

FILM REVIEW: 'How to Be Single' Samples Manhattan Singles Scene

By Kam Williams
Special to The Skanner News

When Alice (Dakota Johnson) graduated from college, it would have been very easy for her to settle down with her college sweetheart of four years. After all, Josh (Nicholas Braun) was not only a nice guy with a promising future but very eager to marry and start a family.

However, since she'd never really dated anyone else, Alice wanted to test the waters before making such a big commitment. So, she ended the relationship and moved clear across the country to New York City to live with her elder sister, Meg (Leslie Mann), an obstetrician who hears her biological clock ticking.

Alice lands a job as a paralegal at a big law firm where she makes fast friends with a flamboyant co-worker (Rebel Wilson) eager to show her the ropes both around the office and the Manhattan dating scene. Despite a Rubenesque figure, Robin exudes an enviable confidence that the relatively-modest Alice ostensibly admires.

After hours, the two descend upon a trendy meat market, where Alice catches the eye of a handsome bartender (Anders Holm). Against her better judgment, she impulsively agrees to a one-night stand with the stranger, only to find it not to her lik-



'How to Be Single'

ing. Worse, the disaster has her pining for Josh who has no interest in reconciling. That means Alice must continue to negotiate her way around the gauntlet of a strange new world where she can't quite get her footing. Thus unfolds *How to Be Single*, a raunchy romantic comedy directed by Christian Ditter (*Love, Rosie*). The movie is very loosely based on Liz Tuccillo's 2008 best-seller of the same name which revolved around a 38 year-old heroine instead of one in her early twenties.

Dakota Johnson exhibits an endearing mix of sensuality and vulnerability as the naive newcomer looking for love in all the wrong places. And her character's plight is playfully juxtaposed against that of her sister who is so desperate to get pregnant that she's

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Kam Talks to Isaiah Washington About 'The Sin Seer,' Books, ESP

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Isaiah Washington was born Aug. 3, 1963 in Houston, Texas. After a stint in the US Air Force, he attended Howard University as a theater arts major, then joined the City Kids Repertory, a troupe which performed at schools for at-risk kids.

Isaiah has appeared in such Spike Lee films as *Crooklyn*, *Clockers*, *Girl 6* and *Get on the Bus*. Other movies on his resume include *Romeo Must Die*, *Out of Sight*, *Bulworth* and *Love Jones*.

His first regular gig on TV was as a regular cast member on "Grey's Anatomy." In his spare time, Isaiah enjoys building model airplanes, and he also wrote a memoir, *A Man From Another Land: How Finding My Roots Changed My Life*.

Here, he talks about his latest offering, *The Sin Seer*, a thriller where he plays an ex-con-turned-private eye who solves cases with the help of a clairvoyant [Lisa Arrindell Anderson].

Kam Williams: Hi Isaiah, thanks for the interview.

Isaiah Washington: Hi, Kam.

KW: What interested you in *The Sin Seer*?

IW: I thought that the story was very unique for an African American wom-



Isaiah Washington as a private eye in 'The Sin Seer'

an to star in, and I saw yet another opportunity to be a producer on a movie.

KW: How would you describe the film in 25 words or less?

IW: It's a shocker in the end!

KW: Do you believe that some people have extra sensory powers in real life?

IW: Absolutely!

KW: How would you describe your character, Grant Summit?

IW: As mysterious, loyal and a protector.

KW: What message do you think people will take away from the film?

IW: Watch your friends and family members closely.

KW: AALBC.com founder Troy Johnson asks: What was the last book you

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