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PHOTO/WADE NASH

Adult entertainment in Charlotte is almost exclusive to men, while women aren't afforded the same.

## Ladies lockout?

*Eyeing beefcake may be frowned upon, but women like it*

By Cheris F. Hodges  
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Charlotte's adult entertainment industry is booming, especially if you're a man.

But how can women partake in the fun without taking their clothes off for dollar bills?

Kount Down Entertainment is hoping to tap into the carnal desires of women by giving them a chance to see brothers

shake it fast at least once a month with Temptation Thursdays.

Exotic dancers will entertain women with provocative routines and VIP ticket holders will be fed whip cream-covered fruit.

General admission tickets are \$20 and VIP tickets are \$40. Discounted tickets for new shows will be sold at the venue.

Though Charlotte has numerous strip clubs that

feature women dancing, men are still taboo.

So taboo in fact, that Temptation Thursdays promoter Michelle didn't want to give her last name for this article.

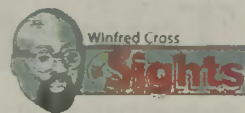
"There are a lot of men in power and politics. They want to see women dancing, it strokes their egos. But when they see men, they immediately call them gay," she said.

But girls want to have

fun too, Michelle said. "So many things (entertainment wise) are geared toward men. All women have is Lifetime (TV) and shopping. Women deserve a night out once a month," Michelle said.

So Michelle and Kount Down Entertainment host a monthly ladies lock up at Club Champagne on Atan-do Avenue.

"I'm hoping that 300 to Please see TEMPTING2D



## A few bright spots for 'Gospel'

The Gospel  
Boris Kodjoe, Clifton Powell,  
Omar Gooding, Nona Gaye  
and Idris Elba  
Rob Hardy, director  
Screen Gems/Sony Pictures



Director/writer Rob Hardy may have been able to put a few more clichés into "The Gospel" but I think he used all that were available.

It's not that the film isn't enjoyable - generally anything with this much gospel music is - but there isn't an original idea to be found.

Boris Kodjoe plays David a would-be preacher who turns away from the church at the death of his mother. He becomes a successful singer which puts his career on hold when his father, Bishop Taylor (Clifton Powell) becomes ill. He returns home and is torn between his father's church and his calling fame.

If this sounds like the Prodigal Son, you guessed right. There are a few twists. David isn't battling a brother, but childhood friend, Charles (Idris Elba) who is about to take over the church. Charles has problems of his own. His wife Charlene (Nona Gaye) isn't giving him any love at home and members of the church are jumping ship. David's got his eye on Rain (Tamara Gray), but she's got baby daddy drama.

There are moments when this movie works. Kodjoe and Powell are fine as father and son. There are some touching, albeit hokey moments. Elba is fine as the arrogant minister and Gooding continues to impress in different roles. The musical moments actually look like real church scenes. And there's a gaggle of gospel artists making appearances. Note: Donnie McClurkin's in the movie but doesn't sing. Bummer.

Yet, the sappy story, uneven acting and so-so production values make this a ho-hum film. The DVD extras are sparse. This is a film that's safe for the family but you may get more enjoyment from watching a gospel cable channel.



### Ratings

Classic	★★★★★
Excellent	★★★★★
Good	★★★★
Fair	★★★
Why?	★★
No stars - A mess	★

### ART REVIEW

## Robinson's realism mirrors life's hard moments

By Sandy Seawright  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

"The Art of Tommie L. Robinson"  
Gallery L

Main Public Library  
310 North Tryon Street  
Through March 26

Sometimes, Tommie L. Robinson's realistic watercolors, egg temperas and graphite drawings look so real

we expected the artist's subject to speak.

Robinson, who grew up in Lumberton, N. C. and knew who Andrew Wyeth was when he was in elementary school, seems to have a very special feeling for the underdog.

His watercolor, "Vietnam Vet," reveals this soldier's soul behind his blue eyes. Robinson gives this man dignity and an honor that turns the

painting into a spiritual moment for the viewer.

"Professor Norman Walking" shows a familiar homeless man who has been seen by thousands of uptowners, but never like this before, walking by the iron gate in the space that was once the luxurious Montaldos women's clothing store. The spirit that keeps this deprived man going wins the viewers

respect.

Next to those who have experienced a hard life, Robinson loves to paint women, old and young. "Praise House" features three senior women, all connected and all having a separate response to a church service. The lady on the left dressed in pink from head to toe is full of happiness, the middle lady in green is contemplative and the lady in

white is enjoying everything around her.

Robinson has several works featuring a young girl, Alana Jewell. I wonder if Jewell is a relative. What is interesting is that Jewell doesn't look like she wants to be painted.

Robinson's work invites comparisons with other artists. In a statement on the gallery wall, he says that a Please see ROBINSON'S/2D

## Author examines Christianity's response to relationships

By Victoria Elmore  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

There is hope for women who are attracted to other women. The remedy is "Womankind: When a Woman Loves a Woman," written by Tracy L. Howell. Instead of rebuking women who struggle with same-sex attraction, Howell stresses the need for the Christian church to address their secret lives by ministering to them.

"The Christian church is summoned to take its rightful place - not just to stand in verbal opposition to the homosexual agenda, but to stand as

a place of hope and healing for those who are broken," Howell said.

Howell, a native of North Carolina, uses her own story of sexual molestation to reach women who desire wholesome, fulfilling relationships. She was ordained as a minister at 22, but at the time she'd already encountered things beyond her years. "I was a teenager when I gave my life to Christ, but I'd already endured things of a 30-year-old," Howell said.

While she was active in the church, Howell was involved in a same sex relationship.

After hearing some women speak negatively about homosexuality, she knew something had to be done.

"In church homosexuality is a taboo," Howell said. "I got to a place where I saw a great need for an outlet for women. I feel strongly that churches should deal with issues that we'd rather keep quiet. I know the struggles are real. I have a great amount of compassion for people who have these struggles."

In "Womankind," Howell writes the creation of woman and man to explain the battle of the sexes from a biblical

standpoint. Topics of feminism, soul ties, artificial pleasures and how genuine concern between two women can transform into an intimate relationship are touched on. The purpose of the book is not to shame woman but to give them hope," Howell said. "You're not the only one going through this. There is healing and hope. You don't have to continue to be in bondage."

Howell said single and married women have contacted her to discuss their struggles with homosexuality. Howell believes her book will help change married women's

lives too. "By reading the book, married women will be able to connect with those things from the past and get counseling to give them balance," Howell said.

"Womankind: When a Woman Loves a Woman," is for women, but men will also be enlightened, Howell said.

"I believe I've had men readers who are appreciative. If we address these issues, women will be a blessing to men. Married men will really be thankful," she said. "I try to bring balance between male and female relationships."

## PE sidekick sinks into reality-TV caricature

I know I'm late since there are only four women left on the VH1 show "The Flavor of Love" but as I was zooming down the street listening to



CHERIS HODGES

some old school hip-hop, my favorite Public Enemy song came across the CD. "Burn Hollywood Burn."

For you youngsters who think Flavor Flav is just a reality TV show star, he was once a member of hip-hop's most influential, political and powerful group

Public Enemy made you want to fight the power, burn

down Arizona until its lawmakers voted Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday a state holiday and made you want to go out and see every Spike Lee movie ever made.

Flav was comic relief, the hype man, if you will. With trademark big clock swinging as he danced, he was the sidekick to frontman Chuck D, who spit some of the most thought provoking lyrics ever. What happened?

First it was "The Surreal Life" where Flav made a donkey of himself by linking up with C-list star Brigitte Neilson. Then it was their relationship in "Strange Love," where this small black man went to Europe to chase the tall white blond and make a

fool of himself for everyone to laugh at.

He put me in the mind of Stepin Fetchit, the same character he and Public



Flav

Enemy railed against in "Burn Hollywood Burn." Even though hip-hop has been taken over by thug nation, Public Enemy still has a lasting legacy. Chuck D speaks at colleges. The group tours the country performing at places like the House of Blues. Then there is Flav and the reality shows.

Now, if you haven't seen "Flavor of Love," it is a show

were women compete to be Flav's woman. Beauty is only skin deep. I know, but Flav has a face that only a mother could love. Yet the show started out with 20 women who weren't all-American rejects vying for his affections.

He's gone from wanting to play the role of controversial Negro like H. Rap Brown to being a whoremonger. Flav gets off when the women throw themselves at him, kiss and allow him to rub their bodies provocatively. Flav is a pimp. Flav is the joke now, not 9-1-1.

Back in the 1980s, Public Enemy realized that the image of blacks on TV and in movies weren't the best and here is a member of the group