

FILM REVIEW: 'Girls Trip'

BFFs Party in New Orleans in Raunchy Reunion Romp

By **Kam Williams**
Special to *The Skanner*

Ryan (Regina Hall), Sasha (Queen Latifah), Dina (Tiffany Haddish) and Lisa (Jada Pinkett Smith) have been friends since their college days in the 1990s. Back then, the tight-knit Flossy Posse partied as hard as they hit the books. After graduating, they curtailed the carousing considerably for the sake of their professional careers.

Today, journalism major Sasha's still struggling to pay the bills as

a gossip columnist. Divorced Lisa's exhausted between her demanding nursing job and having to raise a couple of kids alone. And short-fused Dina just got fired for assaulting a colleague.

By contrast, self-help guru Ryan seems to be on top of the world. Not only is her new book, "You Can Have It All," on the best seller list, but she's happily-married to Stewart (Mike Colter), a handsome and charming, former football star. Plus, the successful couple is on the verge of landing their own, na-

tionally-syndicated TV talk show.

At the point of departure, Ryan is set to deliver the keynote speech at the Essence Festival, an annual celebration of African American music and culture. She can think of no better occasion to reunite the Flossy Posse for the first time in years, so she invites her BFFs to join her for an all-expenses paid trip to New Orleans.

The girlfriends jump at the opportunity to share a wild weekend of debauchery all around the Big Easy. What ensues is



'Girls Trip'

jaw-dropping: there's explicit sex chat, male frontal nudity, hallucinating from substance abuse – even urinating on revel-

message movie towards the end. The adventure unfolds like an African American variation of "Rough Night" and

easy for me to report that this female empowerment flick will certainly resonate with its target audience. In fact, they laughed so loudly that I must have missed half the picture's punchlines. And what better stamp of approval could you ask for than a standing ovation as the curtain comes down?

“Girls Trip is a relentlessly-raunchy romp which starts out as a shock comedy before turning into a message movie

ers from a zip line strung above Basin Street.

Directed by Malcolm Lee ("The Best Man franchise"), *Girls Trip* is a relentlessly-raunchy romp which starts out as a shock comedy before turning into a

"Bridesmaids," at least until Ryan's marriage is exposed as a charade. At that juncture, it morphs into a morality play reminiscent of a Tyler Perry production.

Since I saw the film in a theater full of sisters, it's

Excellent ★★★★★

Rated R for profanity, crude humor, sexual dialogue, drug use and brief frontal nudity

Running time: 122 min.

View a trailer at TheSkanner.com.

Read It Before You See It



'Queen Sugar'

By **Kirby McCurtis**
Special to *The Skanner*

Some of the best TV series and movies are based on books. And while you may not always agree with the director or producer's interpretation of the author's writing, it's always an adventure to read and then watch. Here is a list of books that will make sure you are ready for the summer hits everyone is already talking about:



Kirby McCurtis, Administrator, North Portland Library

- *Everything, Everything*, by Nicola Yoon, is the story of a teenage girl, Maddy, who's literally allergic to the outside world. When a new family moves in, she begins a complicated romance with the boy next door that challenges everything she's ever known. Maddy is played by the amazing Amandla Stenberg, and there is still time to catch it in theaters.

- *Queen Sugar* is a beautiful exploration of family ties, and how time, trauma and disconnect can tear at those seams. Charly Bordelon's late father has just left her 8,800 sprawling acres of sugarcane land in rural Louisiana, and she decides to leave Los Angeles to start fresh. Author Natalie Baszile writes a book so vivid in its portrayal of setting and place, and creator Ava DuVernay's beautifully transforms this sense of place for the small screen for Oprah's channel (OWN). Season two is on air now.

- *The Dark Tower* series, from Stephen King, is a suspenseful, eight-book series set in a futuristic, Wild West type of world. Across the desert, the gunslinger, Roland Deschain, pursues the Man in Black in an epic battle of good vs. evil for the fate of the universe. The film is based on the seventh book, *The Dark Tower*. Idris Elba plays the gunslinger and Matthew McConaughey plays the Man in Black. While the movie is based on book seven, read the whole series before Aug. 4 to get a true understanding of this world.

- For a heavier story based on true events, read *The Algiers Motel Incident* by John Hersey. The book tells about the deaths of three black men and the brutal beatings of nine other people at a Detroit hotel on July 25, 1967, during the racially charged 12th Street Riot. The movie "Detroit," based on the incident, hits theatres on August 4. With a cast that includes John Boyega, Anthony Mackie and Chris Chalk, I predict an Oscar buzz, so read the facts before seeing the film.

- Get a jump start on reading *The Mountain Between Us*, before the movie adaptation, starring Idris Elba and Kate Winslet, hits theatres on October 6. The novel by Charles Martin, is about a surgeon and a magazine writer who become stranded in a frigid mountain wilderness after a plane crash.

For more new titles, including DVDs and streaming movies, check out the Multnomah County Library website at www.multcolib.bibliocommons.com/explore/recent_arrivals.

REGINA HALL
TIFFANY HADDISH
WITH JADA PINKETT SMITH
AND QUEEN LATIFAH

GIRLS TRIP

UNIVERSAL PICTURES PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH PERFECT WORLD PICTURES
A WILL PACKER PRODUCTIONS PRODUCTION A MALCOLM D. LEE FILM "GIRLS TRIP" REGINA HALL TIFFANY HADDISH LARENZ TATE
MIKE COLTER KATE WALSH WITH JADA PINKETT SMITH AND QUEEN LATIFAH MUSIC BY DAVID NEWMAN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS PRESTON HOLMES JAMES LOPEZ
PRODUCED BY WILL PACKER PGM. MALCOLM D. LEE PGM. STORY BY ERICA RIVINOJA AND KENYA BARRIS & TRACY OLIVER SCREENPLAY BY KENYA BARRIS & TRACY OLIVER
WILL PACKER PRODUCTIONS R CRUDE AND SEXUAL CONTENT THROUGHOUT, PROFANE LANGUAGE, BRIEF GRAPHIC NUDDY, AND DRUG MATERIAL CLOUTIER DIRECTED BY MALCOLM D. LEE SOUNDTRACK ON BACK LOT MUSIC A UNIVERSAL PICTURE © 2017 UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

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