

## The Daily Tar Heel

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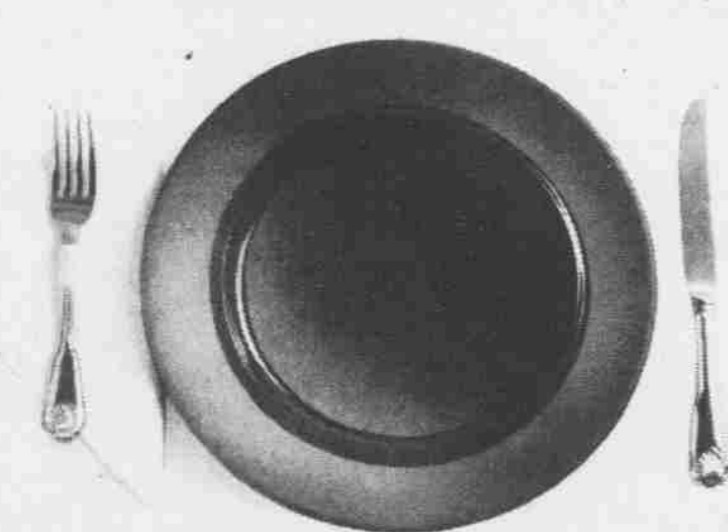
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## IN DEPTH

# Film marks 1st for black filmmakers

By MYRON B. PITTS  
 Assistant University Editor

### Analysis

James Bond III, young director of the new Orpheus Pictures production "Def by Temptation," and singer Melba Moore said this black horror film was the first of its kind at a press conference in the Black Cultural Center (BCC) Thursday.

"Def by Temptation," which represents Bond's directorial debut, will premiere in the Triangle today at the Village Twin Theatre in Raleigh and Willowdale Cinemas in Durham. The Twins ran a sneak preview at 8 p.m. Thursday night.

Bond, who is also the film's producer and lead actor, played a role in director/producer Spike Lee's "School Daze." Other members of the cast are recording stars Freddie Jackson and Melba Moore, actor Kadeem Hardison, who plays Dwayne Wayne on NBC's sitcom "A Different World," and Bill Nunn of "Do The Right Thing," another Spike Lee film. The movie utilizes an entirely black cast and a production crew that, according to Bond, is 90 percent black.

"Def by Temptation," Bond plays Joel, a divinity school student who moves to New York to escape his Southern hometown. Upon arrival in the Big Apple, Joel meets his childhood friend "K" (Hardison), who encourages Joel to loosen up and experience the nightlife. Joel then meets a temptress (Cynthia Bond) who, according to a movie press release, is "hell-bent on destroying him."

Joel, "K" and another friend try to ward off the demonic *femme fatale* with several exorcism methods, but their attempts fail. After his friends fall victim to the temptress, Joel is left to battle her alone.

Bond, a 24-year-old Harlem native who became involved in entertainment at an early age, described the movie as "a horror-thriller film with comedic overtones. It's very, very funny. It's scary too."

Speaking before an audience of about 80 people, Bond and Moore answered a wide range of questions about the film and the black entertainment industry for more than an hour. Before ending the conference, Moore led those present in the Negro national anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

Bond said the movie's title, "Def by Temptation," referred to the alluring qualities of temptation. "Def" is a word that originated in New York City and is a rough equivalent to the term "great," Bond said.

"Def is the best, good, great," Bond said. "In correlation with temptation it means that because things are in fact tempting, that's what makes (them) exciting."

"Temptation" is the first black horror film ever, making Bond and the cast

cinematic pioneers, he said. His stated goal is to take the new influx of black films to another level.

"I made the movie because of the lack of this particular kind of production in the marketplace," Bond said. "Horror films have always done really, really well."

Moore, who plays a psychic named Madame Sonya, added: "We are pioneers by nature. We like being first."

Bond, an independent filmmaker, said the production would ultimately cost about \$3.5 million. "In respect to the average Hollywood budget, that's a fraction of the cost."

Moore said the small budget made the movie workable for Bond and assured him of turning a profit, something that Hollywood productions cannot always promise. "Because it was a small enough budget that he could handle, he's gonna make a profit before them (Hollywood)."

Bond added that success for an independent filmmaker differed from traditional Hollywood standards and that his goal of presenting a new kind of black film had been realized. He noted that many black directors make comedies and movies that make social statements.

"If you have an appetite for comedy, you can sit down to a few black filmmakers," Bond said, encouraging members of the audience to go see his film and try a "new restaurant." "You got to come over and check out one of

my films."

Both Bond and Moore said the main difference between traditional black films and today's black-produced works was a shift in who is responsible for how blacks are portrayed. Now, many of the black movie images are in the hands of black filmmakers and producers, they said.

Bond stated: "I think the difference between the (black) exploitation era of the '70s and the movies you are seeing in the '80s is, we are taking responsibility for the images you are now seeing on screen."

Bond and Moore have North Carolina ties, and they listed this as one factor contributing to their decision to premiere the film here. North Carolina also represents one of the many pools of untapped young, black, Southern audiences, they said.

"We know that you're here, we just don't think people have come to you," Moore said. "It sounds like we've tapped into a pool of intellectual wealth just because we wanted to go home," Moore said.

Bond said he hoped "Temptation" would be the first of many films. He said he had ideas for another film but would not begin work until the "hoopla" over his debut work had died away.

Although he has not been officially evaluated by movie critics, Bond said media first-response has been positive. "The media is calling me, and I feel honored, the new (Alfred Hitchcock)"

before the treaty was signed by former President Reagan and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, they are not covered by the pact, Boucher said.

If they were transferred after it was signed, the transfer violates the treaty, he said.

"That's the point that we're looking into," Boucher said. "I don't have a judgment on that. That's the key point as to whether they are covered by the treaty or not, whether they were transferred before or after. And that's where we have to satisfy ourselves in order to make a judgment."

# USSR accused of violating INF missile treaty

**From Associated Press reports**

WASHINGTON — The United States is investigating the possibility that Soviet SS-23 medium-range missiles, banned by a 1987 treaty, may have been illegally transferred to Czechoslovakia, the State Department said Thursday.

The department had disclosed earlier that it was looking into the possibility that SS-23 missiles may also have been transferred to the East German armed forces.

Spokesman Richard Boucher said the key question was whether the missiles, if any, were transferred before or after the signing of the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty in December 1987.

If the weapons were transferred

we've said before, we regard this as a serious matter." The treaty applies to U.S. and Soviet medium-range missiles and specifically prohibits the transfers of such weapons after the treaty was signed.

He said the United States had raised the question of the possible illegal transfer and possession of banned medium-range missiles not only with the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia and East Germany but with certain other nations as well. He did not identify them.

Asked if the Soviets had ever pledged not to transfer missiles before the treaty was signed as a gesture of good faith, Boucher said the department was "still analyzing records of the discussions." Although Boucher said the United

States was not prepared to disclose how many missiles may be involved, The Washington Times reported that the Czech government told the United States two weeks ago that more than 70 SS-23 missiles with a range of about 310 miles were deployed within its territory and were being dismantled.

The INF treaty bans all U.S. and Soviet missiles with a range of between 300 and 3,400 miles.

The possible presence of prohibited SS-23 missiles in East Germany and Czechoslovakia has caused alarm among administration officials who fear the incidents could damage prospects for successfully ratifying a treaty making sharp reductions in long-range, intercontinental missiles.

**Campus Calendar**

**FRIDAY**  
 Noon: University Career Planning and Placement Services will hold Job Hunt 105: Off-Campus Job Search Workshop for seniors and graduate students in 209 Hanes.  
 1 p.m.: The Carolina Indian Circle will sponsor Native American dance groups in the Pit until 2 p.m.  
 3:30 p.m.: UNC Macroeconomics presents "Revealed Preference of the Fed: Using Inverse Control to Interpret the Policy Equation in a VAR System," with Michael Salemi, in Gardner. Call 966-2385 for more info.

**SATURDAY**  
 10 a.m.: The Carolina Indian Circle will hold its annual Native American Culture Festival which will feature dancers and artists at Ehringhaus Field until 5 p.m.  
**SUNDAY**  
 1 p.m.: Conference on Developing Multicultural Leadership in 224 Union until 5 p.m. Sponsored by Alpha Phi Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi, Black Student Movement and the Office of NC Fellows/Leadership Development. Call Carol Binzer at 966-4041 for more details.  
 2 p.m.: Carolina Women's Lacrosse vs. UNC-Greensboro at Finley Fields.  
 Carolina Men's Lacrosse Club will play VCU on the Navy Astroturf Field. Be there!  
 4 p.m.: The Lab Theatre will present Alan Ayckbourn's "Woman in Mind" in O6 Graham Memorial at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Admission is free.  
 PlayMakers Repertory Company will close its speaker Dr. Frank Summerfield in Hamilton 100.

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- Pre-selected list posted by UCPPS on April 9<sup>th</sup>
- Interview sign-up: April 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>
- Interview conducted on April 16<sup>th</sup>

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