

For immediate release: November 14, 2018



**A71 Entertainment Inc. presents**

**From the writer of STOMP THE YARD**

# **LOVE JACKED**

**- a runaway romantic comedy -**

**\*\* Programmers' Award, Best Narrative Feature, Pan African Film Festival (PAFF)\*\*  
\*\*Best Narrative Feature, Roxbury International Film Festival\*\***

**Directed by Alfons Adetuyi**

**Written by Robert Adetuyi & Linda Eskeland**

Starring **Amber Stevens West, Shamier Anderson, Michael Epps,**  
**Lyriq Bent, Angela Gibbs** and featuring  
*The Jeffersons'* **Marla Gibbs**

**Canadian Indie Film Series preview screenings across Canada December 5  
at Landmark Cinemas (see list following release)**

**Opens theatrically December 7: Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Vancouver, Winnipeg**

**TORONTO, ON – A71 Entertainment Inc.** is pleased to announce the Canadian theatrical release of the urban romantic comedy *Love Jacked* directed by **Alfons Adetuyi** (*High Chicago, Jozi-H, Ekhaya*) and written by **Robert Adetuyi** (*Stomp the Yard, Code Name: The Cleaner and Turn It Up*). The film will open in cities across Canada with a **special sneak preview December 5** before beginning its **theatrical rollout December 7** in **Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Vancouver** and **Winnipeg** (full list of theatres listed below).

Boasting a multi-generational ensemble from Canada and the U.S, *Love Jacked* stars **Amber Stevens West** (*Happy Together, The Carmichael Show, 22 Jump Street*) **Shamier Anderson** (*Labyrinth, Across The Line, Race and Pitch*) **Keith David** (*Greenleaf, Barbershop, Crash*) **Mike Epps** (*The Hangover, Meet The Black, Talk To Me*) **Lyriq Bent** (*Nappily Ever After, She's Gotta Have It, The Book of Negroes*), **Angela Gibbs** (*Black Jesus, The Fosters, Girl United*) **Demetrius Grosse** (*Numbers, Straight Outta Compton, Saving Mr. Banks*) **Nicole Lyn** (*The L Word, Student Body*) and the legendary **Marla Gibbs** (*The Jeffersons, Checking In and 227*).

The film's theatrical release comes on the heels of a successful festival run, winning the **Programmers' Award for Best Narrative Feature** at the Pan African Film Festival (PAFF), **Best Narrative Feature** at the Roxbury International Film Festival, the **Happy Planet Audience Choice Award** at the Oakville Film & Arts Festival, a **Certificate of Recognition from City of Los Angeles** for Alfons Adetuyi, and a **Best Diaspora Feature Nomination** at the Africa Movie Academy Awards (AMAA).

Maya (**Amber Stephens West**) is headstrong with artistic ambitions, a strong contrast to what her father Ed (**Keith David**) wants: a dutiful daughter to run the family hardware store. Ed is shocked when Maya takes her assertions of independence a step further and decides to travel to Africa. While looking for inspiration, she meets Mtumbie (**Demetrius Grosse**), an African Casanova who sweeps her into a whirlwind romance and the two announce their engagement. When Maya's father tries to persuade her to forget Africa and return home, her resolve to go ahead with the marriage hardens until she finds Mtumbie in bed with another woman. But rather than admit that her father was right, she tells her family the wedding is on. Drowning her sorrows at a small diner and looking for a way out of her situation, Maya meets pool hustler Malcom (**Shamier Anderson**) who is on the run from his partner Tyrell (**Lyriq Bent**). With Malcolm on the run and Maya trying to convince her family she is still engaged, they devise a plan to solve both their situations: Malcolm will hide out from Tyrell pretending to be Maya's African fiancé Mtumbie.

*"Love Jacked is a sophisticated small-town romantic comedy, told in the tradition of romantic comedies such as The Father of the Bride, with a strong female protagonist and an overbearing father, with African-American twists,"* says **director Alfons Adetuyi**.

Along with editor & executive producer Lisa diMichele and executive producer Cora Tonno, Alfons is a partner in the film and television production firm **Inner City Films**. His previous feature film was the award-winning **High Chicago** starring **Colin Salmon**. During its festival tour of Los Angeles, New York, Boston, Chicago and Toronto, the film garnered both the **Audience Choice Award** and **Best Canadian Feature** at the **ReelWorld Film Festival**. Alfons received a Gemini Award for the long-running documentary series **Skin Deep** and a Gemini nomination for Best Drama Series for **Jozi H**, a medical drama shot in South Africa.

**Robert Adetuyi** is a sought-after writer based in Los Angeles. Selected feature credits include the box office smash hit **Stomp the Yard** which ranked number one at the box office for two weeks in a row in 2007, as well as **High Chicago**, **Code Name: The Cleaner** starring Lucy Liu and Cedric the Entertainer, **Turn it Up** and the psychological thriller **Trouble Sleeping** featuring Billy Zane.

*"Love Jacked is a rom-com with a touch of road trip featuring charming characters, family drama and humorous misadventures,"* says **A71 Entertainment President Chad Maker**. *"Offering a fresh take on universal themes such as love and the search for identity, this film speaks to audiences growing appetite for diverse stories while creating cross-cultural appeal."*

**[www.LoveJackedTheFilm.com](http://www.LoveJackedTheFilm.com)**



**For more information, screeners and stills, or to request interviews please contact:**

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**December 5 - Canadian Indie Film Series sneak preview at Landmark Cinemas across the country including:**

**AB**

Calgary (Landmark Cinema Country Hills)

Edmonton (Landmark Cinema City Centre Edmonton)

**BC**

Campbell River (Showcase 5)

Courtenay (Rialto Theatre)

Cranbrook (Columbia Theatre)

Kamloops (Paramount)

Kelowna (Grand 10)

Nanaimo (Avalon)

New Westminster (Landmark Cinema 10)

Penticton (Landmark Cinema Penticton)

**MB**

Winnipeg (Landmark Towne Cinema 8)

Grant Park (Landmark Cinema 8)

**ON**

Hamilton (Landmark Cinema 6 Jackson Square)

Orléans (Landmark Cinema 10)

Ottawa (Landmark Cinema Kanata)

Waterloo (Landmark Cinema 10 Waterloo)

Whitby (Landmark Cinema Whitby)

**Opening December 7:**

**Toronto & GTA** (Cineplex Yonge & Dundas, Scarborough Town Centre, Winston Churchill, Landmark Cinemas 24 Whitby)

**Montreal** (CineplexForum)

**Vancouver** (CineplexInternational Village, & Cineplex Riverport)

**Windsor** (Cineplex)

**Kelowna** (Landmark Grand 10)

**Ottawa** (Kanata Landmark Cinemas 24)

**Kitchener** (Landmark Cinemas)

**Winnipeg** (Landmark Towne Cinema 8)

**A71 ENTERTAINMENT INC.** is a dynamic boutique distributor on the Canadian Feature Film landscape. Previous releases include TULIPANI: LOVE, HONOUR AND A BICYCLE (2018), CHOKESLAM (2017), HUNTING PIGNUT (2017), NUMB (2016), ACROSS THE LINE (2016), BERKSHIRE COUNTY (2015), PRETEND WERE KISSING (2015), THE VALLEY BELOW (2015), IN HER PLACE (2015), SIDDHARTH (2014) THE HUSBAND (2014), and BLACKBIRD (2013). The company, focused on bringing high-quality festival films to theatres, was founded by Chad Maker, David Miller and Kirk Comrie in 2013.