Eddie Murphy's 'RAW' is still cooking AT THE box office

By Frederick I. Douglass

homosexuals, his father, whites, runs through the paces of his stars. blacks and many other targets stand-up comedy routine. with his acerbic wit and razor

The movie starts with

How does Eddie Murphy stack up against other comedians?

documentry flavor and features a First of all, his totally obscene At times Murphy's monologue very young Eddie Murphy telling routine makes his act 360 Within the few weeks that Ed- is reminiscent of the stream of a "toilet joke" that embarrasses degrees from that of "Mr. Clean," die Murphy's film "Raw" has been conciousness raps belted out by his parents while amusing their Bill Cosby, in terms of subject in the nation's theatres, it has bar stool comedians whose foul- friends during a scene which matter. But Murphy is equally as grossed more than \$40 million mouthed diatribes can leave your shows children showing off their brilliant as Mr. Cosby with regard and is rated as among the na- sides aching with laughter. talents for adults. Shortly to his ability to control an aution's ten most popular films. The Reminiscent of comedians like thereafter, we find ourselves at- dience and make people laugh. movie really cooks up until the Wildman Steve and Rudy Ray tending an Eddie Murphy concert, Currently, America's two most last twenty minutes or so as Mur- Moore, the man can be obscene, hearing the man crack jokes popular comedians are black and phy lambasts Michael Jackson, vulgar, prurient, pornographic, while marvelling at his ability to their phenomenal success stories Bill Cosby, men, women, lewd, lascivious and smutty as he mimic Michael Jackson and other stem, in part, from the fact that both Murphy and Cosby build their routines from their family And here is where the two Part 6," which is a flop from comedians differ most.

> Bill Cosby's humor pokes fun at the "joie de vivre" he has experienced over the years: the humor is hip and urbane, but humorous episodes encountered often looks at the underside of while growing up with brothers America while reminding us that and sisters, raising a family that the country is still rife with poveris large by contemporary stan- ty, prejudice and injustice for dards, and being married to the many. He also makes us aware same woman for a few decades. of the vulnerability to exploita-His humor, particularly with tion which frequently accomparallels the emergence of the black middle class and revels in the joy of family solidarity.

> His humor proclaims the aspirations of blacks to become solid members of America's regarding how assets would be social and economic mainstream. Bill Cosby's humor asserts that ended in divorce. Perhaps Mursome blacks have arrived or suc- phy is undergoing a paranoid ceeded in this society and that stage wherein it is difficult for we, as a group, can laugh in the him to differentiate between humorous side of their achievements and family lives.

Watching Bill Cosby perform, becomes clear immediately that he is mellow and very comfortable with the financial success he has achieved, despite the fact that his current movie "Leonard



Eddie Murphy

critical and artistic points of view, is not even funny.

Conversely, Eddie Murphy's

fame and fortune from those who

But according to the tabloids

(e.g. the "National Enquirer" of

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truly love him and have his best

interests at heart.

During the early part of his "Raw" monologue, Murphy refers to a romance of his that went sour because his beloved refuses to sign a pre-nuptial agreement handled if the pair's marriage from New York and her quilt ex- tional dances. hibit at the Baltimore Museum of The February 16th, segment, those who want to exploit his

ABOUTIV

The month of February ushers

in the annual celebration of Black

History Month with several

special television programs. One

local station, WJZ-TV Channel 13,

is no exception. They have

scheduled a variety of programs

and a very unique community

event in honor of Black History

For starters, their 11:00 p.m.

newscast will feature four

"Close-Ups" on consecutive

Tuesdays, beginning February

2nd. Produced by Isisara Bey and

reported by Rochelle Bridges, JULIAN BOND serves as nar-"Close-Ups" will focus on the rator for the award-winning "Unspoken Language of African "EYES ON THE PRIZE" series.

The first segment (2nd), en- Dance." Featured are African

society. Featured will be Super Pride Markets, will be American Studies at Indiana Baltimore Braiders and Corn- hosted by WJZ personalities. rows, Inc. in Washington, Also discussed will be the historical munity affairs program, which American culture from the 1940s perspective from traditional African styles, the politics of devote their February 7th prohairstyles and the controversy gram to Parren Mitchell and his Rhythm and Rap" — Rap music over hairstyles and the American

"business" look.

Language of Music," introduces a.m.; "Square Off," Saturdays, "Jocko" Henderson, a former 14-year-old Camara Kambon, a 7:30-8:00 p.m.; "4-1-One," Satur- Baltimore deejay, will jazz pianist. Also included is a days, 11:30 a.m.-12:00 noon; historical perspective with Eubie "Evening Magazine," week-Blake, Scott Joplin, Art Tatum nights, 7:30-8:00 p.m., will all and Fats Waller. Several devote segments of their regular Baltimore jazz clubs are also programming to celebrate Black

Other special programming airing for February are as

—Eight 30 second vignettes sor a Family Day on Sunday, presents a sampling of black titled "The Language of Crafts," dance with Olufamilayo Jomo- will air throughout the month, February 14th at the Baltimore music, including blues, gospel, will detail the activities of mother Johnson, ballet/modern dance highlighting blacks from the Museum of Art. The Family Day pop and rap. The performers are and daughter, Joyce and with Eve Anderson, African and Maryland area who have made program, "In Celebration of Black Tracey Brooks, Tamika Hairston, Elizabeth Scott, as they work West Indian dance, as research- valuable contributions to American Music," encourages Michael Hull, Jerome Jones, John together and alone on quilting ed by Katherine Dunham, and American society. Featured inand soft sculptures, which tell ballet with Arthur Mitchell. The clude Thurgood Marshall, Enolia lectures, demonstrations and 2-4:00 p.m. "Artfully Entertainfamily, cultural and political emphasis of this segment will be McMillian, Dr. Herbert Frisby, workshops on black popular ed" — Workshops for children stories. Included will be an inter- on the movements, drum Frank Robinson, E. Franklin view with artist Faith Ringgold rhythms and clothing of tradi- Frazier, Billy Holliday and Eubie and rap. Blake. One segment will concentrate on Pennsylvania Avenue, "The Language of Hair," the center of the Baltimore black

—"City Line" — WJZ's com- music traditions and black airs Sundays at 12:00 noon, will to the 1980s. many achievements.

—"People Are Talking with over a hard boiled beat — is lov-The final segment, "The Richard Sher," weekdays, 9-10:00 ed by urban kids. Douglas History Month.

> In a very special community event, WJZ, in conjunction with Super Pride Markets, will spon- — A Baltimore music group the public to participate in special Reid, Jr. and Gregory Thompson. music, including its roots, rhythm from 5 to 12 years old.

The schedule for this special day at the museum is, as follows: entitled "The Language of hairstyles in African-American 60s. The segments, sponsored by Portia Maultsby, chairperson of on a variety of topics.

University will talk about popular 3:30 p.m. "Teaching with

street - smart rhythmic chanting educational tool. His Philadelphia - based company makes records that are used in schools to reinforce more 'raditional teaching methods of subjects ranging from math to history to grammar.

5:00 p.m. "Concert by '4-Ever' "

These activities are free, but museum admission must be paid. In addition, Black History lec-2:00 p.m. "The Cultural Roots tures and films will be held every February 9th's "Close-Up" is discusses the many changes of community during the 1950s and of Black Popular Music"—Dr. weekend in February, centering

the Department of Afro- Have a good week!

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- The first to desegregate Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1957.

Eddie Murphy

old Murphy has rebounded from his ill-fated romance with the sepia beauty and is now keeping company with 39-year-old Alexis Eliopulos, the manager of L'Ermitage, the plus Beverly Hills hotel that is a favorite haunt of movie stars and members of th jet set.

comedian has a lot to say about contemporary society. And watch

the future. During a recent inter- Obviously, he will then be in a view I conducted with Ossie position to put a lot of black ac- "SOUNDER II" (7-9:00 p.m.) Se- "MAHOGANY" (8-10:00 p.m.) Davis, the famed author/actor tors to work." asserted "Eddie Murphy has a Blacks in the movies.

"He has ample funds to do will be able to bring other black- "Fences" is filmed.

out for big things from the star in oriented stories to the screen.

tremendous potential to have an shooting a movie in which he por- Mahal. Channel 45. impact on the future role of trays the prince from an imaginary African country who p.m.) "Fighting Back, 1957-1962" "CLAUDINE" (8-10:00 p.m.) comes to America to find a wife. chronicles the clash between Diahann Carroll and James Earl whatever he wants and recently His father in the flick is played by states' rights loyalists and federal Jones star in this romantic compurchased the screen rights to veteran actor (and the voice of authorities in the 1957 battle to edy. Channel 45. "Fences," one of the most suc- Darth Vader) James Earl Jones. Put Eddie Murphy's "Raw" on cessful plays to hit Broadway in Rumor has it that Jones and Mur- Little Rock, Arkansas, and again "GREAT WHITE HOPE" (7-9:00 years. If he brings this play to the phy will play the leading father in James Meredith's 1962 p.m.) James Earl Jones stars in screen in the proper manner, he and son roles when the drama challenge to the white-only this boxing drama. Channel 45.

TY CADSULES

Saturday, January 30th

Gibbs) and Lester (Hal Williams) 26 and 67. realize their little girl is growing "ETHIC NOTIONS: PORTRAITS OF up when Brenda (Regina King) PREJUDICE" (10-11:00 p.m.) An has her first date. Sandra examination of deeply-rooted (Jackee) is thrilled with the stereotypes in American history possibility of becoming a that have fueled prejudice Washington cheerleader when she realizes stereotypes are examined in how many people would see her advertisements, songs, films and on television. Channels 2 and 4. household artifacts. Narrated by Sunday, January 31st

"SUPER BOWL XII" (4:00 p.m.) 67. Doug Williams leads the Tuesday, February 2nd Monday, February 1st

"EYES ON THE PRIZE" (9-10:00 Wednesday, February 3rd integrate Central High School, Thursday, February 4th

enrollment policy of the Univer-"227" (8:30-9:00 p.m.) Mary Marla sity of Mississippi. Channels 22,

Redskins against blacks. Specific Esther Rolle. Channels 22, 26 and

Washington Redskins against the "THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS" Denver Broncos. Coverage (12:30-1:30 p.m.) Tony Dorsett, begins at 4:00 p.m., and the The Dallas Cowboys' star running game will start at approximate- back, makes his acting debut as ly 6:00 p.m. Channels 7 and 13. an extra in a bar scene. Channels 9 and 11.

quel to the award-winning, star- The rise and fall of a model, star-Mr. Murphy is currently ring Harold Sylvester and Taj ring Diana Ross and Billy Dee

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