

# FILM REVIEW: Mutant Monsters Decimate the Windy City in 'Rampage'

By Kam Williams  
For The Skanner News

Hey, sci-fi fans, did you find it hard to stomach the sight of a human mating with another species in "The Shape of Water," too? If so, have I got a movie that'll wash the bad taste right out of your mouth.

Call me shallow, but I much prefer this old-fashioned monster flick. Loosely based on the video game of the same name, "Rampage" is reminiscent of campy Japanese classics like "Godzilla" (1954), "King Kong vs. Godzilla" (1962) and "Mothra vs. Godzilla" (1964).

But instead of decimating Tokyo, the gargantuan creatures here have



Dwayne Johnson and Naomie Harris in 'Rampage'

The anthropomorphic primate actually has a name, George (Jason Li-

need of redemption with access to an antidote. But before the cure can be administered, brace yourself for generous helpings of horror fare, ranging from the scaling of skyscrapers, to mass hysteria in mob scenes, to my favorite, helicopters swallowed whole.

Rampage marks the third time director Brad Peyton has collaborated with Dwayne Johnson following the equally-bombastic "Journey 2" (2012) and "San Andreas" (2015). The capable supporting cast includes Naomie Harris, Jeffrey Dean Morgan, Malin Akerman and Joe Manganiello.

For all the visually-captivating action sequences, what I enjoyed most about "Rampage" was the comic relief coming

courtesy of the hero, and invariably in the middle of major mayhem, as if to remind everybody that we're just watching a movie. After a sightseeing boat filled with tourists flips over, Davis says, "Well, that sucks." Then, when an iconic building is flattened, it's, "I need a drink." And as a menacing creature unexpectedly takes flight, he matter-of-factly moans, "Of course, the wolf flies."

Not only breathtaking stunts but perfect comic timing from a beefy action star at the top of his game!

Excellent ★★★★★

Rated PG-13 for violence, mass destruction, brief profanity and obscene gestures

To see the trailer, visit [TheSkanner.com](http://TheSkanner.com).

“For all the visually-captivating action sequences, what I enjoyed most about 'Rampage' was the comic relief

their sights set on the Windy City. Another significant difference is that "Rampage" is a big-budget spectacular that relies heavily on CGI and state-of-the-art special effects.

Otherwise, you know the drill. Some ordinary animals morph into man-eating beasts in the wake of a scientific experiment gone terribly wrong. In this case, we have a wolf, a crocodile and an albino gorilla mutating into predators.

les). That's because he was raised in captivity by Davis Okoye (Dwayne Johnson), an ape-whisperer stationed in Rwanda where he heads an anti-poaching unit dedicated to the preservation of endangered species.

However, he makes a beeline to Chicago as soon as he receives word that the enormous animals have begun wreaking havoc. There, he joins forces with Dr. Kate Caldwell (Naomie Harris), a disgraced geneticist in

## Bill Cosby's Lawyers Get Slammed By Advocates for Women

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP) — The sexual assault case against Bill Cosby went to the jury Wednesday as his lawyers came under heavy criticism for what some called a blatant attempt to "victim-shame" the parade of women who have leveled accusations against the 80-year-old comedian.

In the first big celebrity trial of the #MeToo era, the panel of seven men and five women began weighing charges that Cosby drugged and molested a woman at his suburban Philadelphia home 14 years ago.

He says his encounter with former Temple University women's basketball executive Andrea Constand was consensual.

Trying to keep him out of prison, Cosby's lawyers launched a withering attack on Constand and five other women who told the jury that the former TV star had drugged and assaulted them, too.

Defense attorney Kathleen Bliss chastised Constand for "cavorting around with a married man old enough to be her grandfather." She derided the other

women as home-wreckers and suggested they made up their stories in a bid for money and fame.

She questioned the "personal morality" of one accuser and called another, model Janice Dickinson, a "failed starlet" and "aged-out model" who "sounds as though she slept with every man on the planet."

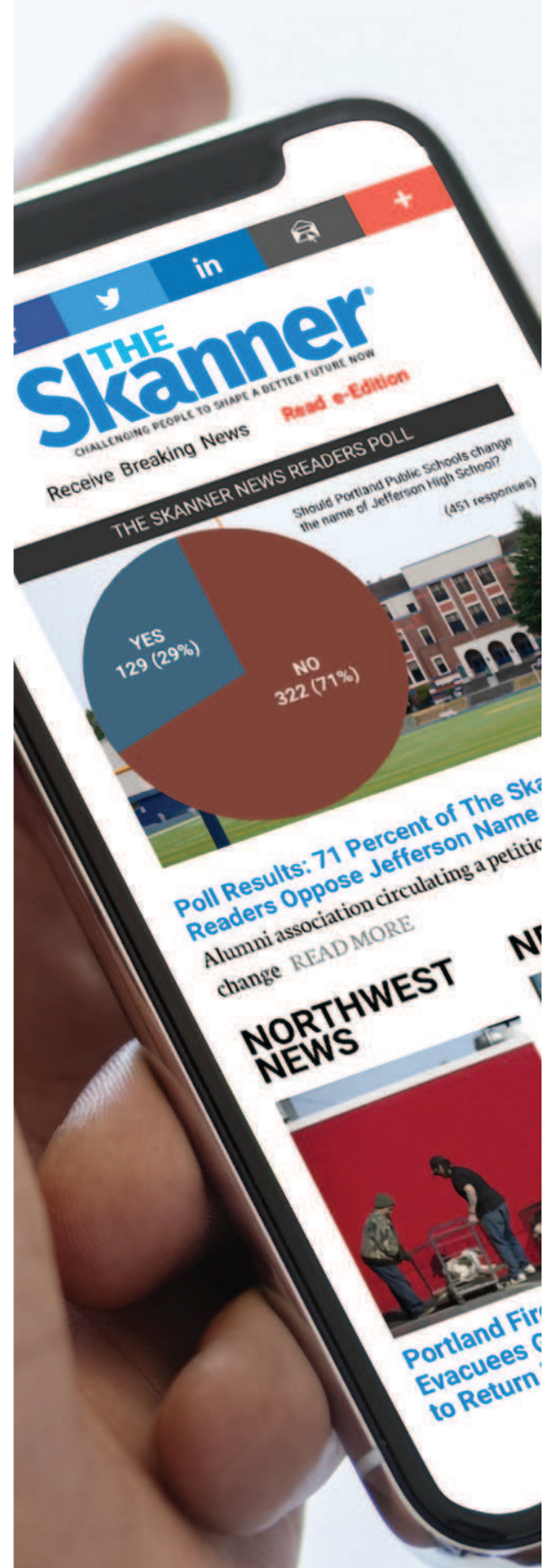
And she slammed the #MeToo movement itself, calling Cosby its victim and likening it to a witch hunt or a lynching.

Critics said the defense team went too far.

"They're playing on the same old myths that have been protecting perpetrators for centuries," said Kristen Houser of the National Sexual Violence Resource Center. She said the defense's closing argument was filled with "rampant and ingrained" misconceptions about sexual assault and victim behavior.

"It was not only an attack on these six accusers," Houser said, "it was a verbal slap to survivors all across this country."

# INFORMATION IS POWERFUL



**THE Skanner NEWS**

CHALLENGING PEOPLE TO SHAPE A BETTER FUTURE NOW

SINCE 1975

## 100 Years

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of dollars due 300,000 members from many tribes for the lease of assorted land and mineral rights.

Exhibiting an unwavering determination, Elouise did ultimately prevail after a three-decade battle with the Department of the Interior. That selfless, indefatigable effort is at the heart 100 Years: One Woman's Fight for Justice.

The eye-opening documentary was directed by Melinda Janko, who skillfully chronicled the landmark legal case in rather riveting fashion. Overall, a very moving tribute to an intrepid crusader who not only spoke truth to power but miraculously emerged victorious.

Excellent ★★★★★

Unrated