



Photos courtesy National Geographic

The sky show *Sea Monsters* takes its audience back in time.

Sea Monsters takes sentimental approach

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Watching *Sea Monsters* is a lot like discovering a lost world. We're all familiar with the land-dwelling dinosaurs that roamed the Earth millions of years ago, but the sea creatures remained much of a mystery ... until now.

Produced by National Geographic, *Sea Monsters: A Prehistoric Adventure* takes the audience 82 million years back in time. The 3D effects are powerful, giving the viewer the sensation of swimming underwater alongside the snake-like Styxosaurus or the razor-toothed Tylosaurus. But it's the storytelling that stands out.

Sea Monsters follows the birth-to-death journey of a creature named Dolly (a Dolichorhynchops) as she plays with her twin brother, narrowly escapes predators, has children of her own, and dies of old age. It's a technique that unexpectedly pulls at the heartstrings when the film ends.

Perhaps that's because the film skips back and forth between the prehistoric era and modern-day 20th century. In one of those flashbacks, we see archaeologists finding Dolly's fossilized remains in Kansas after a strong rainstorm washed away the topsoil.

It's nothing short of amazing

SEA MONSTERS

WHERE: LASM Irene Pennington Planetarium
INFORMATION: (225) 344-5272



The film focuses on a creature named Dolly.

how the archaeologists are able to recreate Dolly's life story layer by layer as they brush away millions of years of dirt and sand.

Despite this personal touch, *Sea Monsters* still retains a good bit of suspense and adventure. You'll see predators in action, bursting through the surface of the ocean, with smaller creatures running (or swimming) for their lives. The 3D effects make these chases completely realistic.

More than anything else, *Sea Monsters* is a reminder that all life is fleeting, whether it is measure in decades or millions of years.