

Title: Jerusalema

Verdict: See it

Director: Ralph Ziman

Cast: Rapulana Seiphemo, Jeffrey Sekele, Robert Hobbs, Shelly Meskin

Release Date: 29 August 2008

Publication: SL Magazine

Reviewer: Steyn du Toit

Words: 245

Before seeing this film, I was told by a friend that **Jerusalema** is “the new Tsotsi” – and he was right, there are similarities between the two films...like the fact that both pictures have predominantly black people in it. My description of it would rather be that it is the South African adaptation of Scarface, starring Rapulana Seiphemo as Tony Montana a.k.a Lucky Kunene – one of the coolest criminal motherfuckers I have ever seen in a local film. His main source of income is hi-jacking – first vehicles and later buildings in Hillbrow. Believe it or not, this actually happens, hence the “based on real events” tag that accompanies the film. Like any good mobster, Lucky struggles with questions of morality and manages to deceive himself so well, that we almost believe him when he says: “I have done nothing illegal.” But after yet another Nigerian drug-dealer bites the dust, you have to wonder...I have deliberately left out large chunks of the plot, and urge you to go into this movie with zero expectations. The director, Ralph Ziman, does an excellent job of disguising some very important issues under the pretence of a local gangster film. It asks questions like: “When did South Africa stop being the New Jerusalem?” or “How much bigger can the gap between rich and poor still get?” The movie has already done the rounds on the international circuit at film festivals, but now it’s our turn. Fuck Tsotsi...Jerusalema is the real deal.