Subject: Barbershop II
Posted by Manualblock on Mon, 31 Jan 2005 01:11:28 GMT
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I am starting to like B-shop II better than the first one. Any ideas? I always loved Carwash I, the gay guy say's;"I am more man than you will ever be and more woman than you will ever get".Funny the guy Calvin originates with the band NWA.

Subject: Re: Barbershop II
Posted by Wayne Parham on Mon, 31 Jan 2005 05:28:08 GMT
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I didn't watch either of 'em. Thanks for the mention, I'll rent them.

Subject: Re: Barbershop II-- a quick recommendation
Posted by lon on Tue, 01 Feb 2005 03:26:38 GMT
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See if you can find a copy of "Fear Of A Black Hat" which is _the_most biting satire on the hip hop/rap scene ever made--no contest. I loved that, but it is pretty raw. The director should do morework and maybe he has, but I haven't tracked any down. Saw Barbershop (I) and looking forward to II coming off thefirst run shelf. It has that Spike Lee "Do The Right Thing"community flavor and I'm glad that Ice Cube continues in the movie business. But frankly, I thought this wouldbe snapped up by tv and made into a series.

Subject: Re: Barbershop II-- a quick recommendation
Posted by Manualblock on Tue, 01 Feb 2005 16:16:51 GMT
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That would make sense. Cedric the Entertainer; they seem to know what they have in him they just don't know how to handle it. He is getting the Media Moron treatment in everything they put him in except these two movies. Let the man do his thing; he's a genius of comedy.It would make a great series, but maybe Ice Cube don't have the right background for network TV.I like Spike even though he is a whitey hater. "She's Gotta Have It", is one of my favorite movies. And what was that movie about the fraternities he starred in?

Subject: Re: Barbershop II-- a quick recommendation
Posted by lon on Tue, 01 Feb 2005 19:27:10 GMT
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I imagine that any further discussion about whether Spike Lee isor isn't a racist belongs in the dungeon or someplace. I personallydon't think any case can be made for it.It's Spike Lee who tours college campuses and cautions the blackstudents (male students) not to be seduced by dreams of becoming a basketball or football hero. Today he is probably addingthat being seduced by becoming a war hero is an even biggerillusion.That fraternity film is not coming to mind but I've seenquite a bit of Spike Lee's work. I could not sit through"She's Gotta Have It", though I tried once. I thought it playedto stereotypes as a 'saleable product' for a young director.But films like "X" and especially "Get On The Bus" showLee as a craftsman of drama. Do not confuse character dialogwith a personal stance by the author. The best of theatreshows both sides of the argument and lets the audience decide.

Subject: Re: Barbershop II-- a quick recommendation
Posted by Manualblock on Tue, 01 Feb 2005 22:33:59 GMT
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School Daze, that's the fraternity movie. The other one I really liked was Mo' Betta Blues, however he is pretty rough on the Jewish people in that one. But I will watch anything with Denzel in it. Understand I have no axe to grind here, I could care less about his philosophy, but I don't think he makes any secret of how he feels. Maybe you never heard him in person or on the HBO fight night special when he went at it withLarry Merchant. 40 acres and a Mule; pretty much says it all.She's Gotta Have It, yes it was a sophomoric effort but it had a lighthearted sense of fun and exuberance that I personally found engaging.Do The Right Thing operated on so many levels that it seemed stitched together; moments of brilliance sandwiched between cliche' proselytising. It was like watching a train wreck in action. But I will admitt it was hard to take your eye's off of it.Anyway you have to seperate the art from the artist.

Subject: Re: Barbershop II-- a quick recommendation: Bamboozled
Posted by lon on Wed, 02 Feb 2005 05:40:23 GMT
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The most severe statement that Spike Lee has made is a film called Bamboozled. This one deserves a whole separate discussion. It'snot at all surprising that the film did not get much notice. Thereis much to make the viewer uncomfortable, regardless of color. This doesn't make it a bad film. It makes it an important film. OTOH, Summer of Sam I didn't care for and can hardly give anopinion about. Some things work, some don't. What I think emerges in an artists work is that the morethe artist grows as a world figure, the more he grows as a creator. But no, I have not heard the interviews you mentioned.

Subject: Re: Barbershop II-- a quick recommendation: Bamboozled
Posted by Manualblock on Wed, 02 Feb 2005 12:12:17 GMT
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Interesting observation. I would assume off the top of my head that the demands of fame would compromise an artist's ability to be meaningfull.Let me ask you what you think about this phenomena of quality actors and directors reaching a certain noteriety and becoming caricatures of themselves. Is that axiomatic within that proffesion? I don't remmember someone like Gregory Peck becoming a shell of himself and his talent; whats going on with these guys. You see a picture with a name star and expect it will be watchable and you are disappointed.Bobby D; Jack; lots more to name. Where are the true practitioners of the craft? Can you picture Spencer Tracy acting the fool in a movie?Ever see the movie, The Cup? Made in Tibet real nice flick.

Subject: Re: Barbershop II-- a quick recommendation: Bamboozled
Posted by lon on Wed, 02 Feb 2005 21:13:53 GMT
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Interesting observation. I would assume off the top of my head that the demands of fame would compromise an artist's ability to be meaningfull. cf: The Painted Word by Tom Wolfe. He agrees and says that arttoday is driven by critics and sales rather than invention.Let me ask you what you think about this phenomena of quality actors and directors reaching a certain noteriety and becoming caricatures of themselves. Is that axiomatic within that proffesion?I don't remmember someone like Gregory Peck becoming a shell of himself and his talent; whats going on with these guys. You see a picture with a name star and expect it will be watchable and you are disappointed. There are several actors and actresses I have on a permanentavoid list: Robert DeNiro, Gene Hackman, Heather Graham, Julia Roberts... there's a few others-- Hugh Grant. Al Pacino is flirting with this list as well. Bobby D; Jack; lots more to name. Where are the true practitioners of the craft? Can you picture Spencer Tracy acting the fool in a movie?Ever see the movie, The Cup? Made in Tibet real nice flick. I've seen The Cup, Bend It Like Beckham, Monsoon Wedding. The Cup tackled the exile of the Dahlai Lama doesn't it? To answer your question, it is simply laziness on the part ofproducers and directors to go to the well for the same namedactors over and over. Over the past 15 years, quality work without named stars hasbeen coming out of places like HBO. I'm thinking in particularof the excellent performance by Halle Berry in "Introducing Dorothy Dandridge." The French have done a striking adaptation of "The Count of Monte Cristo" with Depardieu. What sometimes amazes me is the selection made by my public library in the area of foreign films... stuff I neverheard of. To get out of the big star/big disappointment rut, you simplyhave to take chances: select things you know absolutely nothingabout. In doing so I've found my share of dogs, but I've alsofound things that have made the search worthwhile. "Bamboozled" was one of those. "Eight Women" was another. And"The Reflecting Skin", whaaaa. What sort of brain does PhilipRidley have anyway? Here's is my editorialization: Whether it be films, politics,tv or even dates, American people are scared sh*tless of everything.So they let their taste be made by critics, advisors, polls, box office-- _anyone_ but themesleves. And in so doing they are manipulated like never before. Then as this manipulation is taking place they will congratulate themselves on being with the 'authentic'majority: the ones

who vote based on who they'd rather have a beer with. The answer, as Arundhati Roy says, is to make mass mediairrelevant. Today there is a movement afoot to release films directly to the public via broadband. Morgan Freeman has produced the first ofthese. Radio available commercial free via satellite or streamedis another broadband possibility. But these things isolate people even more in their "home theaters"which, rightly put, is a contradiction in terms. The theatrical experience is supposed to be a collective one. What has to be done to improve quality is to 'stay away in droves.'

Subject: Re: Barbershop II-- a quick recommendation: Bamboozled
Posted by Manualblock on Thu, 03 Feb 2005 00:46:56 GMT
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You've made some good points, and they have caused me to pause and give them the attention they deserve.Art; it used to reflect the highest aspirations of the culture that created it. I favor literature from the American canon of the early 20th century; so I will speak to that. Authors like Fitzgerald and Thomas Wolfe; or Nelson Algren in the 50's wrote of the human experience through the lens of popular culture. Their dialogue reflected that inspiration because back then people had conversations; about things that mattered.Now the avenues of expression are choked and strangled by the constant barrage of useless information and the taboo nature of any subject of substance. Example; when my father was a young man he claims that discussing politics was not only expected by adults but was considered a social responsibility for the citizenry. Now that avenue of opinion is shunned by most of the populace. How do you learn to accept or refute contrary opinions if you never hear one. How do you even form a reasonable opinion without debate?So without any personal stake in ordinary everyday communication, art has no reference upon which to inform the experience.So yes I agree with your position on the scared sh**less view. They cannot handle controversy because they are never forced to deal with it. Without tapping the energy of cultural position; where is the Art to come from? Possibly why the music is so vapid and vague? Movies; I think guy's like those you mention get lazy because they have amazing amounts of money waved at them. Where is the incentive? The libraries get the unusual films because they are available and cheap since they have limited distribution possibilities. The Cup; I forced my son to watch it and he ended up liking it. It is a simple morality tale that deals with the exhile with grace and wit. That director who did the Cup has a new movie out that is getting some positive press.Woman Of The Dunes? Urzu Dersla?The Unbelievable Truth?Ghost Dog? Some movies I have liked recently.Depardieu is great; I remmember seeing him in Going Places, back in the 70's in a real theater. I liked Green Card also, a simple guilty pleasure. I am going to rent Bamboozled, you have me curious now.

Subject: Re: Barbershop II-- a quick recommendation: Bamboozled
Posted by lon on Thu, 03 Feb 2005 18:23:45 GMT
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A very good series of observations. But for this particular forum,I think this thread is turning into what Douglas Adams might havecalled Life, The World and Everything. I saw Woman In The Dunes when I was really too young to understand it. Yet it stays on libreary shelves and in discussion. I could mention titles that I know and like which are obscure and also in bad taste and not received at all well by the public such as Hieronymous Merkin directed by the songwriter Anthony Newley. But these thingsare buried in vaults and not easily accessible. Since this is an audio forum I'm wondering which films havethe best soundtracks these days. And how is that group build coming?

Subject: Re: Barbershop II-- a quick recommendation: Bamboozled
Posted by Manualblock on Thu, 03 Feb 2005 19:09:27 GMT
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Life; the world and everything is the only thing worth talking about!I just rented Woman In The Dunes thats why I mentioned it as a point of interest; there sure are lots of obscure movies out there; thats why we share. Please; feel free. I am not a critic and really am not even educated in film, so any and all recommendations accepted. Since it is unbearable to watch most of the new ones.Group build is coming along slow but sure, you should've participated! How did you see that movie so young? Film Class?I just happen to have a good rental place close by; they have over 40k movies.I really take their recommendations. Started Film Noir last week, Touch Of Evil and The Killers, the Hemmingway story. Love this stuff.Audio is about art and art is life! I know this foruum concentrates on the engineering aspect of the art; thats why we need to humanise it occasionaly.Luckily it's a good group that accepts the occasional stray thread with tolerance and understanding.

Subject: Re: Barbershop II-- a quick recommendation: Bamboozled
Posted by lon on Fri, 04 Feb 2005 06:05:42 GMT
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New thread time, though. Anybody looking at this will think it's allabout one thing when we've talked about many.I usually only write about something new that I've seen that is accessible and in the stores-- like Bubba Ho Tep.So start a new topic and I'll respond from there. Also I don't knowhow much access you have for any titles I might bring up. I haveall the Wisconsin libraries to select product from but I alwaysreturn to titles like Dark City by Alex Proyas. Have seen the dvd now with the long anaysis by Roger Ebert on it: a shot by shot analysis which he does in real time with student over a number of days. Dark City ranks among the best of all time and Ebert's analysis is in those terms. See you at the top of a thread.
