

## ENTERTAINMENT

## Amateurish dud leaves audience feeling 'Held Up'

Kam Williams

Special to Sentinel-Voice

I can't remember watching anything so horrible in my life. Held Up, directed by Steve Rash (Eddie), attempts to cash in on the inner city-meets-outer city theme successfully developed in such action comedies as Blue Streak, Rush Hour and Nothing to Lose. But this unbearable dud issues an unreality check that bounces Superball high. No doubt, Held Up is the worst of the hundred or so films I've seen thus far this year.

The film stars Nia Long (The Best Man) and Jamie Foxx (Any Given Sunday).

Who's advising them? I have a friendly suggestion for Nia and Jamie, for your own good, you might want to stop taking calls from the agent who signed you up for this amateurish fiasco.

Superficially, the plot doesn't sound so bad. Successful Chicago businessman Mike (Mr. Foxx) takes his spoiled fiancée' Rae (Ms. Long) on what was supposed to be a romantic vacation to the Grand Canyon. But



JAMIE FOXX

the young couple gets into an argument over the vintage Studebaker Mike buys in Arizona. Rae, who feels the money could have been better used as a down payment on a dream home, gets annoyed.

At this juncture, only five minutes in, the film falls apart. Inexplicably, Rae jumps into



NIA LONG

the back of a pick-up and rides off into the desert with a bunch of good ol' boys who have been openly admiring her tangible assets.

Stop right there. It was simply silly to suggest that a bourgie, sassy sistah would dump her husband-to-be for a carload of horny rednecks.

This turn-of-events takes the talented Nia Long out of the picture, until she's needed for the sappy conclusion. Mike finds himself stranded in the middle of nowhere at a combination gas station/convenience store called Sip and Zip. No sooner does Rae leave than a gang of gun-wielding Chicano desperadoes arrive to rob not only the clerk but his customers.

Before the banditos can escape and make a desert getaway across the border to Mexico,

the cops surround them, led by doofus Deputy Beaumont (Jake Busey). A standoff ensues and the action and movie grinds to a halt. It's as if passive Director Rash decided to let stand-up comedian Foxx improvise for an hour. But nothing he tries works on a set cluttered with characters standing around waiting for a cue.

Foxx plays mostly off Rusty (Sam Gifaldi), the young kid who mistakes Michael first for rap star Puff Daddy, then for boxer Mike Tyson.

The wannabe tyke's attempts to act black (thrusts out chest), talk black ('We bad!') and dress black (turns cap backwards) are so poorly executed, they're offensive.

There's nothing about Mary (Sarah Paulson), a personality-less local yokel who becomes catatonic and just stands bent over in an aisle staring into space like a mental patient. Meanwhile, Jack (John Cullem), a hulking biker, loiters at the newspaper rack, leafing through a magazine as if unaware of the hostage situation.

The film felt like a lot longer than 90 minutes as I awaited the obvious, tidy resolution, reuniting Mike with Rae for a ride into the sunset despite her bad attitude and bad wig day. The whole production looks very stagy, as if a one act, grade school play filmed by a proud papa. It was like driving nails into my own head.

Recommend it to someone you really hate. Poor (0 stars); Rated PG-13 for mild profanity and pistol-whipping and assorted gun play.

## The Artist opening park for tours

CHANHASSEN, Minn. (AP) — Fans of the artist formerly known as Prince will have a chance to see where he works when he opens his Paisley Park studios for a weeklong celebration. From June 7 to June 12, fans willing to fork over \$70 can take a half-hour tour of Paisley Park in this Minneapolis suburb, where Prince has made many of his records and videos. The tours will move through the recording studios, personal offices, wardrobe room and sound stages, his

publicist said in a statement. Prince will not conduct the tours himself.

Each night, ticket holders also can attend parties that will include Prince concert footage and live performances by "surprise musical guests," the statement said. Visitors will be asked to vote on which of his unreleased songs should be included on future albums.

"He's been wanting to do this for a while," said Jacqui Thompson, a Paisley Park official.

## Berry fined for leaving accident scene

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — Actress Halle Berry was fined \$13,500 and placed on three years' probation after pleading no contest to leaving the scene of an accident.

"Your honor, I would like the court to know that I have taken this matter very seriously from the very beginning. I am pleased that this can be resolved," Berry, 31, said in court last week.

Superior Court Judge Charles G. Ruben also ordered Berry to perform 200 hours of

community service.

Berry was driving a rented sport utility vehicle that ran a red light and collided with another car at a West Hollywood intersection on Feb. 23, then drove off, police said.

The other driver, Hetal Raythatha, suffered injuries including a broken wrist and is suing the actress for unspecified damages. Berry was treated for a cut on her forehead.

Berry's attorney, Blair Berk, said prosecutors found no evidence that the actress was under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

## Jackson, Carey honored for record sales

MONTE CARLO, Monaco (AP) — Michael Jackson and Mariah Carey scooped up top honors as best-selling male and female artists of the millennium at the 12th annual World Music Awards.

The awards, which honor the world's greatest-selling recording artists, were given Wednesday night at a glamour-filled soiree at Monaco's famed seaside Sporting Club and broadcast live to an estimated 900 mil-

lion viewers in more than 150 countries.

The two-hour special was organized under the patronage of Monaco's Prince Albert and included a special guest appearance by the Goo Goo Dolls.

Ricky Martin was named world's best-selling pop male artist and best-selling Latin artist. The Backstreet Boys were honored as the world's best-selling pop, dance, R&B and American group.

## Snipes plans on building guard-training camp

EATONTON, Ga. (AP) — Wesley Snipes, who has played a federal marshal, a police officer and an FBI agent in his movies, wants to bring some real-life action to rural Georgia.

Snipes is negotiating to buy 300 acres about 35 miles northeast of Macon to create a camp to train security agents for celebrity protection, said Victor McGauley, vice president of Snipes' Los Angeles-based production company, Amen Ra Films.

"Wesley is a high-profile person, and he saw that specific security needs were not being met," McGauley said.

Putnam County chief building inspector J.D. Adams said a security school is not permitted on the property, which is zoned agricultural. He said the law has no provision for weapons storage as indicated in Snipes' proposal. Attorneys appealing the ruling say a firing range is a permissible use of agricultural land.

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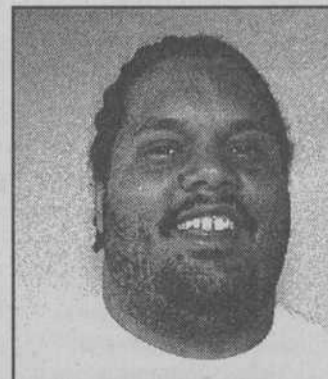
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