

# Entertainment

## Boyz N The Hood Receives Praises . . .

The first time I saw *Boyz N The Hood*, I thought it was a well directed movie. But after viewing *Boyz N The Hood* for the second time, I know it was an excellent film. Writer-director John Singleton is no stranger to the life portrayed in this film.

The purpose of this movie is not to sugar-coat what goes on in cities like South Central Los Angeles, but to make society aware of the problems faced by such cities. In order to bring out the true scenery and surroundings of such neighborhoods, *Boyz N The Hood* was shot on location in South Central L.A. The audience is made well aware of the struggles, strains and fears that poverty breeds in black communities.

When recollecting this movie the phrase "the truth shall set you free" enters my mind. This phrase encompasses the theme of the movie. *Boyz N The Hood* was not created to influence the behaviors portrayed in this movie but, to do quite the contrary. That being the realization of what one race is doing to itself. The violence that we are exposed to in this movie is a part of that awareness. Making one aware of a problem is the initial step towards correcting the problem.

Although violence is a reality of poverty stricken cities, so is the love of family. One particular segment of this movie deals with the love of one brother to another. The scene begins one evening on a particular hang out street. Young males of the neighborhood hang out in this particular area because there is essentially nothing else to do. There are no jobs and no recreational facilities. Ricky (Morris Chestnut) and his friends are simply talking about everyday occurrences when a group of people come by and one member of this group - out of the blue - decides he is going to shove

Ricky. That evening nothing becomes of it, but a few days later it is all over for Ricky. The same males come around his block to instigate a war of the neighborhoods and to show that he and his friends are going to be the ones to lay down the rules. Ricky and his friend Tre (Cuba Gooding, Jr.) are walking home from the grocery store when they are bombarded by an array of bullets. Ricky is slain. And to make matters worse, he was trying to make a decent life for himself. Ricky's mother is left without a son, his brother is left without a sibling, and his child is left without a father. In an act of seeking justice for what was done to Ricky, his brother, Doughboy (Ice Cube) decides to take revenge on the people who committed the murder. This is done out of the love and the hurt he and Ricky's family feels. When Doughboy finds the men who murdered Ricky, he shows no mercy on them. It is something instilled in him throughout his lifetime. This is his justice.

All this brings us to the fact that all of the above could have been prevented because those who run this country are aware of what goes on in communities like these. The government has the responsibility to dole out the funds for help, recreation and rehabilitation. But until this happens, cities like South Central L.A. will have to fend for themselves in an effort to correct their problems.

At the end of the movie we learn that Doughboy is killed two weeks after Ricky's death. This leaves a mother with any children and a son without a father. Each time I left the movie theater there was complete silence; it was as though we were all thinking of the repercussions of such occurrences. The babies and children weren't even crying.



One other message that John Singleton wishes to display is the importance of a father figure in a boys' life. Singleton expresses his concern for the need of the male to teach responsibility to his children. One father in this movie does just that. His name is Furious Styles (Larry Fishburne) and his son is Tre Styles. Furious does his absolute best to bestow upon his son honor and moral codes. At the end of the movie we are told that Tre will be attending

Morehouse College.

The one thing you should learn from this movie is the responsibility that each of us holds in our community. I believe that this is a very powerful, thought provoking movie that people from all walks of life should view with an open mind.

- Miriam Levy



(Top) Doughboy (Ice Cube), one of three close friends who grow up together in South Central Los Angeles, is living by the laws of the street. (Above) Furious Styles (Larry Fishburne) strives to teach his son, Tre, to be a man of responsibility in "Boyz N The Hood", a Columbia Pictures release.