

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Punching Above Their Weight

‘Premature’ has pulse on a generation

BY DWIGHT BROWN

They are just kids. They think they’re grown. But they’re just punching above their weight.

Yanni (Zora Howard), a 17-year-old Harlem resident, has dreams. It’s summertime. College is around the corner. She’s hanging out with her badass girlfriends and biding her time. Then, a tall, handsome outsider named Isaiah (Joshua Boone) comes into the picture. He pursues her, she plays hard to get, for about a minute. Next thing you know, the lives and bodies of a thoughtful young woman and a fledgling music producer are intertwined.

Judging by the images on the screen and the characters on view, writer/director Rashaad Ernesto Green and writer/actress Zora Howard have got their fingers on the pulse of this generation in “Premature” their new film.

The story presents adolescents with attitudes, crass language, an urban sensibility and a spunky kind of hubris that gives them enough confidence to survive in the city. It’s all happening in that slim window of time between high school and college. They’re growing up, growing apart and starting to encounter adult problems.

On the surface this is a love story. But the intro-



Joshua Boone (left) and Zora Howard star in the new film “Premature,” a love story about a thoughtful young woman and a fledgling music producer.

spective examination of black life, women’s issues and parenting concerns reflects on the state of things today and is a testament to the co-writers’ intelligence and social consciousness.

The jazzy musical score by Patrick Cannell and Stefan Swanson, though beguiling, almost doesn’t make sense.

Premature, as a film, is a tight indie art piece. However, with these characters, their stories, the director’s skills and the writer’s so-modern sensibility, this project would make an ideal Netflix series. That way its fans could stick with the characters as they continue experiencing growing pains.

Dwight Brown is a film critic for the National Newspapers Publishers Association, the Black Press.

Children’s Theatre Promotes Leader



Marci Crowson

Following a national search, Oregon Children’s Theatre, a nonprofit professional theater for young audiences, has promoted Marci Crowson as its next artistic director.

Crowson was first hired by OCT in 2006, when she was charged with shaping and growing a new partnership with Kaiser Permanente, a unique collaboration using theater as a tool to prompt thought and dialogue about the everyday decisions that shape the quality of our health and our lives.

In 2016, Crowson stepped into a

newly created associate artistic director role, where she guided the development of new plays for young audiences, assisted in season planning, directed productions, and supported the artistic and community work of the company.



PHOTO BY KOTIVALO/WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

A LED bulb inside a white shade gives off a warm glow.

Knowing the Color of LED Bulbs

BY KAY NEWELL

One of the biggest problems with LED bulbs is knowing what color the bulbs produce. At Sunlan Lighting you will find a hands-on display to learn how the colors of the LED impact you.

The colors of light are given numerical names based on the Kelvin scale. 27K or 2700 is the color of early morning sunshine. The color becomes whiter as the day takes hold at 30K or 3000 Kelvin and even whiter at 35K or 3500 Kelvin. The sun changes color all day long until the moon takes over with her own soft light. Descriptions like soft white, warm white, day light and natural light have been common with the older fluorescent lights. The same words used by differ-

ent LED companies may refer to different Kelvins. The key is to look for the Kelvin number to be sure you are getting the color of light you want.

By another measurement, the Color Rendering Index for daylight was 80 CRI for fluorescent bulbs, but LED bulbs range from 70 to 90 CRI. To enjoy seeing the colors that look as they would in full daylight, choose a bulb that is 90 CRI. You can usually find all the information you need on the box. But if the information is not printed, it is not one of the features of the bulb. In our next column, we will look at the characteristics of the 5000 Kelvin LED bulb.

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