

"Cornbread" Is Excellent Movie

"Cornbread, Earl and Me", an American International Film, currently playing at the Carolina Theatre is an excellent film that can make you laugh, cry and empathize with.

Audience

Reaction Shocks

Post Reporter

By Jim Black
Post Feature Writer

The only good thing about the "good old days" is that they're gone. That may sound kind of trite for those who tend to linger with memories of the past instead of dealing with what is. But when placed in its proper perspective even those "nostalgia buffs" must concede.

This leads us to the meat of the subject. "Expect all that the motion picture screen has never dared to show before. Expect the Truth!" Now you are ready for "Mandingo."

It stars James Mason and introduces Ken Norton in his first motion picture. Ken has done some acting before if you remember, his two heavy-weight championship fights with Muhammad Ali.

The acting was pretty good - for a change, but it certainly didn't remind me of the "good old days." Good for Who? Yas Sa! Yas Sa! Nigger this - and Nigger that!!

Audience reaction was typical considering the Center Theatre. Loud shouts throughout the movie - and probably by some modern-day "house nigga." The theater was packed and was constantly buzzing, and at times erupting. Therefore, some of the dialogue was lost. This was more disturbing than the content of the movie. Many of us were seeing the movie for the first time, not the 4th or 5th time like those overreacting loud mouths.

From what you could decipher "Mandingo" was done First Rate white, anyway. It reinforces the "white" myth about inter-racial relationships.

Written around typical everyday Black experiences, the movie produced and directed by Joe Manduke and based on Ronald L. Flair's novel "Hog Butcher", brings tears to the eyes of its viewers.

It is the best Black movie since Claudine and is one of the top Black movies of the 1970's joining such distinguished company as "Sounder", "Lady Sings The Blues", "The Education of Sonny Carson", and "Claudine".

It is one of precious few PG-rated movies to come out of Hollywood and contains some of the most inspirational acting performances you will see in a while.

The cast of the movie, about the tragic death of a high school basketball superstar who is killed two weeks before his departure to college and the ensuing pursuit of his family to clear his name, is loaded with stars.

Moses Gunn, Rosalind Cash, Bernie Casey, Madge Sinclair, Antonio Fargas, Stack Pierce, and Thalmus Rasulala.

However, Rosalind Cash in an Academy Award nomination type is impressive as the mother of the juvenile basketball player's friend played by Larry Fishburne who is equally impressive and should be up for an Academy supporting nomination steals the show.

Ms. Sinclair is strong and thoroughly believable as the mother of the slain boy and Stack Pierce turns in one of the finest acting jobs of his career as the boy's father.

Real Life basketball star Keith Wilkes of the Golden State Warriors in his debut was not sensational and perhaps the fact that he was surrounded by some of the finest acting talents in the business amounts to this, but his portrayal blends in well with the overall effort.

Donald Byrd's musical score is perfect. It was not overly melodramatic but smooth, making you feel sadness and joy when the occasion arises.

The movie was a thoroughly enjoyable film. You don't have to worry about taking your entire family to see this one.

Cornbread, Earl and Me is a must for everybody to see.

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