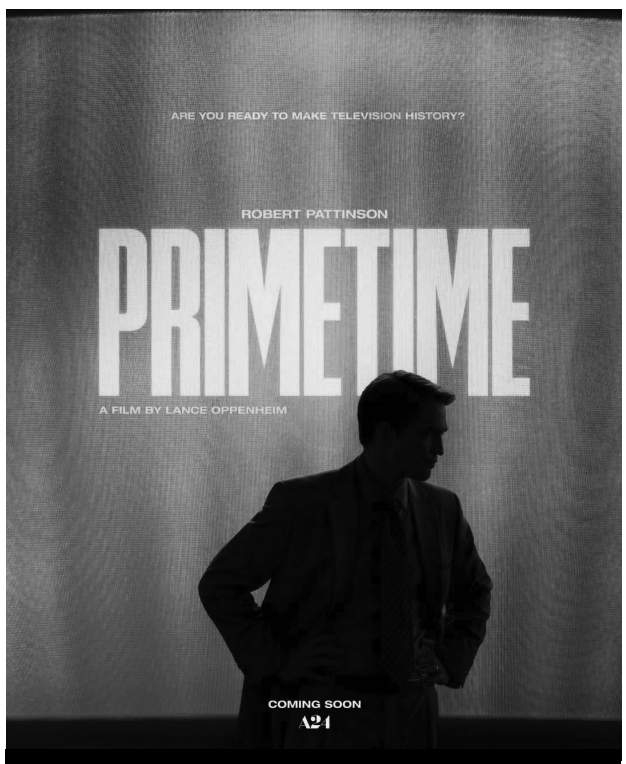
Life

PRIMETIME: STYLE OVER SUBSTANCE



Robert Pattinson, portraying Chris Hansen, is featured on Primetime's movie poster. Lance Oppenheim's film "Primetime" was released on Friday.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @PRIMETIMEMOVIE ON INSTAGRAM

by Sean Aitken
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Lance Oppenheim's film "Primetime" was released on Friday. "Primetime" is a psychological thriller that follows real journalist Chris Hansen and his program "To Catch a Predator." It's important to distinguish the fact that Primetime is not a biopic; it uses fictional events to create plot while taking real stories that happened and combining them. The film was written by Ajon Singh and is based on the article "Tonight on Dateline, This Man Will Die" by Luke Dittrich.

High expectations going into this film, does Primetime deliver and earn its nighty time slot? Let's Dig in!

The best place to begin with this film is the performances. Robert Pattinson plays our leading main: Hansen from Dateline NBC. Pattinson crushes the performance, with the voice, the mannerisms and how unhinged he is. He does a phenomenal job with what he's given. The rest of the cast shines too; while Pattinson's playing an out-there version of Hansen, Merritt Wever's role of Andie feels like a real person. A producer focused on profit over everything, while reflecting on her career at the same time. Then Skyler Gisondo as Decoy Dan Plum, a haunting performance, where you can feel his trauma along with him.

The cinematography of the film is solid. Some tasteful, fulfilling shots and great lighting. The sleek 2000s nostalgic aesthetic helps the film's tone, of that post 9/11 eeriness, where everything was America first. The film captures it quite well.

That is where my praise comes to an end. My biggest gripe with the film is how it doesn't have much to say about the issue the show it's based on presents. It depicts a shallow look at how the show was more about profit than actually addressing the issue in society.

We all know a television show made in a capitalist society, no matter what, is about profit over morals. The film has nothing to say about the predators being caught; it just uses them as a comedic element instead of treating them as serious problems.

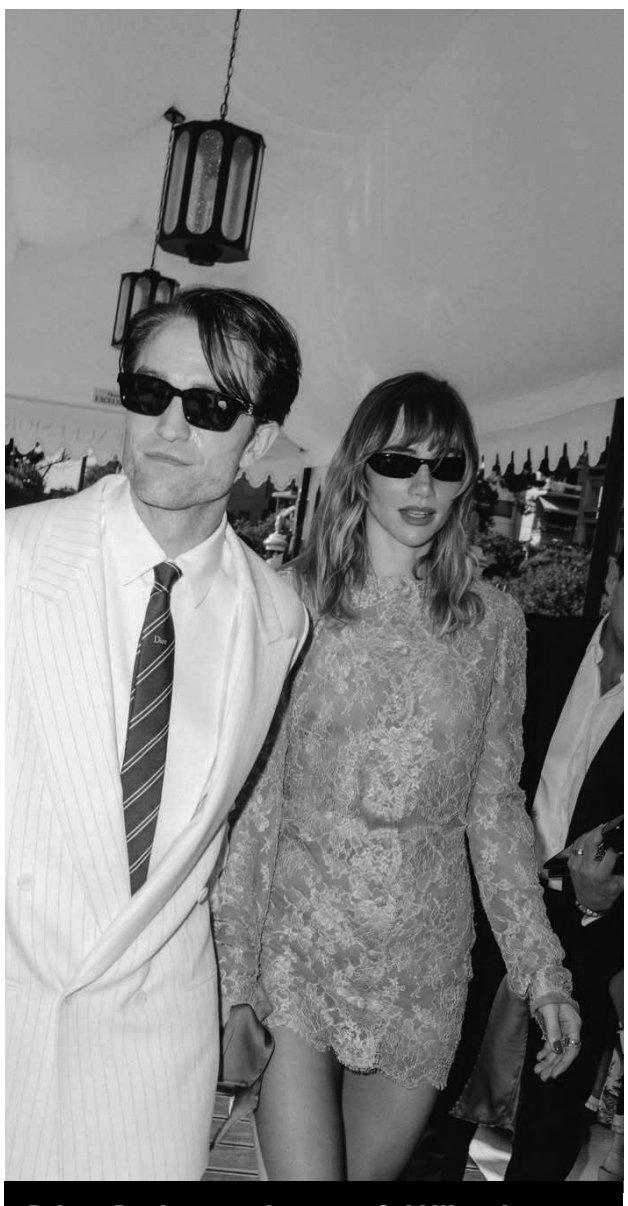
The only way the film does portray predatory themes is with the character of Dan Plum, how the show preyed on his dreams and made him believe this show was his future. That leads to more issues with writing. This version of Hansen feels over the top at times; his cartoony reactions to things are played great by Pattinson, but feels out of place. Then the desire to be number one just feels off.

The film focuses more on Hansen wanting to take down "Lost" than on how the show failed to catch these predators to help children. There's also an affair subplot that does absolutely nothing of note. If it were removed from the film, nothing would change.

Then there's a scene where Hansen tells Plum about a story of him visiting a village in India. All of it feels out of place and adds this monster to the story. The monster is an interesting choice, as it can be how Hansen views these predators, but depicting the predators as monsters undermines how they operate.

These predators are human beings who could be anyone and likening them to monsters may be a legitimate comparison. It undermines who these predators are and how they could be anyone. It tries to balance a lot of ideas at once but can't hold on to any.

"Primetime" is a film with a lot of style but not enough substance. It's an entertaining viewing experience with some memorable, uneasy and funny moments. The performances are great, but I'm left wanting more. It left me asking "What is this film really about?"



Robert Pattinson and partner Suki Waterhouse pose at the Primetime World Premiere. Pattinson acted as Chris Hansen in the new film, "Primetime."

PHOTO COURTESY OF @PRIMETIMEMOVIE ON INSTAGRAM

I wish it dove deeper into the issue the original show presented; instead of dipping into various topics, a set focus would've benefited the film. It feels like the film is doing the exact same thing the show did in the past.

3/5

KNICKS SUMMER IS NOT OVER: JALEN BRUNSON HOSTS SEASON PREMIERE OF 'SNL 52'

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Season 52 of Saturday Night Live premiered on Saturday with Jalen Brunson as the host and Katseye as the musical guest.

Brunson is only the fifth NBA player to host the show, and the first active player since 2007. However, with him captaining New York City's first NBA championship team in 53 years, he felt like an obvious choice.

In one of the most notable moments of the night, New York Knicks teammates Karl-Anthony Towns, Mikal Bridges, OG Anunoby and Josh Hart were featured in Brunson's opening monologue. The group posed as audience members asking Brunson humorous questions about their championship win and eventually joined their captain onstage to kick off the night.

There were a few casting changes prior to the season premiere, with Chloe Fineman being the only departure after seven seasons on the show. Added as featured players were Sadiah Bolo-Osagie and Grace Reiter, a fan favorite best known for her participation in online sketch comedy group American High, and her recent YouTube hit "The Hunger Games (but better)." The most featured player from last season, Ashley Padilla, was promoted to repertory player along with Jane Wickline.

Musical guest Katseye performed their songs "Animal" and "Hootie Frutti," and were also featured in the sketch, "Dream Academy," a parody of the real-life competition show the girl group was formed on. Also heavily featured in the sketch was newcomer Reiter. Her hilarious team-up with Wickline as two graceless non-dancers trying to win a pop star competition made the digital short one of the most memorable sketches of the night.

Over at the Weekend Update desk, Jeremy Culhane reprised his popular role as conservative political commentator Tucker Carlson to give his takes on this summer's box office hits. In his third appearance doing this uncanny impression, Culhane included his iconic high-pitched laugh, inane questions and catchphrase "That's the rule. That's the goal now." Jane Wickline also visited the desk as Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei to discuss AI's threat to humanity. In a humorous Gollum-like fashion, Wickline's Amodei spoke to himself in an effort to find anything remotely comforting to say.

The title for best sketch of the night has to go to "North High," a "High School Musical" parody in which a singing, dancing basketball team led by their captain Jake (Culhane) welcomes a new student (Brunson), only to find out he is easily much better at basketball than they are. As with many athletes that host, Brunson was not relied on for much of the comedic heavy lifting throughout the episode. However, him effortlessly showing up the musical team in this sketch was incredibly entertaining, particularly the back-and-forth between him and Culhane.

This basketball-heavy episode was fun, fresh and a great way to start getting excited for the Knicks' upcoming return at the start of the NBA season. If you missed it, the episode is now available to stream on Peacock.

Looking ahead at the rest of the season, I am most excited to see Reiter's progression on the show. Headlining a sketch in your very first episode is no common feat, but she handled it incredibly and already has great chemistry with the rest of the cast. I look forward to seeing her do character work with Culhane specifically, as the two have similar comedy styles.

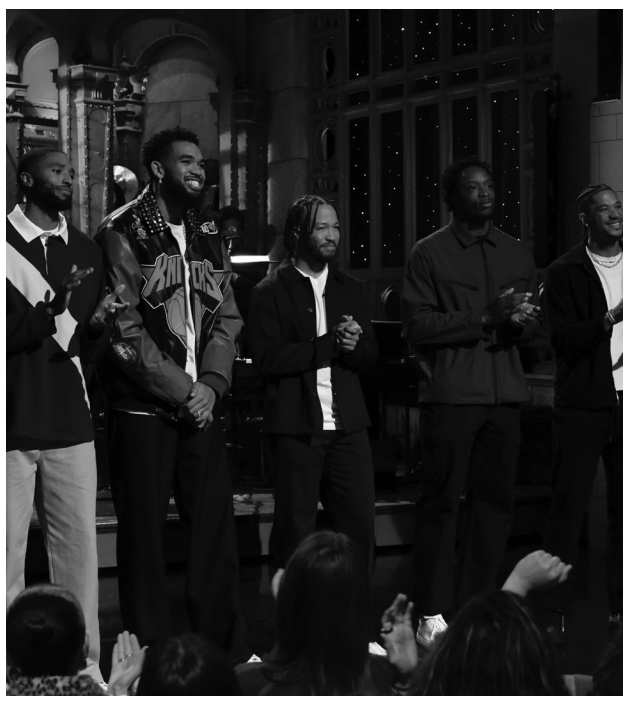
Fans can tune in for more on Saturday, Oct. 3, to see Dakota Johnson host, followed by Shane Gillis a week later and "Obsession" star Inde Navarette on Oct. 31 for this season's Halloween episode.

COMIC BY CONNOR SZREJNA, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Mikal Bridges, Karl-Anthony Towns, OG Anunoby and Josh Hart join Jalen Brunson during his SNL 52 opening monologue. The new season began on Sept. 26, 2026.

PHOTO COURTESY OF INSTAGRAM @NBCSNL



SUBOG Weekly Events:

September 27th - October 4th

Homecoming Parade – 9.27 @ 1:30 PM along Hillside Road
Homecoming Carnival – 9.27 @ 2 PM at Founders Green
Homecoming Pageant – 9.28 @ 6 PM in the Student Union Theater
SUBOG x USG Voter Registration – 10.1 @ 11 AM at the SU Mall
Coffee House – 10.1 @ 4:30 PM at the Benton
Homecoming Lip Sync – 10.1 @ 7 PM in the Jorgensen Theater
Fan Fest Friday – 10.2 @ 1 PM at the SU Mall

Any questions? Email subog@uconn.edu and check out @subogatuconn on Instagram for updates on our events!