

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Coming Attractions Of 1996

The Portland Observer



People of color are given honorable mention on the silver screen in 1996.

Noticeable are Shaquille O'Neal as "Kazaam", a genie with an attitude. His master is a 12 year old boy named Max (Francis Capra) whose mother is raising him alone. Max is being tormented by a group of bullies and one day while hiding in an abandoned building Max accidentally opens the door of a battered boombox. Kazaam appears and unleashes his power to help Max cope with the changes around him.

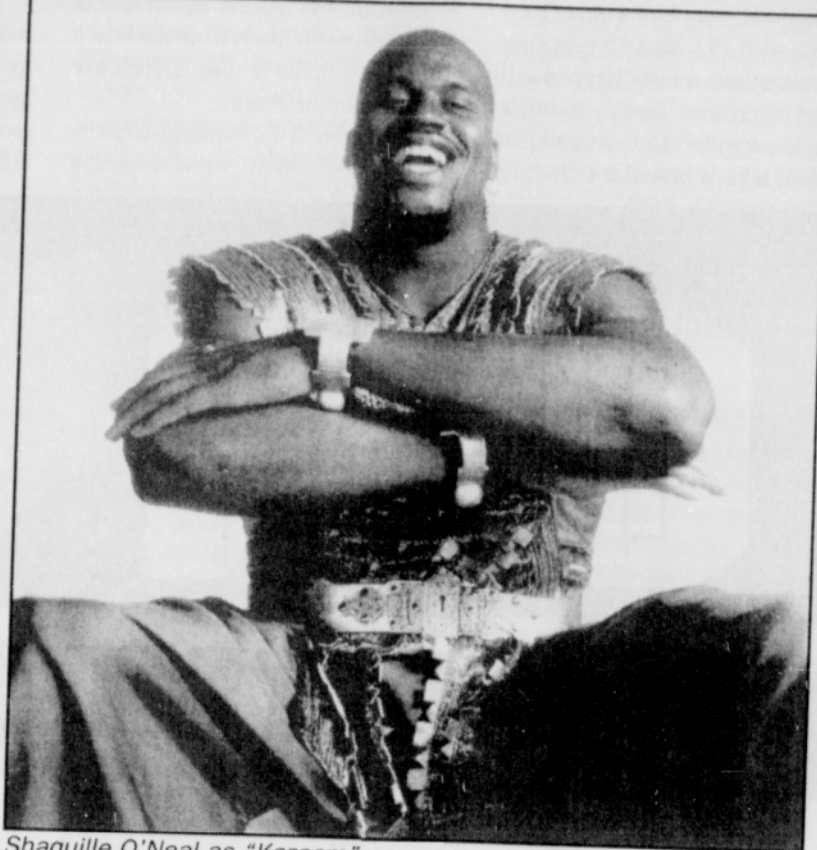
Whoopi Goldberg continues her yearly cinema presence as "Eddie", a Manhattan limo driver who is a basketball nut. The owner of the New

York Knicks overhears her advice and advises the coach to use it. The team wins. Eddie becomes Head Coach and leads the team to victory.

Sinbad is given another chance to prove he is as funny on the big screen as he is on the little screen. In "First Kid" Sinbad stars as Sam Simms, a secret service agent assigned to look after the President's son through many of his youthful skirmishes. Together, the even foil a threat to the first family's security.

Until African-Americans and other people of color develop their own scripts and produce their own movies we will continue to regurgitate stereotype. These latest offerings are just an example of why we need more independent studios.

"Kazaam": NBA superstar Shaquille O'Neal stars as a genie with an attitude whose rusty magic goes up in smoke when he's conjured from his home in a boombox and tries in vain to demonstrate his powers to a skeptical young Max Connor (Francis Capra), in Walt Disney Pictures' new live-action comedy adventure "Kazaam." Soon, however, he's back on course and when Max really needs a friend, Kazaam is there to cast an outrageous spell of comedy and chaos. A Walt Disney Pictures presentation of an Interscope Communication/PloyGram Filmed Entertainment production, "Kazaam" is directed by Paul Michael Glaser from a screen-



Shaquille O'Neal as "Kazaam"

play by Christian Ford & Roger Soffer, story by Paul Michael Glaser. Producers are Scott Kroopf, Paul Michael Glaser and Bob Engelman. Co-producers are Leonard Armato and Beth Jelin. Executive producers are Ted Field, Shaquille O'Neal and Robert W. Cort. Buena Vista Pictures distributes.

"First kid": Sam Simms (Sinbad,

left) is a secret service agent whose sense of style keeps him off the elite force assigned to protect "The Eagle," President of the United States, Daniels. When the President's teen-aged son Luke (Brock Pierce, right) makes the nightly news mooning a crowd at a shopping mall opening, Simms is assigned to look after him. Going through adolescence in the



Sinbad (left) stars as Sam Simms in "First Kid", along with Francis Capra (as Max Connor).

White House isn't all that easy, but Simms helps Luke through his first state dinner, first kiss, first fight and together they thwart a threat to the first family's security, in Hollywood Pictures' new comedy, "First Kid."

Robert Guillaume, Timothy Busfield, James Naughton, Art LaFleur, Bill Cobbs and Zachery Ty Bryan also star. A Hollywood Pic-

tures presentation in association with Caravan Pictures, "First Kid" is directed by David Mickey Evans from a screenplay written by Tim Kelleher. Roger Birnbaum is the Producer. Riley Kathryn Ellis, Dale de La Torre, Time Killeher and Sinbad are the executive producers. Jeffrey Chernov is the co-producer. Buena Vista Pictures distributes.

ONYX To Wreck Shop On Tour Across The Country!

On the heels of their feature role in the just-completed Def Jam College Tour, hardcore rappers Onyx will be touring the U.S. starting in New London, Connecticut on December 12th and ending in Los Angeles, California on January 20th. The hardcore rap trio, celebrated for the super-charged energy of their live performances, will be joined on tour by Das EFX, Group Home, and the Insane Clown Posse.

Onyx's new JMJ/RAL album, All We Got Iz Us, was released on Tuesday, October 24th and debuted at #2 with a bullet on Billboard's Top R&B album charts the week of November 11th.

Produced entirely by Onyx themselves, the set is the eagerly awaited



ONYX

follow up to their incendiary 1993 debut album, Bacdafucup. All We Got Iz Us is already being hailed by the hip hop faithful. One Nut Network's Paris Bennet called it "a welcome change to MC's who are too cool to sweat." Tafrija's G-Wiz loved the album's "hyperactive lyrics over dope beats." Beat Down's Large Marge predicts that it will "consciously scintillate Hip-Hop." And Dillon Moulder in England's Hip-Hop Connection, declared: "In an era where we might as well be 'Better Off Dead,' as Onyx proclaim, here stands a unit that scream in the face of all our problems and act as a perfect remedy to them."

See Onyx live in Portland on Friday Jan. 12 at the Roseland Theatre.

Kris Kross

Raised entirely on slick rhymes and funky funky beats, they were born the year Grandmaster Flash sang "The Message," and started first grade at the same time Public Enemy hit the stage. They are the true children of hip hop and now they are coming of age. Make way for Kris Kross phase two, all ground up and ready to rock the hip hop world with a slick new album and smooth new sound.

People get ready, Young, Rich And Dangerous, the new Kris Kross album on Columbia/RuffHouse, is about to drop on ya.

No one can forget how Kris Kross



Kris Kross: Chris Smith Chris Kelly

(Chris Kelly, now 17 and Chris Smith, now 16) blew up in '91 as the two

precocious shorties with backwards jeans and an infectious debut album, Totally Krossed Out. Now the Chrises are playing with the big boys, offering an album with a slow sexy groove that permeates every track of their latest release, Young, Rich And Dangerous.

Like a fine wine, the Chrises have mellowed with age and so has their sound. Gone are the shrill, prepubescent cries of euphoria, Kris Kross now sound unmistakably world-weary and wise. Four years of fame have given them the insight to deliver an album filled with humor and truth about the fortune and fakeness of life at the top.

Check out Kris Kross Young, Rich and Dangerous.

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