

Beat: Entertainment

## **MORTAL ENGINES, Post-Apocalyptic Adventure Film Based on Novel of Same Name**

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**USPA NEWS** - "MORTAL ENGINES" is a 2018 Post-Apocalyptic Adventure Film (New Zealand - United States).

Directed by : Christian Rivers

Produced by : Zane Weiner, Amanda Walker, Deborah Forte, Fran Walsh, Peter Jackson

Screenplay by : Fran Walsh, Philippa Boyens, Peter Jackson

Based on : Novel "Mortal Engines" by Philip Reeve

Starring : Hugo Weaving, Hera Hilmar, Robert Sheehan, Jihae, Ronan Raftery, Leila George, Patrick Malahide, Stephen Lang

Distributes by : Universal Pictures

Running Time : 128 minutes

Release Dates : November 27, 2018 (London), December 8, 2018 (New Zealand), December 12, 2018 (France), December 14, 2018 (United States)

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### **THE STORY**

The Charismatic but Sinister Thaddeus Valentine (Hugo Weaving) is attacked by a Disfigured Assassin with a Personal Grudge against him : this is Hester Shaw (Hera Hilmar), who is to make Common Cause with the Story's Initially Hapless but Stout-Hearted Young Hero, Tom Natsworthy (Robert Sheehan), a Young Apprentice who discovers a Dangerous Secret about Thaddeus. When Both Hester and Tom are expelled from London, a New Figure enters the Story : Anna Fang (South Korean Music Star Jihae), who is the Badass Leader of that Group which must always crop up in YA Dystopias : the "Resistance". The "Resistance" is there to create the Open-Ended Narrative Possibility of Battles Won and Lost, Important for extending the Single YA Story into a Franchise.

### **OUR REVIEW**

An American-New Zealand Co-Production, the Film is set in a Post-Apocalyptic World where Entire Cities have been mounted on Wheels and motorised, and prey on One Another. "Mortal Engines" was originally a YA Dystopian Adventure Novel from British Author Philip Reeve, published in 2001, the First of the "Mortal Engines Quartet". Among its many Fans is Peter Jackson, who has now turned it into a Frenetic and Derivative Fantasy-Adventure Movie (Co-Producing and Co-Writing the Adaptation).

A Fantastical Bit of Steampunk Sci-Fi runs to a Considerable Extent on Fumes in Mortal Engines, an Action-Loaded Tale of Adventure and Combat set in a Future that takes its Design Cues entirely from the Past. One Thing The Film does have going for it is a Resilient Female Lead, Hester Shaw (Hera Hilmar), a Survivor of Childhood Violence compelled to take Revenge on her Mother's Killer. What the Mobile Community of the New London is fixated upon Some 1700 Years in the Future seems to be the Design Elements of the Late Victorian and Edwardian Eras, mixed with the Ability to achieve High-Speed Traction across Rough Landscapes and Excellent

Industrial Digestion that allows the Assimilation of desired Old Landmarks.... London is the Main Setting of "Mortal Engines". After a Pursuit, London Inevitably conquers the Helpless Hamlet to plunder its Resources and consign its Inhabitants to Low-Level Jobs....

Here making his Directorial Debut, Christian Rivers spent Years as a Storyboard Artist and a Visual Effects Supervisor for Peter Jackson and he's inherited a Good Deal of his Longtime Collaborator's Love for Mythic World-Building and Hyperreal CGI Spectacle....

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