

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

'Lottery Ticket' Hits Movie Theatres to Sporadic Laughs

The odds of winning the lottery are what, like, 1 in 175 million? The laughs aren't quite so hard to come by in "Lottery Ticket," but they're not a safe bet, either.

The feature debut from longtime music video director Erik White starts out amiably enough, with a shaggy, shambling vibe. But it eventually devolves into a weirdly violent streak, followed by some seriously heavy-handed sentimentality. Still, the ensemble cast manages to keep things sporadically enjoyable.

Rapper-actor Bow Wow is all grown up here as Kevin, a recent high school graduate who's



Bow Wow, and Loretta Devine are shown in a scene from 'Lottery Ticket.'

stuck working at Foot Locker but dreams of creating his own shoe line. "Lottery Ticket" is at its strongest off the top, as Kevin

tries to make his way to work at the mall one morning but keeps getting delayed by the random neighbors in his Atlanta housing project.

They include his God-fearing grandma (Loretta Devine), the

gossipy neighbor (Charlie Murphy) and the crazy recluse who lives in the basement and only pops his hand out with some cash for Kevin to buy him some beef jerky and a Cherry Coke. Along for the ride is his broke, unemployed best friend, Benny, played by Brandon T. Jackson. And there's Kevin's childhood pal, the college-bound Stacie (Naturi Naughton), who clearly wants to be more than friends, and should be.

After a run-in with neighborhood ex-con Lorenzo (Gbenga Akinnagbe) over some Air Jordans Kevin gets him fired from his job; buys himself a lottery ticket. And whaddya know? The numbers he got out of a fortune cookie that day just hap-

pen to win him the \$370 million jackpot.

But because we need a plot contrivance to make things difficult for Kevin, it just happens to be the extended July 4 weekend, so he has to wait three days to cash in at the lottery office. This also means he has to survive three days of people cozying up to him or trying to kill him because he's now a rich man.

"Lottery Ticket," shows flashes of the kind of likable comedy that made Ice Cube's "Friday" a cult classic. It just doesn't show them consistently, and the cloyingly feel-good ending nearly negates the good will the movie generated from the beginning. It doesn't hit the jackpot but it's not a total loss.

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Musical Puppets -- The Mudeye Puppet Company presents the musical performance "BikeTrike Spoketacular" on Friday, Aug. 27 at 10 a.m. at Lot 13 on North Mississippi and Shaver. The world premier show will include lessons about creative reuse and bicycling.

Young Jazz Artist -- Fresh from his studies at the prestigious Julliard School in New York City and nomination as a presidential scholar in the arts, Portland Trombonist Javier Nero performs Monday, Aug. 30 at 8 p.m. at Mississippi Pizza Pub, 3552 N. Mississippi Ave.

King Farmers Market -- The King Farmers Market is back each Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Oct. 31 at Northeast Seventh Avenue and Wygant Street, adjacent to King School Park. Food stamp users can receive up to \$10 in matching tokens.

St. Johns Farmers Market -- The St. Johns Farmers Market takes place each Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Johns Plaza through Sept. 25. About 24 vendors sell fruits, vegetables, meat, dairy, honey and more.



Pink Martini Double Round -- Portland's international band Pink Martini puts away its passport for two special hometown performances as part of the summer concert series at the Oregon Zoo on Thursday, Aug. 26 and Friday, Aug. 27.

Community Fun -- The next family-friendly and multicultural PROPER Festival is held Saturday, Sept. 11, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Kenton Park in north Portland. Activities include a bike and car show, healthy living

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exhibits, live art and entertainment, networking booths, a puppet show and free food.

Mel Brown Live -- Portland jazz giant Mel Brown performs at Salty's on the Columbia every Friday and Saturday night. Known as the "Gentleman of Jazz," Brown has a career spanning over 40 years.

Mexican Equestrian Culture -- This summer, the Oregon History Museum presents its newest exhibit Arte en la Charrería: The Artisanry of the Mexican Equestrian Culture. Over 300 stunning objects, many dating from the late 1800s, offer a unique view of the culture surrounding the charro or Mexican cowboy.

Norman Sylvester Band -- Boogie Cat Norman Sylvester and his band perform Friday, Aug. 27 at 4 p.m. at the Vancouver Wine & Jazz Festival; Friday, Aug. 27 at 7 p.m. at Persimmon Country Club; Saturday, Aug. 28 at Gemini Pub in Lake Oswego; and Saturday, Sept. 4 at Tillicum in Beaverton.

Einstein Exhibit -- Explore the mysteries of space and time and journey inside the mind of Albert Einstein, one of the greatest scientists the world has ever known, in the new exhibit Einstein, at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry.

Road to Equality Exhibit -- Clark County Historic Museum presents the exhibit, Road to Equality: the Struggle for Women's Rights in the Northwest. The museum is located at 1511 Main St. in Vancouver. For more information, call 360-993-5679.

Prehistoric Predators -- Enormous dinosaurs with lifelike ferocity are represented in an exhibit that continues through Labor Day at the Oregon Zoo. Visitors will follow a trail through an ancient rain forest, surrounded by the realistic animatronic creatures that roar, snarl and move.