

# 'House Party' another black exploitation film

By Michael Clayton  
YELLIN' REBEL

'House Party' is yet another black exploitation film, but the only difference between this film and black exploitation films of the past is that this one was written, produced, and directed by blacks.

Produced by the Hudlin brothers (Reginald and Warrington), 'House Party' exposes the producers as novices. While there is drastic room for improvement, it would be unfair of me not to mention that theirs is an obvious demonstration of diamond-in-the-rough film technique. Still, the film dissappoints.

'House Party' offers top ten pop chart rappers 'Kid'n Play' (Christopher Reid and Christopher Martin) as co-leads, with Robin Harris as a supporting actor. Harris, who plays Kid/Chris's disciplinarian father, also starred in Spike Lee's 'Do The Right Thing' as Sweet Dick.

(Harris died this past weekend, ending a long career as a nationally exposed stand-up comic and actor.)

'Full Force,' a successful soul/pop/R&B singing group have supporting roles in the movie too. They are much too big and much too old to be passed off as high school students, and do nothing more than serve as (adolescent) comic relief.

'House Party' is for high schoolers (and will quite probably make millions from that audience). Any mature adult won't be able to sit still for the silliness of the film. If this were a satirical piece, perhaps. But it isn't.

The only thing that saves me from totally condemning this film is that it is aimed at the 14 to 17-year-old crowd, I think.

As a slice of black Americana, this film can only help to perpetuate the myth that Black English is a literary form based on cussing and cursing, and that the majority of

African-Americans in this country subscribe to slang.

What has been touted as a great awareness film (in as much as it deals with subjects such as sex, alcohol, and teen abuse) fails as the points-of-view on these subjects are not developed, but, instead, spit out as if some button were pressed. There is only one artful handling of awareness topics and even it is done badly.

The movie fails to become artful by such shallow dives. It is actually an insult to black mentality—to anybody's mentality. Each message spit out is obvious, staged—bland commercials.

As far as a piece of film, the continuity is disjointed, as the viewer finds himself in several different settings in a matter of seconds.

I guess the Hudlin brothers, spurred on by being awarded Utah States' first place prize, feel that

they have succeeded at producing a film that is representative of black America. Well they haven't.

If anything they have helped prop up the current pop culture's interpretation of the majority of black Americans as hip-hopping (actually latter day steppin-fetch-it/'Steppin' Fetch'), selfish, loud, rude, callous and insensitive oafs who can't see beyond their noses—not too much unlike the sociopathic heathens Spike Lee passed off as artists in his film 'Do The Right Thing.'

'House Party' is nothing more than a series of one-liners and situation comedies joined at the hip by virtue of being sequential frames on a single spool of film.

Aside from the juvenile attempts at humor, Kid (Christopher Reid), who has a way to go in the area of acting, does manage to garner sympathy throughout the picture as an underdog and a non-con-

formist.

Another redeeming (humorous) characteristic of the film was its portrayal of the two policemen who are (supposed to be) conduits of the many preconceived notions about minorities.

Personally, I recommend that every budding filmmaker see the movie at least once so as to understand just what not to produce in the terms of serious art.

'House Party', a New Line Cinema production cost two million to make. For as much money as it will obviously reap (kids can't resist a Beat Street treat) let us hope that the Hudlin brothers use the money to expand their film making horizons. Let us hope that they endeavor to represent black America (teenagers even) as more than crude and selfish, and lacking in respect, manners, and decorum.

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Yell Photo / Robert Anderson

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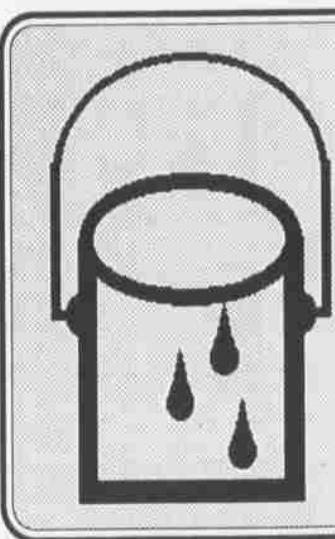
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**Bonar, Joe and Mike:  
Thanks for helping me  
paint this dump this  
weekend.**

**K.**