

Arts & Entertainment

Kam's Kapsules: Movies Opening Friday, Jan. 19

BIG BUDGET FILMS

12 Strong (R for violence and pervasive profanity) Adaptation of "Horse Soldiers," Doug Stanton's best seller chronicling the declassified exploits of a Special Forces unit deployed to Afghanistan in the wake of the 9/11 attacks. Co-starring Chris Hemsworth, Michael Shannon, William Fichtner, Michael Pena, Rob Riggle and Trevante Rhodes.

Den of Thieves (R for violence, profanity, sexuality and nudity) Crime caper revolving around a seasoned team of bank robbers' audacious plan to steal \$120 million in cash from the L.A. branch of the Federal Reserve Bank. Cast includes Ge-



Kam Williams
Kam's Kapsules Movie Reviews

consumption) Romance drama revolving around a country music star's (Alex Roe) reunion with the childhood sweetheart (Jessica Rothe) he left at the altar a decade earlier when he returns home for his best friend's funeral. Support cast includes John Benjamin Hickey, Abby Ryder and Travis Tritt.

The Leisure Seeker (R for sexuality and mature themes) Adaptation of Michael Zadoorian's bittersweet best seller about a couple of ailing octoge-

Moloney and Joshua Mikel.

INDEPENDENT & FOREIGN FILMS

Delirium (R for violence and disturbing images) Horrifying horror flick about a just-discharged mental patient (Topher Grace) who inherits a haunted house from his recently-deceased parents (Robin Thomas and Daisy McCrackin). With Patricia Clarkson, Genesis Rodriguez and Callan Mulvey.

The Final Year (Unrated) Lame duck documentary chronicling the accomplishments of President Obama's foreign policy team during his last months in office. Featuring behind-the-scenes footage of Obama, Secretary of State John Kerry and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power.

Kangaroo (Unrated) Macropodidae marsupial documentary chronicling Australia's long-standing love-hate relationship with its national animal.

Mama Africa (Unrated) Reverential documentary about Miriam Makeba (1932-2008), the South African singer/political activist who lived in exile until the end of Apartheid. Featuring archival footage of Nelson and Winnie Mandela, Kathleen Cleaver, Harry Belafonte and her husband, Stokely Carmichael. (In English and



'Den of Thieves' stars stars Gerard Butler, 50 Cent, Pablo Schreiber, O'Shea Jackson Jr., Evan Jones, Dawn Olivieri, Mo'Nique, and Max Holloway

French with subtitles)

Mary and the Witch's Flower (PG for action and mature themes) Animated fantasy based on "The Little Broomstick" by Mary Stewart, a children's novel about a bored, 10 year-old (Hana Sugisaki) who escapes her humdrum life with the help of a magical broomstick which enables her to fly above the clouds. With Ryunosuke Kamiki, Yuki Amami and Fumiyo Kohinata. (In Japanese with subtitles)

Mom & Dad (R for sexuality, nudity, teen drug use, disturbing violence and pervasive profanity) Selma Blair and Nicolas Cage play the title characters in this horror comedy about a day-long hysteria of unknown origin that turns parents all over the world into homicidal maniacs out to kill their own kids. Supporting cast

includes Annie Winters, Lance Henriksen and Rachel Melvin.

Step Sisters (PG-13 for sexuality, crude humor, partying, profanity and drug references) Cross-cultural comedy about a Harvard Law School-bound black undergrad (Megaly

Echikunwoke) who decides to choreograph dance routines for her rhythmically-challenged, white sorority sisters so they can enter the annual step competition. With Eden Sher, Natori Naughton, Destiny Lopez and Gage Golightly.



'Mama Africa'

ard Butler, 50 Cent, Pablo Schreiber and O'Shea Jackson, Jr.

Forever My Girl (PG for mature themes, mild epithets and alcohol

narians (Helen Mirren and Donald Sutherland) who ignore doctors' orders to embark on a final cross-country trip in their trusty RV. With Kirsty Mitchell, Janet

FILM REVIEW: Hanks and Streep in 'The Post'



Tom Hanks and Meryl Streep in 'The Post'

By Kam Williams
For The Skanner News

"The Post" is a picture fated to be compared to a couple of classic newsroom thrillers: "All the President's Men" (1976) and "Spotlight" (2015). Like the former, it's set in Washington, D.C. in the 1970s and revolves around an attempt by the Nixon administration to prevent the publication of incriminating information leaked to the Washington Post by a whistleblower. And it's eerily similar to the Best Picture Oscar-winner "Spotlight" in that they're both ensemble dramas recounting an idealistic newspaper's legal battle on behalf of freedom of the press.

Risk-averse Hollywood honchos have a very predictable habit of parroting success, which means it's just a matter of time before a knockoff of a big hit arrives in theaters. In this case, "Spotlight" scriptwriter Josh Singer, was tapped to tweak first-timer Liz Hannah's original screenplay about the Pentagon Papers.

So it makes sense that

one might have great expectations of the production, given that it was also directed by the legendary Steven Spielberg and co-stars Tom Hanks and perennial Oscar-nominee Meryl Streep. But while the movie is certainly worth seeing, it's actually a disappointment, given the cast and crew's impressive pedigree.

The picture's point of departure is Vietnam in 1966, which is where we find Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara (Bruce Greenwood) on a fact-finding tour. Upon landing back in the States, he lies through his teeth on the tarmac to put a positive spin on the odds of America winning the war.

Fast forward five years, which is when military analyst Daniel Ellsberg (Matthew Rhys) goes rogue after becoming disillusioned by the government's continued cover-up. He then proceeds to turn over to the *Washington Post* and other publications an internal, Department of Defense report about the war. Dubbed the "Pen-

See FILM on page 11



A career you can be proud of.

Being a carpenter isn't just a job. It's a way of life. We're devoted to strengthening the lives of our members with steady work, wealth and personal growth.

We take a stand for our members and all workers. We work together to lead the building industry in safety, training and compensation. We create rich lives for our members and partners.

To learn more about becoming a union carpenter, go to NWCarpenters.org.

PORTLAND:
1636 East Burnside, Portland, OR 97214 | 503.261.1862
HEADQUARTERS:
25120 Pacific Hwy S, #200, Kent, WA 98032 | 253.954.8800
More than 20,000 members in the Pacific Northwest.