

MOVIES

Spike Lee's tribute to Million Man March stays on track

By JOHN MONAGHAN SPECIAL WRITER
It's probably too crowded. Perhaps it has one speech too many. But Spike Lee's tribute to last year's Million Man March is one of the most poignant, heart-felt movies of the year and the director's decade-long error.

and responsibility for black males, while some saw it as a self-serving opportunity for a Muslim leader to further his controversial beliefs. By some counts, the march drew well over a million people.

The former's Jeremiah, divorced and now destitute, always regretted not marching with Dr. Martin Luther King in 1963. George, the bus driver played by Dutton, serves as spiritual leader for the march.

shows up with his teenage son in chains. A court order requires that the boy be tethered to his father for 72 hours for a larceny charge and Evan intends to carry out the sentence. The other bus passengers, ready to celebrate the progress they have made since slavery, don't appreciate the connotation.



Journey: The group boards the bus headed for the historic Million Man March at South Central L.A.'s First AME Church, as strangers, but emerge three days and two thousand miles later as brothers in "Get on the Bus."

GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

A large grid of movie listings for various theaters including AMC Theaters, General Cinema, Showcase Cinemas, United Artists Theaters, and others. Each listing includes the movie title, showtimes, and a 'CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES' box.

Lee the actor has wisely stayed out of the film, but shows up in the guise of Xavier (Bill Harper), a young film school student who videotapes the trip. Someone even calls him Spike Lee, Jr.

The performances are uniformly good, even when the script calls for heavy handedness. The exchanges between Evan and son, especially the latter's bitter, pained looks at his father for dragging him along, are increasingly poignant even though you see the changes of heart coming far down the road. Perhaps

the most amazing thing about "Get on the Bus" is how Lee has sustained the energy of what could be an extremely claustrophobic film. It won't be giving too much away to say that only a tiny percentage of the movie actually takes place at the march, yet it has the same exuberance and conflict that defined the event.

are ready to take the long trip home, we've heard so many philosophies from so many sources that Dutton's and Davis' lengthy eulogies can be a bit much. Overall, Lee's bus stays right on track with a movie that stands strong with his classics "Malcolm X" and "Do the Right Thing."

Call for tickets to 'The Grass Harp'

Be one of the first 50 readers to call (810) 647-4756 to win a pass for two to a preview screening of "The Grass Harp" 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 29 at the AMC Old Orchard Theatre in Farmington Hills.

After his mother dies, Collin Fenwick comes to live with his father's maiden cousins, Verena and Dolly Talbo. It is clear to the townspeople that Collin, raised by this household of eccentric women, will have anything but a normal childhood.

Capote was a prolific novelist, short-story and screen writer. Which of Capote's other works do you think would make a great movie, and why?

Advertisement for Walt Disney's World on Ice: The Spirit of Pocahontas. Features an illustration of Pocahontas and a man on ice skates. Text includes 'Produced by KENNETH FELD', 'NOV. 19-24', and 'FOR TICKETS CALL: (810) 540-0660'. At the bottom, there is a 'SEARCH GAME' section with instructions on how to win tickets to see the movie.

Disclaimer for movie: 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29. Twelve winners will be picked in a random drawing. Each winner will receive four tickets to the Nov. 19, 1996, 7:30 p.m. performance. Winners who do not call by Nov. 12 will forfeit their tickets. Employees of the Observer & Eccentric & their families are not eligible to win.