

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

The Portland Observer

Black Stereotypes For A Laugh



Shawn Wayans (l) and Marlon Wayans (r) from "Don't Be a Menace to South Central While Drinking Your Juice in the Hood".

Photo by: George Lange

"Don't be a Menace to South Central While Drinking Your Juice in the Hood" is the latest creative project from the talented and prolific Wayans family. This film is an irreverent, comic spoof that parodies the Hood movies produced in the last five years. "Don't be a Menace..." chronicles the exploits of a young Black man, Ashtray (Shawn Wayans) whose mother returns him to the hood to

learn and live with his father. As Ashtray's mother drops him off to kick-it with his immature father she leaves him with, "You know there are no positive Black women in these hood movies". And she is not kidding!

Ashtray hooks up with his homie Loc Dog (Marlon Wayans), Craxy Legs (Suli McCullough) and Preach (Chris Spencer). Ashtray meets Dashiki



(Tracy Cherelle) who has a baby by every man in the neighborhood and soon becomes impregnate by Ashtray in a funny and crude love scene.

Preach represents every character who talks black and sleeps white. He bypasses a beautiful Black woman to fall for an example of jungle fever which is not very pretty. Ashtray is arrested for being Black on a Friday night and is placed in a cell with a Malcolm, King, Farrakhan caricature and that scene is very funny.

"Don't be a Menace..." pokes fun at the image of the Black urban male who wears his pants sagging a little too low, Black males who constantly drink 40 ounces of beer with Loc Dog as the classic example of a gun-toting, beeper wearing, menace to society.

At times the movie's humor is cornballish, callous and insulting to Black women. However, the Waynes Brothers are a talented and strong creative family. This is not their best work. And "Don't be a Menace..." is not their worst. (Lanita Duke is Producer/Owner of Grassroot News, a video Production company)



"Spies Above": Discovery Channel has been granted exclusive access to film the behind-the-scenes world of counter-intelligence for the first documentary to expose the heretofore undisclosed genesis and proliferation of space-based espionage. Narrated by Gillian Anderson, co-star of Fox's The X-Files, Spies Above makes its world television premiere on Monday, March 11, from 10:00-11:00 PM (ET/PT) and 2:00-3:00 AM (ET/PT). This program examines how and why surveillance satellites were developed and used by the United States and the former Soviet Union, and how space-based intelligence gathering changed the course of history. Featuring a host of firsts, the program takes viewers to places where film cameras have seldom, if ever, been allowed. Pictured: Gillian Anderson, narrator.

Photo By: Michael Lavine/Fox.

Rosalyn McMillan "Knowing"

She'd read an article in the newspaper during Black History Month about how Black women should treat their men. We should treat them with the utmost respect, love, kindness, and recognition... We should encourage them to seek brighter horizons beyond merely being athletes, to strive to become scientists, attorneys, and congressmen, the article had told her. But what of our hopes and dreams?, Ginger wondered. Were they insignificant? Who would help the women?...

At the center of Knowing stands Ginger Montgomery, 36, an attractive and intelligent woman suffocated by material trappings and self-doubt. On the surface, Ginger seems to have it all: a comfortable home in the Detroit suburbs, a lucrative factory job at Champion Motors, four beautiful children, and plenty of passion with Jackson, her intoxicatingly-sexy second husband. Ginger knows she should be happy, yet she's restless and troubled: all the perfect parts of her life add up to an aching emptiness. Through McMillan's detailed, true-to-life depiction, readers come to know the real Ginger -- and expe-

rience her confusion, her frustration, and her pain.

As Knowing soon reveals, beneath his suave facade Jackson is spoiled, jealous man, who seizes every opportunity to sabotage his wife's dream of breaking free from the factory

tedium to pursue a career in real-estate.

About the Author: Rosalyn McMillan spent twenty years working for the Ford Motor Company in Detroit before retiring to write professionally.

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