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New 'Shaft' pales next to original


By Karen Brown
staff writer

Director: John Singleton
Stars: Samuel L. Jackson, Vanessa Williams, Richard Roundtree
Rated: R

I was, like, so totally in love with Shaft in the 70's when he was played by Richard Roundtree and I get to see him again because he plays Shaft's uncle in this movie! Now in the year 2000 when Shaft's, like, even taller, younger and more bad-ass (Samuel L. Jackson). I can hardly control my hormones!

It's like, "Forget about substance and a well-written plot in a movie. All you need is a hot bod!"

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I only cried once during the whole entire thing and it wasn't because of my uncontrollable crush that Shaft would never return. I was so proud of my tearduct fortitude but I had to cry when this really rich (really hot) white racist guy, like, bludgeoned this black man only because of the color of his skin!

Racism is so '87 but "Shaft" brings the issue back with a social awareness that will reach every country and will cause the world to unite against "that mean white rich racist guy." I mean, that is the plot of the film.

I doesn't matter that there's so much violence in the film because A) it's Shaft, duh; B) he's the authority figure (i.e. cop = good guy) so he has every right to violently beat anyone; and C) if it's justified violence, it's all right.

Shaft even wants to fight man-to-man at the end of the movie. Boy was I surprised when I learned that guns were involved when fighting man-to-man. Huh!

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Who knew that guns signify manhood? Dude, not me.

I must say that I totally melted whenever the soundtrack filled my melancholy senses. (I've always wanted to use that word. Melancholy, not senses.) Isaac Hayes is sooo radical except that his voice is, like, old and crappy and he sure can't groove like he used to.

But that doesn't matter because the movie was filled with the exact same wall-to-wall music that made me go, "Either get used to it or stick your finger in your ears!" I got used to it.

I totally felt cultured when the music changed rhythm for one time only when Shaft meets the Mexican drug lord, Peoples. At first the shift from funk/disco to Latin/disco frightened me, but then I actually thought I was on a Mexican beach for three seconds and my life was so much better!

Another great thing about Shaft is that he uses such sweet lingo; but I'm not gonna lie. I needed to pull out the dictionary and see what some of the words meant when Shaft uttered the line, "It's my duty to please that booty."

I always thought booty was a pirate's nose. Boy was I drunk and misinformed.

I did totally get the tre fabu joke after he killed some thug and said, "It's Guilliani time."

Guilliani's the guy who works at the Quicky Mart, right? He smokes crack and sleeps with lots of women? No wonder Shaft sees him as a threat and wants to take him out. I'm gonna lose Guilliani's phone number.

I just about died when I saw

Please see **SHAFT** on 10

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