

Home Video Review: Kuumba Night provides students with outlet for creative expression

by Melissa Roberts
staff writer

Everyone knows what it's like to walk into a video store without having a clue what movie to watch. You walk in hoping a movie will jump off the shelf into your hands, but most of us realize that this will not happen.

For those days when you find yourself wandering around the movie store, you may want to pick up a copy of *Picture Perfect*. *Picture Perfect* can satisfy anyone's taste with one simple story line.

Girls can enjoy a nice romantic "chick flick" while the guys who watch it can spend an hour and a half drooling over a scantily-dressed Jennifer Aniston.

Director Glenn Gordon Caron took a story plot about a woman who couldn't find "Mr. Right" and believed she was doomed to singlehood and added a lot of good looking people to make a very pleasing movie.

Friends actress Jennifer Aniston plays Kate, a talented advertising director who is having trouble advancing in her career for the simple reason that she is unattached to anyone, and the advertising agency feels since she is unattached she has no responsibilities and could leave the firm at anytime.

Kate's best friend Darcy (Heena Douglas) helps Kate to pretend she is engaged to a stranger named Nick (Jay Mohr) in a picture taken at a

wedding she attended alone. After announcing her engagement, Kate was promoted at the agency, and things in her life seemed to be progressively improving.

A co-worker, Sam (Kevin Bacon), who Kate has had her sights on, suddenly becomes interested in her. She soon realizes that the only reason he is interested is because he is attracted to the idea that she is taken, making the relationship more interesting.

Seeing as her new promotion involves a lot of business/dinner meetings with her co-workers, over time they want to meet Nick (her fiancée), unfortunately, he probably doesn't remember who she is. But, after much convincing from Darcy she calls Nick, meets him, and hires him for one night to pretend they are engaged, only to cut off brutally their engagement in front of her co-workers.

The story becomes fast paced and confusing now, but not confusing enough to lose the interest of the viewers. It's the type of movie that no matter how much you want to quit watching, you just can't because, by this time you know you want her to end up with the good guy (Nick); though you just aren't sure who she'll end up with — so you get sucked into watching the rest.

Nick comes to town and he and Kate begin studying all the aspects of each other's lives, learning more things about each other than most married couples know, to prepare for

their big dinner meeting. Nick falls in love with Kate, and cannot break up with her; and Kate is confused, she is attracted to Nick, but she still likes the attention she is getting from Sam.

With all the mess between the advertising agency, Darcy, Kate, Nick and Sam, you add in a meddling mother (Olympia Dukakis) and the power of love to confuse the story a little more. Many comic misunderstandings lead Nick heading back home without the girl of his dreams, and Kate to figure out what is truly important in life. Both Nick and Kate need to figure out what makes a perfect match, and whenever Kate questions it she is sent back to that one fateful picture.

This movie leaves you guessing until its last minutes; and the last minutes are the only real downfall of the movie. Kate finally gets the man she deserves, but it almost seems like they have run out of time, and they just cut off the movie. They work so hard to get to this point and the credits just start rolling right in the middle of it.

Nonetheless, it is a classic romantic comedy, that allows you to walk away with that warm fuzzy feeling inside that makes you rethink your earlier thoughts that true love doesn't exist — and gives you hope that your "picture perfect" match could really be anywhere.

★★★★

by Ayodele Jones
staff writer

On Monday February 23 The Association of Black Collegians held their annual Kuumba Night celebration. Kuumba is one of the seven principles of the Nguzu Saba; it is defined as creative works or a celebration of creativity. Various students from the Behrend community presented their works to a warmly receptive audience.

The Gospel Choir sang two selections, "Blessed be the Name" and "Caught Up." They returned with an encore performance of "God is in Control."

The speaker of the evening was Reverend Keith Ladson of The Christ Church of Transfiguration in Erie. Reverend Ladson touched on a variety

of subjects that related to students. He encouraged students to exercise their faith in their studies and their daily life, for it is only by faith that we truly obtain success in all aspects of life, said Ladson. Along with selections by the Gospel choir and encouraging words by Rev. Ladson, other students contributed to this night of student creativity.

Russell John Baptiste presented an original work of poetry and Timothy Tate gave a solo performance of the song "Healing Hands," both of which were acclaimed by audience members. Various students also presented short poems and pieces by the great poets Maya Angelou and Langston Hughes that were influential and instrumental in their lives.

The Association of Black Colle-

gians does not only promote academic success but also cultural achievement. Kuumba Night displayed the various artistic talents and abilities of Behrend students, which can usually become shuffled or lost in the process of academic progress.

"I thought Kuumba Night was really interesting. The Gospel Choir was wonderful and Reverend Ladson's speech about faith in our daily lives was really uplifting. Kuumba Night showed how creative Black people can really be," states Cheon Graham 02, Psychology.

"It was fun. The poems were interesting, but I thought we could have had more support from other students," comments Juliet Diabene 04, Biology.

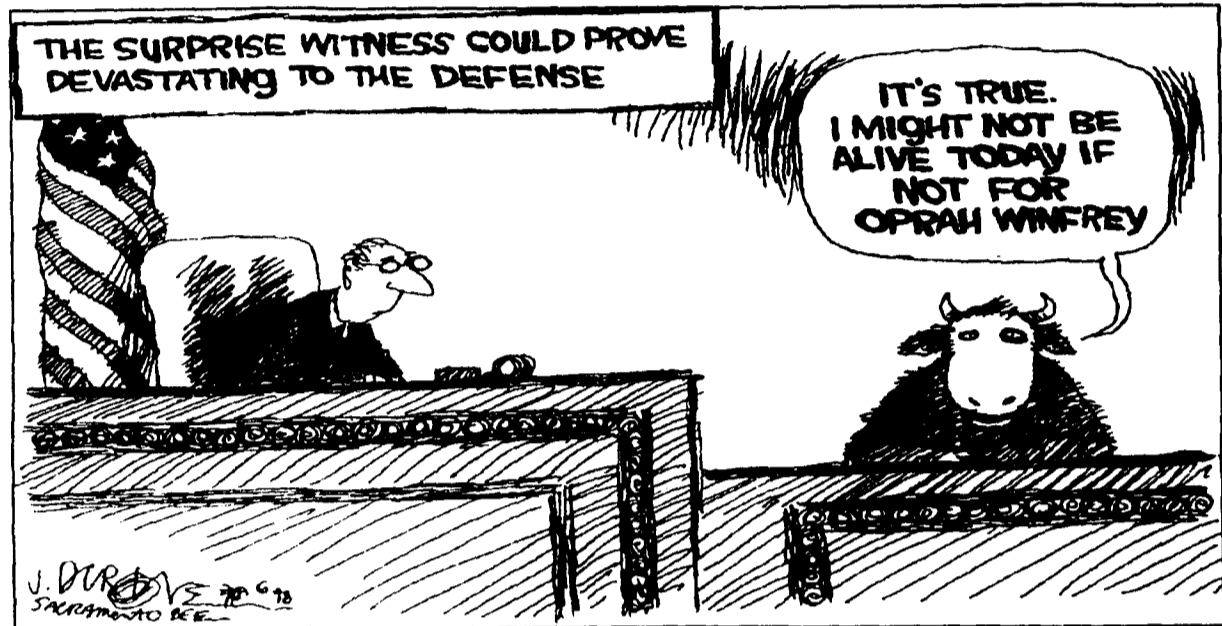


photo by Jason Blake

The cast of *The Pirates of Penzance* is currently rehearsing in the Studio Theatre. The spring musical will be presented in the Reed Commons on March 25 through March 29. Tickets go on sale after spring break.




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