

In my opinion, the movie does a very good job of exploring Black culture, without the message being overshadowed by extremes.

The problems in the movie are universal for anyone who has ever been on a college campus; fraternities, sororities, class, and abuse in power dynamics. The movie explores these through a Black lens solely because of the setting and characters; the setting is at an HBCU, and as such, the conflicts relate to that. However, since the themes and problems are broad, a viewer can relate even if they are unfamiliar with the environment in which the movie takes place. The true “Blackness” of the film came from the details of the actors and the surroundings: within the fraternity and sorority conflict, there are issues of hair politics and misogynoir. Student organizations clash with the subject surrounding the funding of an HBCU; the administration is concerned with a growing student activism group, who’s message disrupts the campus with protests against the current funding and apartheid. The subject of abuse of power is framed by a conflict both between the head of the Gamma fraternity and his girlfriend, but also could have been done with the actors being white and at a PWI. The broadness of the conflicts makes the film universal enough to grab the attention of general white audiences in America, with the finer, “Blacker” details for Black audiences to grab and understand. The characters are goofy enough to befit a comedy, but they also have real challenges, wants, and needs- they are not poorly written stereotypes or caricatures of what Black people are “supposed to act like”, especially through a non-Black lens. I feel that the film strikes a very nice balance of appealing to general audiences in the United States, without offending the audience the film is aiming for.