



BOXOUT NO TOUCH

Comedy Drama

Film

The year is 1978. We hear a narrator, eloquently describe the idyllic south London suburb of Brockley. The narrator stops at a tidy semi-detached house. Emmanuel (14) tall and black, watches his brother Isaac (15) being placed, by two Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) uniformed men into the rear of a minibus. The narrator returns to describe a dysfunctional boy's only school as a carbuncle of architecture, where joy seems to be steeped in a game called Boxout No Touch (BONT), the purpose being to extract someone else's possessions.

The narration moves to the east playground of The Pepys School. Emmanuel is showing foil-wrapped home-grown marijuana in his school bag to friend Frank (14). Suddenly, Augustine (14) and Marcus (14) appear. Augustine knocks the bag to the floor while shouting Boxout No Touch. A melee ensues, diffused by passing senior boys, who take the bag to the Boxout No Touch 'Regime'. The 'Regime' requests both Emmanuel and Augustine state their case. Augustine states that Isaac is in the Boxout No Touch game, as all siblings are automatically enrolled. Emmanuel states that, as Isaac has been temporary suspended from school the rule cannot apply. The 'Regime' recess and return within two minutes, stating they will hold the assets until Friday, when a final decision will be made. Emmanuel asks Frank for his urgent help in retrieving the marijuana before Isaac returns from the PRU on Friday.

Augustine and Marcus argue over the outcome. Marcus heads towards the maths block. He walks angrily along the school corridor, stopping only to watch a white boy, Timothy (11) writing with a Parker pen. He enters, strikes the pen to the floor quickly, shouting Boxout No Touch, takes the pen and flees. Marcus is stopped yards from the local bakery by three truanting pupils. Extortion off all possessions is quick and efficient. The assailants move off. A (flamboyant) dressed group of pupils approach Marcus and lead him away. We watch Marcus's assailants gather in the local park, distribute their mornings heist with gang leader Lawrie (15) keeping the Parker Pen. The assailants disperse.

Boxing Promotor "Lenny 'Whistle & Flute' Watson (on account of his dapper suits) receives news of the heist on his son Timothy and sends two henchmen Tall George (45) and Junior (47) to retrieve the Parker Pen. The narrator outlines the birth of the school bicycle messenger boys, and how they are crucial for the flow of information. Emmanuel is trying to persuade Augustine to help retrieve his foil wraps. When messengers enter with news of Lawrie, Augustine's cousin, and the Henchmen, the pair broker a deal.

Inside the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) the internal PRU regime wants to physically initiate Issac. Isaac negotiates a phone call with the PRU Regime. Tall George and Junior sit in a car outside Lawrie's house, debating their

© Tunde Orelaja 2024. All rights reserved.

This work is the intellectual property of Tunde Orelaja. Please do not reproduce, distribute, or use it without permission.

usual topic, the psychological need for violence to achieve given objectives. Lawrie's mum (Marcia, 36) leaves the house, having taken the parker pen from Lawrie. Tall George and Junior enter, gag Lawrie then leave to find Marcia and the Parker pen. They park near a Peckham hair salon. Marcia leaves the salon. The men follow, corner her and try to extract her handbag. Marcia retaliates and soon a small contingent of local shop owners and customers surround the men. They ditch their plan and run down the alleyway.

Emmanuel and Augustine arrive in Peckham. Messengers relay the day's events. Emmanuel and Tall George reach a deal at the Peckham Wimpey Bar, in front of scores of onlooking school kids and adults, just as Timothy leads his father, press media and a boxer in a towelling robe towards the Wimpy Bar. Timothy collects and hands the Parker Pen to his father who immediately announces how the next world feather weight boxing champion will be the boxer in the towelling robe. The boxer signs the contract with the Parker pen. Lenny tells Timothy that no boxer has ever lost a world title fight when signing with his Parker Pen.

Outside, the crowd disperse. Emmanuel & Augustine regroup and hatch a plan to retrieve Emmanuel's foil wraps. A messenger arrives on a Vespa Scooter. He whispers to Emmanuel. Emmanuel explains Marcus has fed misinformation to messengers. The Foil-Wraps are being held in an unattainable location: Dulwich Village. There is stunned silence all heads drop, even the dispersing crowd moan. The narrator explains the history of the very affluent Dulwich Village, where black boys have ventured and never returned home.

As Emmanuel looks up, Timothy moves towards him. Emmanuel explains their dilemma. Timothy explains his plan. Tall George & Junior to be disguised as Scout masters and Emmanuel and friends will undertake SCOUTS BOB A JOB week in the hunt for drug dealer DROP X.

Tall George and Junior sit in the car on Burbage Road, watching Emmanuel and co go door-to-door 'Bob-a-Jobbing' while engaged in their usual debate. Emmanuel spots Drop X peering through curtains and a neighbour with a telephone in his hand. Emmanuel throws a masonic location nod to Tall George. Tall George proceeds to the DROP X door, knocks, enters and closes the door behind him. Junior walks across the road taps on the still watching neighbour, places his finger on his lips while shaking his head a slow No. We hear police sirens in the distance. Tall George and Junior exit DROP X house, summon Emmanuel and co and drive off in the opposite direction to the oncoming police panda car.

Friday morning at The Pepys School, news has already spread regarding Emmanuel's Bob a job week and the retrieval of the wraps. The Boxout No Touch 'Regime' stand before Emmanuel and co secretly livid at losing a potential windfall. Just before they begin to make an announcement a senior boy whispers to the judge that Peckham & Dulwich fraternity, DROP X, DJ Cutter & Co are in the crowd watching. The Boxout No Touch 'Regime' worried about their reputations hastily announce new rules concerning the Boxout No Touch Game. DROP X walks sternly towards the Boxout No Touch 'Regime'. Emmanuel's brother, Isaac, walks sternly towards him.