



(left to right) Dr. Susan McAlester (Saffron Burrows), "Preacher" (LL Cool J) and Carter (Thomas Jane) in Warner Bros. horror film, "Deep Blue Sea."

'Deep Blue Sea': smart sharks, mindless thriller

Tammy D. McMahan
Sentinel-Voice

Watching *Deep Blue Sea* reminded me of eating a candy bar: You know that you don't need the junk food, but, sometimes you can't stop yourself from indulging in a little trifle.

Deep Blue Sea is movie junkfood that has little or no value, but once you've succumbed to the temptation to watch, you will mindlessly and, perhaps, enjoyably, nibble away at this fish story.

It is a tale of a scientific experiment gone awry. Beautiful, brainy Dr. Susan McAlester (Saffron Burrows) has increased the brain size of three Mako sharks in an attempt to harvest more of a protein that may cure degenerative diseases like Alzheimer's disease.

The side effects: the sharks become smarter and more carnivorous.

McAlester and her fellow scientists portrayed by Stellan Skarsgard, Michael Rapaport and Jacqueline McKenzie conduct their experiments and observations of the sharks aboard Aquatica, a multi-billion dollar deep sea station funded by a large corporation.

When one of the genetically manipulated sharks pulls a "Jaws" and tries to attack a boat full of teenagers, the corporate bigwig Russell Franklin (Samuel L. Jackson) comes to visit to find out exactly how his billions are being spent.

Soon after Franklin is aboard, a horrific storm and an explosion wreak havoc on the station, trapping him, the scientists, the shark handler (Thomas Jane), and the Bible-quoting cook called Preacher (L.L. Cool J) on Aquatica

which is quickly being overtaken by ocean waters. The sharks couldn't be happier about the situation. What ensues is every shark's dream-appetizer, entrees and dessert. This film is so formulaic that a five-year-old could tell you what will happen next. In other words, there's nothing original here, folks. *Deep Blue Sea's* plot borrows heavily from *Jaws* and the *Alien* movies. You know the routine, big, bad

Logic takes a vacation in *Deep Blue Sea*. You will scratch your head as to how sharks, even sharks with bigger brains, could figure out how to turn off lights, turn on an oven, etc., when they have zero information about such things. You may think that some of the humans have been the subject of genetic manipulation due to their amazing ability to hold their breath under water for long periods of time.



(L-R) Todd Scoggins (Michael Rapaport), Carter Blake (Thomas Jane in background), Russell Franklin (Samuel L. Jackson) and Dr. Susan McAlester (Saffron Burrows).

monsters stalk hapless humans who are in a tight spot, be it a sinking boat on the open sea or a spaceship, and the escape routes are limited and treacherous.

The big, bad monsters systematically pick off the humans as if they had "bite me" T-shirts on until the final battle between the monsters and the humans.

Director Renny Harlin deserves some credit for a few spectacular action scenes. The attack on the station's "wet lab" window by one of the sharks is gruesome, but compelling. One action sequence is a complete shocker that practically made me jump out of my seat.

The acting is laughable. Jackson's performance is no exception. The film isn't Jackson-caliber.

However, I see Jackson as an adventurous type who didn't want to make a statement here, but only have some fun.

Like the other actors, he's wooden.

L.L. Cool J manages to provide some funny one liners, particularly on the plight of people of color in action flicks, but he doesn't really rise above a cardboard character.

Think of *Deep Blue Sea* as a candy bar: If you can take the empty calories, eat 'til your heart's content.

Smith, TLC earn MTV nominations

NEW YORK (AP) — With a backdrop of screaming teen-age girls, a grinning Ricky Martin reaped one more reward of his wild life: six MTV Video Award nominations for "Livin' La Vida Loca."

TLC and Will Smith also earned six nominations. Rock

band Korn led the way with nine nominations for its video, "Freak on a Leash." The awards show will be held on Sept. 9 at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City. Comedian Chris Rock is the host.

Rock figures he'll have to brush up on his Spanish.

Martin - clearly the star at MTV's news conference to announce the nominees last week outside Lincoln Center — was asked three questions in Spanish by reporters.

Fans kept behind barricades several hundred feet away squealed at Martin's every move.

MOTOWN
ALIVE

The night comes alive
at Motown Cafe.

Sunday, August 8, 1999

Come join

THE ORIGINAL SIN

No cover until midnight.

Drink specials all night long.

The hospitality industry property

with the most representation wins our \$500 VIP Club Experience.

(Includes \$500 in comp bar, appetizers and merchandise)

Hottest DJ's playing - dance, house and R&B music.

Saturday, August 7, 1999

Motown comes alive with 98.5 FM Live with Chet Buchanan of KLUC.

Ladies FREE, no cover until midnight. Hottest DJ's playing dance, house and R&B music



Friday, August 6, 1999

Motown comes alive with the hottest DJ's playing dance, house and R&B music.

Ladies FREE, no cover until midnight. Drink specials all night long.

Wednesday, August 4th

Martini and Cigar Night

Stoli Vodka, cigars provided by Davidoff Cigars and featuring the musical styling of Jamology. Social merriment under the bright lights of the Strip on the cafe's Strip Patio. 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Motown Cafe Las Vegas

New York New York™ Hotel Casino • 3790 Las Vegas Blvd. So.

For tickets, call the Motown Cafe at 702-740-6440.

Visa-MasterCard-American Express accepted.

Concerts presented in association with

