

FLICKS

In Review
**Spike Lee's
 School Daze**

Spike Lee Expresses Realistic Visions In New Movie

By Russell Clark
 Post Staff Writer

Starting around 7:30 p.m. last Tuesday night in a local theater, a crowd of nearly 300 assembled elbow-to-elbow to catch a special screening of the new movie from Spike Lee, "School Daze." As a contemporary musical comedy, "School Daze" spotlights the rituals of homecoming at a fictional southern college and the unique view black students have of college life, society and themselves.

"School Daze," Lee's first film following his low-budget hit, "She's Gotta Have It," is a very unique production made about a black experience. It's also rare because it was produced by a black director/writer, black producers and a virtually all black cast and crew. With an reported budget of six million dollars, "School Daze" is a timely project that will either make or break Spike as a motion picture director. Many feel that it will take of faith and liberating power audiences to accept the movie which deals rather boldly with the issue of black on black racism.

The majority of the rowdy Tuesday night crowd were students from Johnson C. Smith University. As a students at a small black college, Malacy Taylor relates to the movie theme.

"The movie was totally realistic to me because it reminded me so much of Smith," begins the sophomore from Raleigh. "I could relate to the homecoming activities in the movie because

everyone at Smith is like family during homecoming. But afterwards we all go in different directions."

"Another point the filmed touched on was how college students are perceived by local residents. "I could definitely relate to this because some recent college students. I guess that they think we are better than them, but we are trying to make it just like they are."

The film stars Larry Fishburne, Giancarlo Esposito, Tisha Campbell, Kyme Joe Seneca, Art Evans, Ellen Holly, Brandon Marsalis and Ossie Davis.

A quick conversation with Brandon Marsalis in an Atlanta based newspaper, SOUTHLINE produces a closer glimpse of the theme.

"The Issue here," Marsalis says, "is black-on-black racism....And that really does exist. Most people in this country only know what they see on television. They think all we do is smile, dance and eat fried chicken. This movie his says with a trace of defiance," is about a black lifestyle that's never been touched on explored in a film," notes Marsalis who produced the soundtrack for the movie.

Marsalis continues, "The amazing thing about black people in this country is that we are severed from our roots....We had to form an entirely new society. We've created something that's entirely our own. I think that Spike is presenting the movie

the way he remembers it when he was in school. But I think he's making a statement about that, too - that it can be a positive expression."

Lee called on choreographer, Otis Sallid to help mold his viewpoints into body language. To deliver messages to blacks, Sallid and Lee orchestrated a powerful dance vehicle which matched a group of light skinned female dancers against dark skinned females. The toe-tapping jazz dance highlighted contrasts in the texture of black hair and artificial eye coloring.

Filmed in Atlanta, one would think that Lee would have been allowed to film the movie at his alma mater, Morehouse College. Strangely enough, officials at Morehouse, Clark and Spelman were equally reluctant to allow the production on thel campus.

The reason given was that Lee might be setting up the colleges for public scrutiny.

According to the movie's two lead actors, Larry Fishburne and Giancarlo Esposito, is not a satire of the black college experience as some have suggested. They believe it's a musical comedy/drama with lots of funny scenes and elaborate musical numbers.

Both actors agree that "School Daze" has a positive expression. "What this movie is saying is that black people can do, if they want to do, if they support each other. We don't have to worry about the stereotypes. We shouldn't be preoccupied with what everybody else is doing. We should be concerned with what we're doing with each other, to each other. This movie is about Spike's vision of reality."

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Disney World Good Stuff



By Martine Bourrelle
 Special To The Post

Lake Buena Vista, Fla. - In the midst of its greatest expansion, Walt Disney World will open five major additions in 1988 including a luxury Victoria-style hotel, the eleventh national showcase in Epcot enter, Pleasure Island nightlife complex and a fly-through Magic Kingdom adventure.

Three other major openings will take place in 1989 including the Disney-MGM Studios' tour, a unique water theme park and a new Epcot Center science adventure.

In June 1988, both the Norway Showcase at Epcot Center and the 900-room Grand Floridian Beach Resort Hotel will officially open.

Highlighting "Norway, Gateway to Scandinavia" will be a fantasy voyage aboard 16-passenger Viking ships from a coastal town, up to a white-water rapids and into a 10th century Viking village. Guests experience roaring waterfalls, magical spirits, and a fierce ocean storm on their journey.

The showcase includes a wide-screen film tour of modern Norway, a 200-seat Smorgasbord-style restaurant, sidewalk cafe, baker, ad shops in courtyard replicating historic Norwegian landmarks.

The ornate Grand Floridian Beach Resort, first new Disney hotel to be served by monorail, captures the charm of the early 1900s -- wide verandahs, intricate lattice work and balustrades, red roof and white clapboard exterior -- enabling guests to experience a by-gone era when Florida resorts first gave northern socialites a much-needed winter respite.

Island Pleasures

Hotel amenities include a broad white sand beach on the Seven Seas Lagoon, 275,000-gallon swimming pool, marina, child care facility and health club -- all within sight of the Magic Kingdom.

Beginning in the fall of 1988, Pleasure Island at the Walt Disney World Village will come alive at night with the Zephyr

Rockin' Rollerdrome, a dancing and roller-skating club; Mannequin Dance Theater, featuring a turntable dance floor and changeable mannequins; Videopolis Cafe, a non-alcoholic club for the under 21 crowd; a Comedy Warehouse, with comedians and improv acts; The Neon Armadillo Music Saloon with country-western and jazz; and The Adventurer's Club with its "Illusions Bar" plus restaurants, shops and a ten-screen state-of-the-art motion picture complex.

"Dreamflight," a thrilling flight through the great moments of aviation presented by Delta Air Lines, will open in Tomorrowland in the Magic Kingdom in fall '88. Also opening in fall will be the Caribbean Beach Resort's first 700 units in a moderately-priced lodgings complex southeast of Epcot center.

In early 1989, the Disney MGM Studios tour and its many Hollywood themed attractions will open. Production of motion picture and television shows will begin in July 1988. Guests can now see a sneak preview of the studio in a Main Street theater where Bette Midler and Danny Davito help Disney chairman Michael Eisner introduce the project in a humorous, fast-paced film adventure.

MGM Studios & TV

Walt Disney World guests can now obtain souvenir commemorative tickets for the Disney-MGM Studios which will open to the public for tours in spring 1989. Actual production of motion pictures and television shows will begin in summer 1988.

The commemorative tickets are on sale at the Disney-MGM Studios Preview Center in the Magic Kingdom.

Guests will be able to use a perforated stub for admissions and retain the keepsake portion as a collector's item.

The adult ticket is \$100, while the ticket for children ages 3-9 is \$80.

The Disney-MGM Studios commemorative ticket also can be ordered by phone: 305-824-4321.

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