event to win. Submit essays by email to frontdesk@theskanner.com. Include your full name, email and phone number with your entry. Deadline to submit entries is September 20, 2017. One entry per person. Contest is open to all ages.

TWO \$1,000 WINNERS

SPONSORED BY:

OREGON LOTTERY It Does Good Things™

SWEET JAM Southern Breakfast Meets Music

THE Skanner

The Skanner Foundation • North Portland Multimedia Training Center (NPMTC)
Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission • Portland Community Media
The Regional Arts and Culture Council • The Oregon Historical Society
The National Endowment for the Arts: Art Works • The Hollywood Theatre