

Not just another film

by Diane Peters

excitebur september 30, 1992

film JUST ANOTHER GIRL ON THE IRT
Directed by Leslie Harris
Starring Ariyan Johnson
Produced by Miramax Films



Just Another Girl on the IRT is one of the first feature-length films to be commercially released by a Black female filmmaker. Shot in 17 days on a limited budget financed by government arts grants, *Just Another Girl...* is a startlingly realistic and entertaining look at a Black teenage girl's life in Brooklyn.

In the film, 17 year-old Chantal Mitchell finishes high school, starts community college and has a baby. Leslie Harris and co-producer Erwin Wilson did research at teen pregnancy clinics and produced some short films on youth in the city before Harris wrote the screenplay for *Just Another Girl*. She took the perspective of a subway rider following this flashy young woman, wondering why she was so loud and proud.

Harris stresses the film is "one person's story," and that "everyone is different." The film breaks down stereotypes, with an uncharacteristically ambitious and smart female lead. Other messages in the film: Not all Black teenage fathers run out on their families and not all Black single mothers' lives are ruined by their pregnancy.

The main characters are charming. Chantal, played with flair by Ariyan Johnson, is attractive, flamboyant and charismatic. You can't help but become emotionally involved in her dilemmas.

The film's realistic style works brilliantly when Chantal and her friends discuss AIDS and pregnancy, convincing themselves condoms are useless. It works again when Chantal goes into labour. Her expressions of pain and fear are gripping. Unfortunately, the actual birth of the baby is not as convincing.

At times, the acting is somewhat immature, especially at the begin-

ning of the film. Likely due to the tight filming schedule and budget, Wilson explained they didn't always have time (ie. money) for second takes.

There is a lot of yelling in this film. Harris, who grew up in New York, said many African-American kids are frustrated and communicate in this way. It adds to the realism of the work, but sometimes the film gets uncomfortably loud for the audience.

"I wanted this film to be as *in your face* as possible," Harris said, like the rap soundtrack. *Just Another Girl...* seeks to fill a void in commercial films by showing a Black female point-of-view. It has an intelligent Black actress in a leading role, not just someone's good-looking girlfriend.

Not just another genre film, *Just Another Girl* is fun and often disturbing, set for worldwide release in February. A "first" in many ways, Leslie Harris does not plan to make it her last, so keep your eyes open — to everything.

Afro-Canadian Mentorship Opportunity with the York Region Board of Education

Individuals interested in a mentorship relationship with African Caribbean Canadian students at risk of being unsuccessful in elementary and high school, please contact **Paul DeLyon** at **889-5453**.

Searching for a second chance?

INSTITUTE OF RENEWED EDUCATION
Matured students can find competent help in their research, thesis or publication.
We have mathematicians, computer specialists, editors and essay writers.
Leave message at:
661-5670 for appointment



BOUJADI CAFE
MOROCCAN RESTAURANT
220 EGLINTON AVENUE EAST • 440-0258
(JUST WEST OF MOUNT PLEASANT) • LLBO

Come and experience our pleasurable and healthy Moroccan favourites. Our menu consists of many tasty entrees, side orders, & desserts.
IDEAL FOR VEGETARIANS AND NON-VEGETARIANS
CALL DAHLIA ORADIA AT 440-0258 FOR SHOW TIMES

10% OFF

with this ad

I'LL BE LOVE AT FIRST FRIGHT.



Join us for the most awesome party in town - The Magic Hill Haunted Adventure!

- * The Howling Hayride through 100 acres of un-real estate
- * Fascinating Special Effects
- * The Haunted Barn
- * Over 35 LIVE Monsters

So bring a group, or come alone if you dare.

GRAND OPENING FRIDAY OCT. 2nd.
Open Thursday, Friday & Saturday nights in October only.
6:30 pm to 11:00 pm.
Adults \$10.00, Children \$5.00
Directions: Take 404 24 km North of the 401 to Bloomington Side Road. Take Bloomington East 11 km or 4 traffic lights to 9th Line. Turn left and proceed 400 yards. We're dead-ahead on your right!
PHONE: (416) 640-2347

Magic Hill
HAUNTED
ADVENTURE

Magic Hill Tree Farm advises parental discretion.

Affordable PC Now Available !

TREND 386 DX - 40 MHz

Complete system configuration:-

- 128k cache memory
- 4Mb RAM (70 NS); up to 32Mb on board
- Fujitsu 5.25" AND 3.5" floppy drive
- Fujitsu 105 Mb hard drive (Japanese)
- " MAGNAVOX " Super VGA 14" color monitor
- Trident 512k SVGA card
- 101 enhanced keyboard
- AMI BIOS with password protection
- 2 serial, 1 parallel & 1 game ports
- Heavy duty case & 200w power supply

MAGNAVOX " smart choice monitor " PC Magazine Award !
FUJITSU hard drive " 3 years headache-free warranty "

Only **\$ 1399**

FREE MS DOS 5.0 & Windows 3.1 & Mouse
PLUS 5 YEARS WARRANTY 5 years labor 2 years parts

Communication Products

Zoltrix 2400 Modem int.	\$ 45
Zoltrix 9600 Fax modem S&R int.	\$ 75
Magnavox pocket modem 2400 ext.	\$ 75
Zoltrix 9600 pocket Fax modem ext.	\$ 155

Sight & Sound

Sound Blaster	\$ 123
CD ROM Drive	SONY \$ 399 Mitsumi \$ 250

Printers On Sales

Brother 9 - pins dot matrix	\$ 189
Fujitsu 24 pins dot matrix (110 cols)	\$ 299
Fujitsu 24 pins COLOR printers	\$ 369
Cannon Bubble jet portable printer	\$ 375

TREND 386 - 25 MHz System

Complete system configuration:-

- 2Mb RAM ; up to 8Mb on board
- Fujitsu 5.25" AND 3.5" floppy drive
- Fujitsu 45Mb hard drive (Japanese)
- Magnavox VGA 14" mono monitor
- VGA card with 256k VRAM
- 101 enhanced keyboard

Free DOS 5.0 & MODEM **\$ 995**

Upgrade your

MOTHERBOARD	
286-12MHz	\$ 79
386SX - 16 MHz	\$ 150
386DX - 33MHz	\$ 275

COMPU TREND

HOURS : Mon to Fri Saturday 10AM - 7 PM 10AM - 5 PM

Scarborough (Ellesmere & Kennedy) 1350 Kennedy road	Mississauga (Dundas & Wharton way) 1870 Dundas st. e.	Thornhill (Steeles & Yonge) 330 Steeles ave. w.
288-0325	279-1988	889-0199