

## **Kong: Skull Island**

(2017, 1 hour and 58 minutes)

Directed by: Jordan Vogt-Roberts

Starring: Tom Hiddleston, Samuel L. Jackson, Brie Larson and John C. Reilly

Rated: PG-13



In a brand new, retelling of the King Kong story comes *Kong: Skull Island*. If you are a King Kong fan, you will probably like the movie (I am, and I did!).

It is a great pop-corn movie – it has great action sequences, good CGI, a fantastic monster story, humorous characters (and yes, it does have a body count!).

A scientific and military expedition set out to discover and explore this undiscovered island and find Kong, our missing WWII pilot and a series of strange creatures.

In an effort to "smoke" out the creatures (unknown to the military), the bombing awakens Kong, and he becomes the target of the hostility and the rage of the commander. Throughout the whole movie, he is insisting on returning to the site Kong appears so that he could avenge the death of his men and get revenge on Kong.

But not all is as it appears. You come to find out that Kong is actually a protector of the humans who live on the island. Samuel L. Jackson's intense portrayal of a commander who cannot see past his hatred of the beast refuses to see the protective nature of Kong. Ultimately, the surviving scientists and others make it off the island and come to appreciate the actions of the great ape!

As I watch the movie, it is also an affirmation of a significant societal truth.

Not everything is as it appears and we cannot (or at least should not) judge a creature upon its imposing size or seeming hostility. We must be willing to move beyond our preconceptions, our built-in prejudices, and our experiential bitterness and not make assumptions about our environment and those who are in it.

I didn't go into a movie thinking that it would challenge my social consciousness. However, this film did just that. I was challenged to consider my preconceptions about my world, my surroundings and the people who inhabit it.

People are more than the hard-shelled exteriors that they often portray. They may demonstrate kindness and mercy that we do not expect. When I let my guard down and trust people, I can find that they are more than they appear and that there is kindness in the world that you would not expect.

All that...found in an ape movie. Who would have thought? I guess you can't even judge a movie by its cover either!