'Love and Basketball' a slam dunk with audiences

BY VICTORIA DIAZ

Though this movie, produced by Spike Lee and Sam Kitt, is structured around the game of basketball, it's really about that other game - the one that makes the world go round. Divided into four "quarters,"

Divided into four "quarters," it's as much fun to watch and as briskly paced as a well-fought high achool or college game. Picture this: It's 1981 ("first quarter"), and Quincy (played as youngster by Glonndon Chatman) is the hotshot "star" in his middle-class, African-American neighborhood in suburban Los Angoles Thea and day Livacar-Angeles. Then, one day, 11-year-old Monica (Kyla Pratt) moves in

next door, and threatens to get a step ahead in a neighborhood game. Quincy hardly has a clue at this point as to what to do. His position has never been threat-ened before ("I' run this street," he tells Monica), and it's certain-

he tells Monics), and it's certainly never been threatened by a girl.

Jump ahead to 1988, and the story's "second quarter." A grown-up Monica (Sanaa Lathan) is the star player on her high school team, and Quincy (Omar Epps) is making a huge name for himself on the men's team. Both hope and dream to gain a scholarship to the University of Southern California. They shoth, in a way, still competing with each other. But is that a

possible remantic relationship, we see developing between these two?

we see developing between these two?

Soon, we're in the third quarter (1988-89) and, just like in an important roundbail game, the tension begins to take on another or new dimension. We're gripping the edge of our seat just a little tighter, we're hurting at the low spots just a bit more, cheered by the high spots a bit more. We have come to care about these players (flawed as they are) in the course of this film, simply because we have come to know them, have seen them sweat, have watched them laugh and cry, and have discovered that they are characters with whom we can identify. By the time they

reach college (yes, they both make it to USC), both are dreaming of a pro career. And they are both most definitely dreaming of each other. In fact, they're doing a good bit more than just dreaming.

I'll not give away what happens in the last quarter, of course. Suffice it to say that the game does not always go smoothly and, just like in real life, some surprises are in store.

iy and, just like in real life, some surprises are in store. With this picture, screenwriter/director Gina Prince-Blythewood has succeeded in putting together a film that's as tight as a tournament tie-breaker, and as a ppealing romantically as a new Valentine.

Valentine.
Omar Epps, as the sometimes-cocky, sometimes-touching Quincy, just runs away with the role.
Sanna Lathan, as a young woman destined to fight family, coaches, and even the man she loves in order to be the baskethall player she knowe herself to be, is just as convincing.
And, as a team, you might say that those two are "awasome, the destination of the companion of the control of the companion of the control of the

broadcaster Dick vitate, who makes a cameo appearance). Supporting players score con-sistently, as well. As Quincy's loving father, Dennis Haysbert brings just the right touches of charm and trouble to his role.

Scheduled to open Friday, May 5

ADMINISTRATION OF A PART OF THE STATE OF THE

ADRENALINE DRIVE

THE VIRGIN SUICIDES

LA W.

Compete: Omar Epps and Sanaa Lathan shoot and score in "Love and Basketball," in theaters now.

Debbi Morgan, in the part of his suspicious, long-suffering wife, could have gone all weepy on us, but she never allows her character to get wearisome; consequently, we're always cheering

for her.

Harry J. Lennix manages to make an important contribution in his abbreviated role as Monica's caring father. And Alfre Woodard truly shines as her loving, tradition-bound mother, who simply cannot understand her daughter's dedication and devo-

tion to a game, no matter how hard she tries. (One of the strongest scenes in the movie takes place between these two very real women, as they try to settle their differences in a

kitchen.)
The basketball scenes here are one of the best since "Hoosiers,"
while the romance, with all its
accompanying pains and pleasures, shines through like a
warm underglow from the opening moments to the final slam
dunk.

BCCBNTRIC O B S E R Y E R A

Hational Amusements Showcase Cinemas

Qoo Yadis Waren & Wayne Rds 313-425-7700 Bargain Matiness Daily Af Shows Heal & pan Continuous Shows Daily Late Shows Weed Thurs, Fri. & Sat. Showcats
Authorn Hills 1-14
2150 N. Opdyte Rd.
Neen University is Walton
248-373-2660
Burjain Matrice Daly.
All Shows until Gr.
Continuous Bown Daly
ate Shows Well Hurs. Fet.

AZ STOWS WED ITEM FASS HEP DENOTES NO PASS HP FREQUENCY (PC13)
HP FRENTSTORES IN VITYA
ROCK VEGAS (PC)
KP LOVE AND BASIETHALL MY DOG SKIP (PG) SCREAM 3 (N)

IN CONTANT AND EXECUTALL
(PC(13)
(PC(13)
COURT (R)
ASSEDDAN FOICHO (R)
MARSE THE MODER'S (PC(13)
NO 22 DATS (PC(13)
NO 22 DATS (PC(13)
EXILEDAN TO BE ARTHOR (PC(13)
NO 22 DATS (PC(13)
EXILEDAN TO ME (PC)
REACH AND WHITE (R)
FORES OF EXCLEDING (R)
FRAU DESTRUCTOR (R)
SCHEME STORES
(SCHEME)
SCHEME
SCH SCREAM 3 (R) Exem 820CkOVich (R)

Showses Desirons 1-8 Michigan & Telegraph 313-561-3449 Barjan Marines Dah, Af Shows until 6 pm. Continuos Shows Dahy "Late Shows file 8 Sat. & San.

(PG) RULES OF DICACEMENT (R) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES KP DENOTES NO PASS

HP FLINTSTONES IN VIVA Star Theatres NOCK YECAS (PC) The World's Best Theatres Bargain Matrices Daily \$5.00 AB Shows Starting before 6.00 pm Now accepting Visa & MasterCard "NP" Denotes No Pass Engagement (PC13)

NP U-S71 (PC13)

COSSIP (II)

BULES OF ENCACEMENT (II)

NP THE ROAD TO ELDORADO

(PG) Romeo Must dae (R) CUT BOX COMPLETE LISTENCE LIND THE

Showcase Pontiac 1-5 fegraph So, Lake Rd. W Side of Telegraph 810-312-0241 Bargain Micines Daly # All Shows Ital 6 pm Continuous Shows Daly # MP DENOTES NO PALS

NP FREQUENCY (PG13)

MARCOCONCH (ACL2)
THE HEROCEONICH (M)
THE HEROCEONICH (M)

Showcase Postiac 6-12 2405 Telegraph M. East side of Telegraph 818-334-6777

B18-339-027 Bargain Matiness Daily • All Shows Until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily

Late Shows Fil. In Sal. INP DENOTES HO PASS

MP FIRSTORES IN VAVA
ROCK VEGAS (PC)
RP LOVE AND MARKETHALL
(PC 13)
C 6558P (F)
28 DATS (PC 13)
AMERICAN PSTCHO (E)
ARTHUR TO ME (PC)

METURN TO ME (PC) THE BOAD TO ELECHAM

(PG) NOMEO MOST DIE (II)

Star Great Lakes Crossing Great Lakes Stopping Carter 248-454-0366

ROCK VEGAS (PG)
NO WHERE THE NEART IS

THE ROAD TO EL PORADO

THE SEXULS (PC13)

HICH FIDELITY (II)

BENNEO REST ORE (II)

FINAL DESTRUCTION (I)

AMERICAN BEAUTY (II)

SCREAM 3 (II)

Star John S at 14 Mile 32289 John R. Road 248-585-2070

ene under å schnitted for PC13 8 Rosted films after å om

HP WORDE THEA HEART IS (PE)

NP PRECIDENCY (PC13)

NP PRECIDENCY (PC13)

NP NP ST (PC13)

AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGY

MULTION TO ME (PC)

THE MAAD TO ELECTRON

TH

MOMEO MEST DIE (II)

CALL FOR COMPLETE USTNICS MIGTER

Mar Rochester Hills 200 Barday Circle 200 Barday Circle 857-2250 one under age 6 admitted for PCT & R rated films after 6 pm

ELTIVEN TO ME (PC)
THE BOAD TO EL DÓBADO

(PG) Erriy Errockoyich (II)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LIST INCOME THE

SHOWTHAS AND TO PLACEAL 2 THO 87 PHONE CALL 24S 177 2122 WITH STALL SOUTH BEST LINE

(PG13)
19 GOSSP (II)
19 GOSSP (III)
19 EEEPING THE FAITH (PG13)
19 AMERICAN STORO (II)

CAST NOW COMMITTE FREE PAGE THE

NA FOAL YAS BYZZELBYTZ AMERICAN PSYCHO (II)
ERIM BROCKOYICH (II)
FRALL DESTRIATION (III) NP WHERE THE HEART IS NP WHERE THE HEART IS

(PC13)

NP FREQUENCY (PC13)

NP THE FLINTSTONES IN VIVA

EOCH YEGGS (PC)

AP U-571 (PC13)

NP COSSP (II)

28 DATS (PC13)

ELEPING THE FAITH (PC13)

RULES OF ENGACEMENT (II)

EPTINN TO ME (PC)

ALL FOR COMPLETE USTINGS AND TIME

Showcase
Westland I-8
6500 Wayne Id,
One hai i, of Warms Id.
313-729-1660
larysi Marines Daly
Af Shoot Half 4 pm
Continues Shoon Baly
Lite Shoot Weld Thur. Id. is Sat
149 DENOTES NO PASS

NP REQUENCY (PG13)
NP FLIRTSTONES IN VIVA
ROCK YEGAS (PG)
NP U 571 (PG13)
CASCOR (IN

COSSIP (R) REEPING THE FAITH (PG13) 23 DATS (PG13) THE ROAD TO ELDORADO RP FLINTSTONES IN YIVA ROCK
YEGAS (PC)
NP INSQUENCY (PCI3)
NP WHERE THE HEART IS
(PCI3)
NP U-571 (PCI3)
NP LOYE AND EASEFTALL

AYIV MI ZƏHOTETMILE EKIT GIR

(PG13)
HP FREQUENCY (PG13)
HP U-571 (PG13)
HP LOVE & BASKETSALL

(PG13)

INF COSSP (2)

RETURN TO REMERE (PG13)

RECOVER (PG13)

FREQUENCY (PG13) NV FRALL DESTINATION (E) INJLES OF ENGACEMENT (PG) RETURN TO INE (PG13) BOAD TO EL DORADO (PG)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIME

WHERE THE HEART IS (PG13) PLINTSTONES IN VIVA BOCK

VEGAS (PC) NV U-S7T (PG13) NV GOSSIP (E) NV LOYE AND BASIETBALL (PG13)

KEEPING THE FAITH (PG13) RULES OF ENGACEMENT (PG13) BETURK TO ME (PG) EISH MOCKOVICH (I) NY ROAD TO ELDORADO (PG)

CAT FOR COMMITTE TIZZANC? WAS LINES

United Action Commerce
Termishin 14
Located Adjacent to Home Depot
just North of the intersection of 14
Make in Hungerly MI
248-966-5801
VAI Statum Stating
Heigh-Ball Loding Our Seats
Theo Day Advance Testing

WHERE THE HEART IS (PG13)

WHERE THE HEART IS (PC13)
PLINITSTONES IN YMA ROCK
VEGAS (PC) NV
FREQUENCY (PC) NV
SCHEAM 3 (R)
USTI (PC13) IN
COSSES (R) NV
21 DATS (PC13)
AMERICAN PSYCHO (R)
RULES OF DICACEMENT (R)
RETURN TO ME FIR

Star Southfield

12 Mile between Telegraph and
Northwestern, Od 1-696

248-333-STAR
Ho one under age 6 admitted for PC13
is it noted firms after 6 pm RETURN TO ME (II) ROAD TO EL DORADO (PG)

Simulapham Theatre 211 S. Woodward Downtown Birmingham 248-644-3456 NP Denotes No Fass Ingagement

Order Movie tickets by phone! Call (H4-)456 and have year 145A Master Card ready! (A 31s surchar per transaction will apply to all telephone sales)

HE ARRECAM STICHO (B)
SCHEMA 3 (R)
SCHEMA 3 (R)
EXLES OF BRACEMENT (I)
EXTURN TO ME (PC)
THE ROAD TO BE (PC)
BRACE & WHITE (B)
FOMEO MUST ONE (B)
EASY BEOCKOYICH (N)
FINAL DESTINATION (2) WHERE THE REART IS (PC13)
NO USTI (PC13)
NO USTI (PC13)
RESPONDE THE FAITH (PC13)
NO THE RIMITSTONES IN VYA
BOCK VYGAS (PC)
22 DAYS (PC13)
REMI REACTOVOCH (T)
RULES OF ENCACEMENT (IT)
HIGH REDELITY (IT)

CALL FOR COMPLETE USTRACE AND THAT

MER THEATTES

Brighton - Cleanus 9 136 Est, Grand River

\$10-227-1700 Call 77-Film Ext. 548

United Artists Theatres largain Matines Daily, for all show starting before 600 PM Same day advance Ediets available HV - No VLP, Ediets accepted

United Artist Califord Inside Califord Hall 248-938-0706

(PG13) MISSION TO MARS (PG) HERE ON EARTH (PG13) BOYS DON'T CRY (R) CALL FOIL COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIME

<u>United Artists</u> 12 Onls Inside Twelve Onls Mail 248-349-4311

WHERE THE HEALT IS (PG13)

Vent Artists West West 9 Mile, 2 Blocks West of Michiglebelt 243-788-6572

THE REPLL ON FORCEM AND FOR

NP FLINTSTONES: VIVA ROCK VEGAS (PG) HP WHERE THE HEART IS (PG13)

INP TREQUENCY (PG13)

INP U 571 (PG13)

Nº U 571 (PC13)
COSEP (B)
ELEPINC THE FAITH (PC13)
21 DAYS (PC13)
ENLES OF DEACACHERIST (B)
ENLINES TO BEOCADE (PC)
ENN REPOCTOVICH (B)
FRALL DESTRIATION (B)
MY DOC SUP (PC)

CHA ROLCOMPATTI JETINGI JAO TAK Yisa & Mestercard Accepted

Main Art Theatre III Main - 11 Mile Royal Oak (248) 542-0180

AMERICAN PSYCHO (R) HIGH FIDELITY (R)
THE LIFE AND TIMES OF HAVE
GREENEERG

CULTOT COMPLETE USTRICE MO THE Children Under 6 Hot Admitted

Maple Art Cinema III
4135 W. Maple, West of Telegraph
Boomfeld Hills
248-855-9050
DISCOUNTED SHOWS!

EAST IS EAST (II) COTTON MARY (II) JOE COULD'S SECRET (II)

CALL FOR COMPETE LICENSES AND THAT

Oxford 3 Goettes, LLC Downtown Oxford Laper 2d (4-24) (248) 628-7100 Fax (248)-628-1300

OCTROIT'S LOWEST FILST RUN PRICES INCLUDING TWOIGHT PRICING SEGO

AMC Uronia 20 Happerly & 7 Mde 734-542-9909

CALL THEATHE FOR FEATURES AND THRE

\$1.00 Ford Tel \$1.50 313-561-7200 \$1.00 til 6 pm After 6 pm. \$1.50 imple Fating - Telford Certar ret Lefil on Drink & Expoun Flease Call Theaters for Sheetchines



O THE OWNER OF THE OWNER OWNER OF THE OWNER OWNER OF THE OWNER OWNE

An exiled general seeks vengesnee against the Emperor of the Roman Empire, played by Joaquin Phoenix, Stars Russell Crowe, Ridley Scott, C nie Nellson and the late Oliver Reed.

I DREAMED OF AFRICA

The power to overcome personal tragedy provides the basis for this blo-logical drama featuring Kim Basinger.

JOURNEY OF MAN

Set in a Michigan suburb in the early 70s, the story toils of a quirky high school math teacher and his five daugh-tors and the tragedy that changed their Journey Oe was burge scale film shot over a 4-month period ceptures the performences of the Cirque du Sofell against naturel and his-torical backdrops. The story follows a boy through his mysticel journey to adulthood. **SCARY MOVIE**

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Spoof of horror films stors Jonathan Abrahams, Shannon Elizabeth, Regina Hall and Kimberly Jones.

UP AT THE VILLA

who retreats to a villa to get over the death of her husband. While there she becomes entangled in intrigue, roman and crime and begins a romance with American visitor.

THE WISDOM OF CROCODILES

Metaphysical thriller stars Jude Law as a medical researcher who is a serial seducer. He derives the sustenance of love from the blood of his victims.

