

Rogue: It's Megan Fox vs lion and al-Shabab in new Showmax film

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- Starring Teen Choice winner Megan Fox (*Transformers*, *Jennifer's Body*)
- "Megan Fox in *Rogue* redefines her reputation and career" *Refinery29*
- "An energetic action thriller" *The Guardian*
- Spotlights the abuse of lions in Africa
- SA cast includes Jessica Sutton, Sisanda Henna, Brandon Aurret, Kenneth Fok and Greg Kriek



Showmax has just released *Rogue*, starring Teen Choice winner and People's Choice nominee Megan Fox (*Transformers*, *Jennifer's Body*) as Sam O'Hara, who leads a team of mercenaries on a mission to rescue an ambassador's daughter kidnapped by al-Shabaab. When their plan goes south, the mercenaries find themselves out of ammo and hiding out at an abandoned lion farm, having to defend themselves against both the kidnappers and an angry lion.

MJ Basset (*Power*, *Strike Back*, *Ash vs Evil Dead*) directs the action-adventure film, which also stars Philip Winchester (*Strike Back*, *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*), BAFTA Rising Star winner Adam Deacon (*Casualty*), and South African stars Jessica Sutton (*Motherland: Fort Salem*, *The Kissing Booth*), Sisanda Henna (*Trackers*, *Griekwastad*), Brandon Aurret (*District 9*, *Elysium*, *Still Breathing*), Kenneth Fok (*Warrior*) and Greg Kriek (*Black Mirror*), one of South Africa's busiest actors, with over 50 international screen credits to his name.

While Megan has turned down numerous military films since *Transformers*, she accepted *Rogue* partly because of the attraction of coming to Africa. "I felt like my life was going to change going to Africa," Fox told *New York Daily News*. "And I didn't know why; I just knew that I had to do this project for some reason."

The decision paid off. "Megan Fox in *Rogue* redefines her reputation and career," says *Refinery29*, who add that the film "straddles the two phases of Megan Fox's life: her early days as an action star too often used as a prop for the male gaze, and her future as a woman taking charge of her own destiny..."

As Basset told Refinery29, “[I wanted] to make Megan credible, rather than this sex object that’s she so frequently used for by male filmmakers... I said, ‘There’s no romance in here; you’re not wearing skimpy T-shirts or short-shorts. You’re carrying full battle rattle, and I’m going to expect you to get dirty and bruised.’ She was quite excited by that, to be honest.”

While ultimately an escapist action movie, *Rogue* also spotlights the abuse of lions in Africa. “This film is fiction,” says Basset, who wrote the movie as a passion project with her daughter, Isabel, who has a cameo in the film. “But the facts are that in 2019 there were over 12,000 lions in ‘farms’ in South Africa. Though this is legal, most are being kept in appalling conditions before being killed for their skins, bones and other body parts to supply traditional medicine markets. Cubs are bred and used for petting zoos until too old to handle before being shipped for slaughter or used in ‘canned’ hunting. It is a disgrace and should be stopped.”

As *The Guardian* wrote about *Rogue*, “If hit Netflix documentary *Tiger King* had you championing the big cat cause, here’s the animal rights-respecting action-thriller you should watch next...” They called it “an energetic action thriller” where “the action rattles along”.

The award-winning South African crew includes South African Film and Television Award winners Brendan Barnes as director of photography; Waldemar Coetsee as production designer; and Theola Booyens as hair and makeup designer.

The SA-UK film is a co-production between MultiChoice, Capstone and Mannequin, with Lionsgate Home Entertainment handling distribution in North America.

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