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**Film Clips**  
**'Free State of Jones' is Another Triumph for McConaughey**

By Derek Zembrak



Photo provided

**"Free State of Jones"** is based on a novel by Victoria E. Byrum that hit the bookshelves in 2003. The movie begins in 1862 during the Civil War. It tells the story of a poor, rebellious Southern farmer and Union sympathizer, Newt Knight, from Jones County, Mississippi. Knight, portrayed by Oscar-winner Matthew McConaughey ("Dallas Buyers Club"), and his extraordinary armed rebellion banded together with other small town farmers and local slaves to launch an uprising against the Confederate Army that resulted in Jones County Mississippi seceding from the Confederacy.

The movie continues with Knight taking his struggles into the Reconstruction Era that includes facing off with the Ku Klux Klan.

Writer and director Gary Ross ("Seabiscuit") delivers a straightforward depiction of the Civil War period and a subject matter that is neglected in many Civil War discussions. Ross consulted with many Civil War experts, including Eric Foner of Columbia University and Martha Hodes, a professor at NYU. His research resulted in a detailed, riveting history lesson. Ross reportedly spent 10 years researching the truth before bringing "Free State of Jones" to the big screen. The movie illustrates three periods of US history: The Civil War, the Reconstruction Era and 1948.

As with many Hollywood movies of this genre, some of the characters are fictional: e.g. Daniel, the boy that Newt tries to protect during the Battle of Corinth. According to History vs. Hollywood, Daniel is a composite of various 7th Battalion men in real

life. Always the cruel Confederate soldier, Lieutenant Barbour (Bill Tangradi) is also a fictional character.

McConaughey's performance of Newt is outstanding and he will receive attention during award season. His performance is also raised when surrounded by a strong supporting cast such as Golden Globe-winner Keri Russell ("Felicity") as Newt's first wife Serana and his common-law wife, freed slave Rachel played by the stunning Gugu MBarha-Raw ("Concussion").

"Free State of Jones" is rated R for strong, graphic violence battle scenes and sexual references. It has a total running time (TRT) of two hours and 19 minutes.

**Playing this week at Lamorinda Theatres:**  
Rheem: "Independence Day: Resurgence," "Finding Dory" and "Now You See Me 2"  
Orinda: "Free State of Jones," "Finding Dory" and "Love & Friendship"

**Upcoming Events at Lamorinda Theatres:**  
**7 p.m. July 14** – FREE Movie Night at Orinda Theatre – "Stand By Me"  
**7 p.m. July 23** – Live Music at the Rheem with Eileen & Brett  
**7 p.m. July 30** – Charlie Chaplin Festival. Come see the 1921 classic, "The Kid," with a live baby-grand piano score by Patti Lie-decker.  
**2 p.m. July 20** – Moraga Movers Classic Movie Day – "The African Queen" hosted by Larry Swindell.

**Service Clubs Announcements**



We meet Friday mornings at 7:00 am at **The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa**, 3666 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. For more info, please email us at lamorindasunrise@gmail.com

**July 8**  
**Mark Sherry** - Air Traffic Controller extraordinaire from SFO

**July 15**  
Newly minted President **Claire Roberts** conducts her first Club Assembly. Prepare to be dazzled!

**We are DARK on Friday, July 1. Happy Fourth of July and make the most of an extra-long weekend!**

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**Senior Symposium Planned for Aug. 6**

Submitted by Doreen de Roque

The eighth annual Senior Symposium, "Aging by Design," sponsored by the Lafayette Community Foundation, will be held from 8:30 a.m. until noon on Saturday, Aug. 6, at Lafayette Elementary School, 950 Moraga Road. This free event is a most informative resource fair for seniors in the Lamorinda community, with more than 40 booths sponsored by local vendors of services to seniors, as well as many nonprofit organizations that serve seniors in the community.

There is plenty of parking in the back of the school on the black top in the play-area, or across the street in the city lot, or in the lot of the old library.

Advanced registration qualifies for a special raffle prize. Either call (925) 284-8214 or visit the Lafayette Community Foundation's website, www.lafayettelcf.org. There is no charge for attendees. The vendors will set up the courtyard under the trees, and the speakers will be conveniently in the gymnasium.

**Speakers will include:**

Dr. Sandra Karpenko, John Muir Health's Medical Director of Palliative Care;  
Anne Ornelas, the executive director of the Lam-

orinda Village, with an update on this community based program to help seniors age in place;  
The Lafayette Senior Commission, with information on programming for seniors available through the city of Lafayette and the work of the commission.

Ann Thomas, president of Hearing Loss Association of America Diablo Valley Chapter, speaking on hearing health.

Annie Goglia, of Life Fire Workshops and Coaching, presenting Laughter Yoga.

This free event provides the most up-to-date resources for Lamorinda seniors and helps to raise funds for the Lafayette Community Foundation, which has historically supported many local organizations since its inception in 1999 with "Excellence Grants" of over \$370,000. Over the years LCF has helped Meals on Wheels, Contra Costa Food Bank, Senior Helpline Services, and the Senior Transportation Program's Spirit Van, among others. The LCF is best know for raising \$14 million to build the new library, and more recently worked with Rotary to build the stage at the reser-