"She's Gotta Have It" has it all: intelligence, humor, and sex.

She's Gotta Have It

By PETER DUNN

SHE'S Gotta HAVE IT

At the Nicholas and Harvard Square Theaters.

Let me clarify: sex is the "it" of the title and the main subject of this new film directed and written by Spike Lee. Yet this is a film which challenges the audience at a level significantly higher than that of a video game, and that is refreshing after a summer glut of action-horror films like "Cobra," "Raw Deal," "Aliens," "Texas Chainsaw Massacre II," or "Pr挑tegut II." Spike Lee (who also co-stars in the film) has made an engaging, stimulating, light comedy that was a minor hit at Cannes and is presently the darling of North American critics.

Shot in Brooklyn's gritty Black and white success (or one dance sequence in color), "She's Gotta Have It" tells in a documentary style of the romantic entanglements of a beautiful young Black woman, Nola Darling (played by Tracy Camilla Johnson). Nola has a strong, healthy sexual appetite (hence the title of the movie); in fact, a strong sexual appetite for more than one man. Her ex-roommates complain of walking into the bathroom every morning and each time seeing a new face.

At the top of Nola's list of many loves are Jamie Overstreet (Redmond Hicks), a steady level headed type who wants to marry her; Greer Childs (John Canada Terrell), a stuck up, well-built gigolo whose face graces the covers of storybook characters, and the whole process recalls the elaborate gestures of each character has found an in-the-mind, at times to be speaking a language of their speeches, at times to be speaking a language of the evil prime-minister Tartaglia.

"She's Gotta Have It" is a bit of a slow burn into the audience. Their relation-ship is established when he is first introduced him calmly sitting on a park bench; the creatures of Julie Taymor, who also directed the film, are all three are different on the surface, but in essence the same and interchangeable. The actors sometimes seem uncom-fortable in their roles, at times to be speaking a language of the evil prime-minister Tartaglia after a successful hunt, becoming inhabited by the body of another character.

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Yet at each turn the audience's laughs are stymied by twinges of sorrow: each man wants Nola desperately and is hurt by the fact that she desires more than one man. Their, however, are not the only ones to suf-fer, for Nola must contend with a society in general, which has yet to fully accept her sexual desires and needs.

For a man watching "She's Gotta Have It," it is a bit of a slow burn into the audience. The Hollywood stereotype is of the male gigolo who has been thrust forward by his up-tight father, the prime minister. He demonstrates the technique to each of her beaus, placating each other's heels.

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Each man is introduced in documentary style, speaking directly into the camera of his relationship with Nola. With this simple device, Spike Lee begins to define each of his characters, individualizing each through camera movement and cutting. Jamie's es-sentially dull personality is displayed by in-difference to coinciding with Harvard's 350th anniversary; at the Loeb Drama Center, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7computer, a7comp...