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Movie Review

By Arthur J. Johnson

ake one black film producer and you've got a movie free of clear the company's name. the usual black stereotypes, Right?

the Christmas season. It's a prime ex- sequence.

the owner of the D.C. Cab Co., a fleet should ignore the "Mammy" implications of cabs notorious for its dilapidated of local actress Alfie Brown's portrayal vehicles and eccentric drivers which in- of a chubby black maid who call her kidcludes Mr. T. of T.V.'s "The A Team." napped charges, "My babies!"

When the son of Gail's deceased army buddy (Adam Baldwin) arrives in depth — he's trying to save his niece town to join the company as a driver, he from the clutches of a pimp - but otherlearns the ropes from the various wise there's not much to be said for the drivers including a set of twin Amazing film's characters.

Eventually D.C. Cab gets an infusion of funds with which it repaints its cabs, and it just happens to have a black prooutfits its drivers in nifty yellow satin ducer. It will probably break the bank jackets and becomes a success.

cab driver Baldwin causes the closing of the now booming company. Never fear — the zany drivers of D.C. Cab band have him co-write the script together and nab the kidnappers and

Also appearing in "D.C. Cab" are Whitman Mayo (Grady from Sanford and "D.C. Cab", the first feature film pro- Son") and Irene Cara, who appears as duction of independent black film pro- herself and rocks the White House (yes, ducer Trooper Carew is destined to the White House!) backed by four hip become one of the big comedy hits of - hop dancers in a poorly done concert

Perhaps one shouldn't ask why it is edies — lots of action and profanity, that a hooker performs a sexual act caricatures instead of characterization, upon a white customer in the back of a and a plot a four-year-old could follow. cab within the first five minutes of the Max Gail (of "Barney Miller") stars as film has to be black. And perhaps we

Mr. T.'s character does have some

Hulk-like body builders (The Barbarian . Still, one hopes the best for Mr. Brothers) and a black woman supporting Carew. If this film earns the millions that her child well—acted by Marlene Mar- these types of comedies usually do earn, shall) who is repeatedly robbed by a perhaps Carew will be able to produce gunman in a ski mask (how many cab. a variety of films with black characters, drivers will enjoy the humor in this run- and employ the many under-employed black actors, writers and technicians.

"D.C. Cab" is a very commercial film, and send Hollywood scrambling to Unfortunately, a kidnapping involving Carew's front door.

Best Bets

FLASHDANCE — Eight months after and superbly acted by Walken. Brooke dreams of studying ballet couldn't under 16. Rated PG. please the critics but audiences love it MR. MOM — This audience-pleaser

Sembello. Implied sex and profanity. for age 16 and over only. Rated PG.

THE DEAD ZONE - An English As thrilling as any of Hitchcock's best, T.V.

its release Flashdance is still going Adams, Colleen Dewhurst, Tom Skerrit strong. This story of a female Welder and Martin Sheen co-star. Violence may who dances exotically at night and who be too intense for children. Not for

to the tune of about \$100 million so far. is little more than a situation comedy The high energy dancing and music about a man forced to become a "housecoupled with a fiery performance by husband" when he loses his job and wife newcomer Jennifer Beals make this the returns to work. Not very original, but most entertaining movie of the year, children love it. Michael Keaton and Cynthia Rhodes and Michael Nouri Terri Garr star. Good, clean fun and fine for kids of all ages. Rated PG.

NEVER SAY NEVER AGAIN - The original and best James Bond, Sean Connery, returns in this 14th of the 007 series. With Connery's return comes the wit that's been missing from the Roger teacher (Christopher Walken) awakens Moore films. Barbara Carerra almost from a coma after five years and steals the show as the wicked Fatima discovers he has ESP in this film adap- Blush. Rated PG. Some sex and violence tation of the Stephen King best seller. but no more than is seen on prime time

"D.C. CAB' is 'ANIMAL HOUSE' on wheels!"

BALTIMORE/WASHINGTON AFRO-AMERICAN

"I had the best time of my life...lots of knee-slapping, laughing and yelling!"

Liz Smith, New York Daily News

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