

# FILM REVIEW: 'Meet the Blacks'

## 'Hood Meets High Society in Politically-Incorrect Parody of 'The Purge'

By Kam Williams  
For The Skanner News

After coming into a small fortune under suspicious circumstances, Carl Smith (Mike Epps) decides to move his family from the ghetto in Chicago to Blanco Cielo, an exclusive development in Beverly Hills. Accompanying him on the cross-country trip are his wife Lorena (Zulay Henao), dating-age daughter Allie (Bresha Webb), and adolescent son Carl, Jr. (Alex Henderson).

Upon their arrival, Carl proceeds to offend everyone he encounters, starting with the gated community's security guard whom he calls too dark-skinned to profile another black person. Despite the fact that the African immigrant is merely attempting to do his job, he is also accused of having the Ebola virus.

Next, when Lorena hires an Asian manicurist (Kathrien Ahn), Carl asks her to give him "some Chinese head." Charming. And during a get acquainted stroll around the neighborhood, he manages to antagonize assorted neighbors, too.

More importantly, however, he also learns that "The Purge" is set to start at 7 p.m. If you are familiar with the horror flick of the same name, then you know that means that all crimes will be legal during the impending 12-hour period, even murder.

What ensues is a politically-incorrect parody closely patterned on the original.

After sundown, a number of adversaries descend on the estate, one-by-one, each with evil intentions, includ-



ing a Ku Klux Klansman (Michael Caradoona), a repo man (DeRay Davis), a revenge-minded parolee (Charlie Murphy), Carl's ex-wife Shoranda (Tameka "Tiny" Cottle) and his crazy cousin Cronut (Lil Duval). Unfortunately, co-writer/director Deon Taylor decided to appeal to the lowest common denominator repeatedly during this unfunny, demeaning throwback reminiscent of Amos 'n' Andy.

Anything for a laugh, regardless of how self-hating or hurtful the joke might be. An expletive and N-word-laced descent into modern minstrelsy.

**Poor (0 stars)**  
**Rated R for sexuality, violence, ethnic slurs, drug use and profanity**  
**Running time: 90 minutes**  
**Studio: Hidden Empire Film Group**  
**Distributor: Freestyle Releasing**

# Chillin' with Cube & Cole: The 'Barbershop: The Next Cut' Interview

By Kam Williams  
For The Skanner News

Actor, writer, producer, director, rapper, father – “reigning Renaissance king” could be a good term to describe the one and only Ice Cube. Coming of age in 1980s Los Angeles, Cube experienced the roiling stew of street knowledge, sports fanaticism, and social injustice in a city at the forefront of hip-hop’s expansion from local sound to global phenomenon.

Twenty-seven years after N.W.A – the group Cube co-founded with Dr. Dre, Eazy-E, MC Ren, and DJ Yella – released their archetypal gangsta rap masterpiece Straight Outta Compton, the group’s 2016 induction into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, with an introductory speech by their spiritual heir Kendrick Lamar, is a mark of how far Cube has come.

Cube made his feature film debut in director John Singleton’s 1991 hit Boyz n the Hood. From that auspicious beginning, he has become one of the most bankable, likeable names in Hollywood as a writer, actor, and producer. His production company, Cube Vision, founded in 1995, has now passed two



Margot Bingham and Deon Cole in Barbershop: The Next Cut

decades making memorable films. He has been part of films that have cumulatively grossed over \$1 billion at the box office.

The N.W.A biopic Straight Outta Compton took in box-office receipts of over \$200 million worldwide. Cube’s successful film franchises also include the Friday, Are We There Yet?, Ride Along, and Barbershop franchises.

Deon Cole plays the hilarious co-worker Charlie, a fan-favorite on ABC’s hit comedy Black-ish. Deon is also one of the lead roles in the TBS series Angie Tribeca. And he continues to be a featured guest correspondent on Conan, for which he was also a two-time Emmy nominated writer.

Here, Cube and Deon discuss co-star-

See CUBE on page 11

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