

Stomp the Yard an impressive feat

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Sylvain White's *Stomp the Yard* is an engrossing film that submerges into the world of hip-hop, steps, and rival fraternities. Although dance movies aren't new, White makes an interesting film with a unique story line and engaging dance battles.

After a brutal fight ending with the death of his younger brother, D.J. (Columbus Short) escapes juvenile hall by enrolling in Truth University in Atlanta, Georgia. Living his brother's dream, D.J. is far from Truth University material. As a freshman, D.J. faces many challenges trying to fit in from a place that's different from his hometown in Los Angeles, but learns fairly quickly what traditions mean in the school.

Being a new student however, doesn't stop him from wooing April (Meagan Good), the prettiest girl on campus and the girlfriend of Grant (Darrin Dewitt Henson) who is next in line to lead one of the fraternity groups. As one can

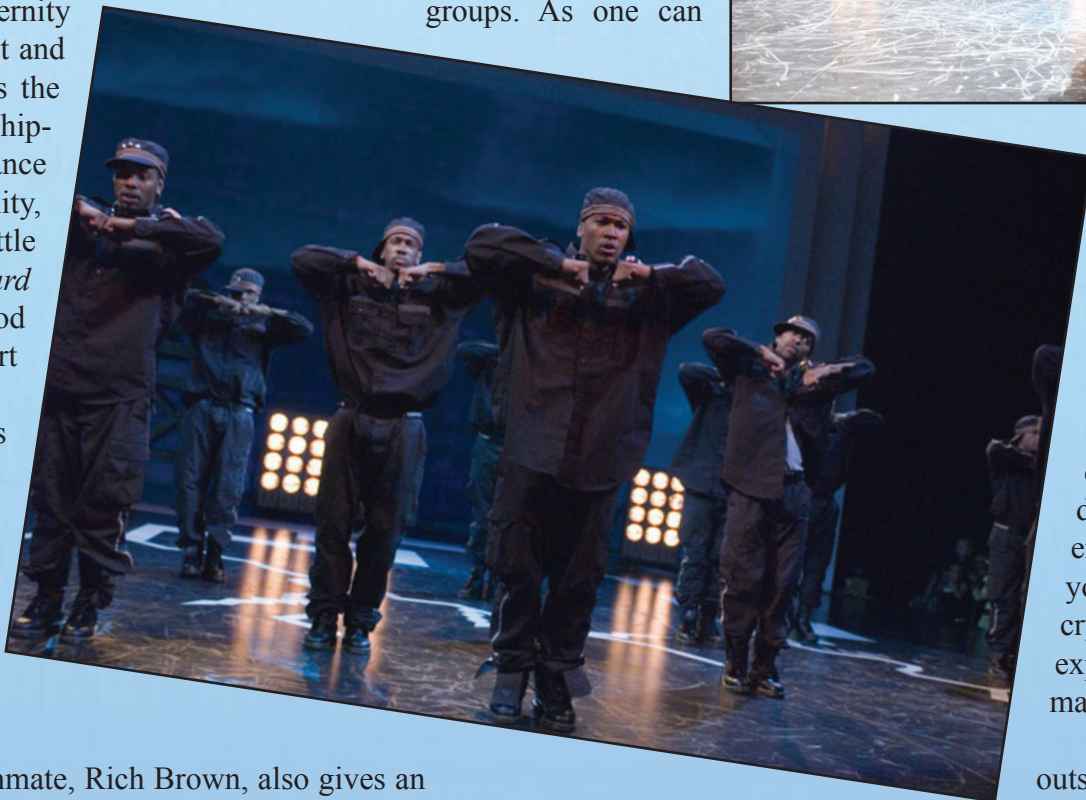
predict, this leads to much conflict and is heightened when D.J. becomes the talk of the campus with his new hip-hop dance moves and prior dance of the school's most famous fraternity, Grant. The two engage in a fierce battle up until nationals. *Stomp the Yard* fraternities and a strong brotherhood of Americans and the amount of effort to pursue his/her goals.

Leading man Short who plays is perfect for the role. Short brings strong emotion and perfect the movie. He successfully transformation from a troubled However, when it comes to use some work. His facial emotion he is trying to express, and unrealistic.

Ne-Yo, who plays D.J.'s roommate, Rich Brown, also gives an brings a touch of light comedy to the movie through his funny facial expressions and steals the spotlight from Short, but to the satisfaction of many viewers. Ne-Yo proves throughout the movie he skillfully brings the character Rich Brown to life.

One of the highlights of the movie that director White brings to the screen is the artistic dance moves. *Stomp the Yard* is full of step and hip-hop dance battle scenes that prove to engage the audience throughout the movie. This is no surprise however. Many of the actors such as Short had prior experience as dancers in other movies such as *You Got Served*. Although great, this seems to take the focus away from the main plot. The plot itself can use some work. White falls into portraying nothing more than the stereotypes created about African-Americans. This keeps the movie from bringing depth to a good story line.

Overall, *Stomp the Yard* is an exciting movie to watch for those looking for a fun time with friends. The dance moves and hip-hop music will keep the viewer entertained throughout the surprisingly short two hours.



experience. D.J. joins one becoming a new threat to to beat each other at steps delves into the importance plays in the lives of African and persistence one needs to

the 19-year old street dancer depth to his character, showing delivery of his lines throughout engages his audience in his youth to a leading step dancer. crying in the movie, Short can expressions don't match the making the scene look pathetic

outstanding performance. Ne-Yo hilarious lines. At times, Ne-Yo that singing isn't his only talent, as