

Movie Review

By Zach Wetzel

I hope Katniss and all the other characters in these Hunger Games films were able to get some serious therapy after this last film. They definitely needed it. Mockingjay Part 2 (or Hunger Games: War Zone as I call it) is like an extended version of Mufasa's death from Lion King. Be warned. And bring tissues. I enjoyed the "spectacle" and the action. But I need a bit more comedy in my movies. Don't get me wrong, this is a beautifully shot and expertly crafted film. It's just not happy. At all. Quick update for the

stragglers: don't jump into this one without prior knowledge. But if you must know, Katniss (Jennifer Lawrence) and friends are fighting for survival in a world that looks like 1984 on steroids. The rebels (Star Wars anyone?) are fighting the evil Capitol. They have to get through a series of brutal and sadistic "traps" (this made me think of the Saw films) to get to the President's mansion and kill the President. Mockingjay is a war film, and as such it is a hard PG-13. Heed the rating on this one, and do not bring the kids. I was genuinely disturbed a couple of times, and you are talking to someone who has seen some pretty

gnarly stuff.

Mockingjay Part 2 is based on the second half of the Mockingjay novel. Unlike its predecessor, this one feels more fleshed out and not much time is wasted, akin to Deathly Hallows part 2. Phillip Seymour Hoffman is brilliant in this film, may he rest in peace. Jennifer Lawrence proves once again why she is an Oscar-winner. Donald Sutherland gave me goose bumps as the twisted President Snow, although I still think of him as the stoner's dad in Horrible Bosses. Great explosions and ac-

tion in this film, but the high death toll kind of takes the fun out of it, especially since many of these deaths involve children. Mockingjay: War Zone is a step above Part 1 and the original Hunger Games, but not quite as good as Catching Fire. But if you like the Hunger Games saga, you will be pleased with what they have done here. The ending is more satisfying on-screen than in the book. They did a good job adding more closure at the end. I should also mention that Star Wars comes out next month. What does that have to do with Hunger Games? Absolutely nothing.



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USD Arts & Sciences Dean Advances Humanities Across South Dakota

Matthew C. Moen, dean of the University of South Dakota's College of Arts & Sciences, has been elected to a two-year term as chairman of the 18-member board of directors of the South Dakota Humanities Council (SDHC). Its signature event is the free annual Festival of Books, which attracts several thousand participants to programs over several days. Funded mostly by the National Endowment for the Humanities and by private contributions, the South Dakota Humanities Council also delivers cultural programs to dozens of communities around the state each year through book tours, speakers, library and museum events, and major and mini grants to humanities scholars and other cultural organizations.

Moen joined the SDHC in 2011 as one of four gubernatorial appointees to the board. He said he is grateful to Gov. Dennis Daugaard for the chance to serve with other citizen volunteers to promote the public humanities and advance its three-fold mission of celebrating literature, promoting civility and telling the stories that define our state.

"The South Dakota Humanities Council is an organization that cares deeply about the quality of life in our entire state, from our population centers to our reservation communities to our most rural towns," Moen said. "We work to enrich the lives of our fellow South Dakotans by exposing them to interesting books, prominent authors and challenging ideas. And we try to do so in a quiet and civil way in an often noisy world."

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