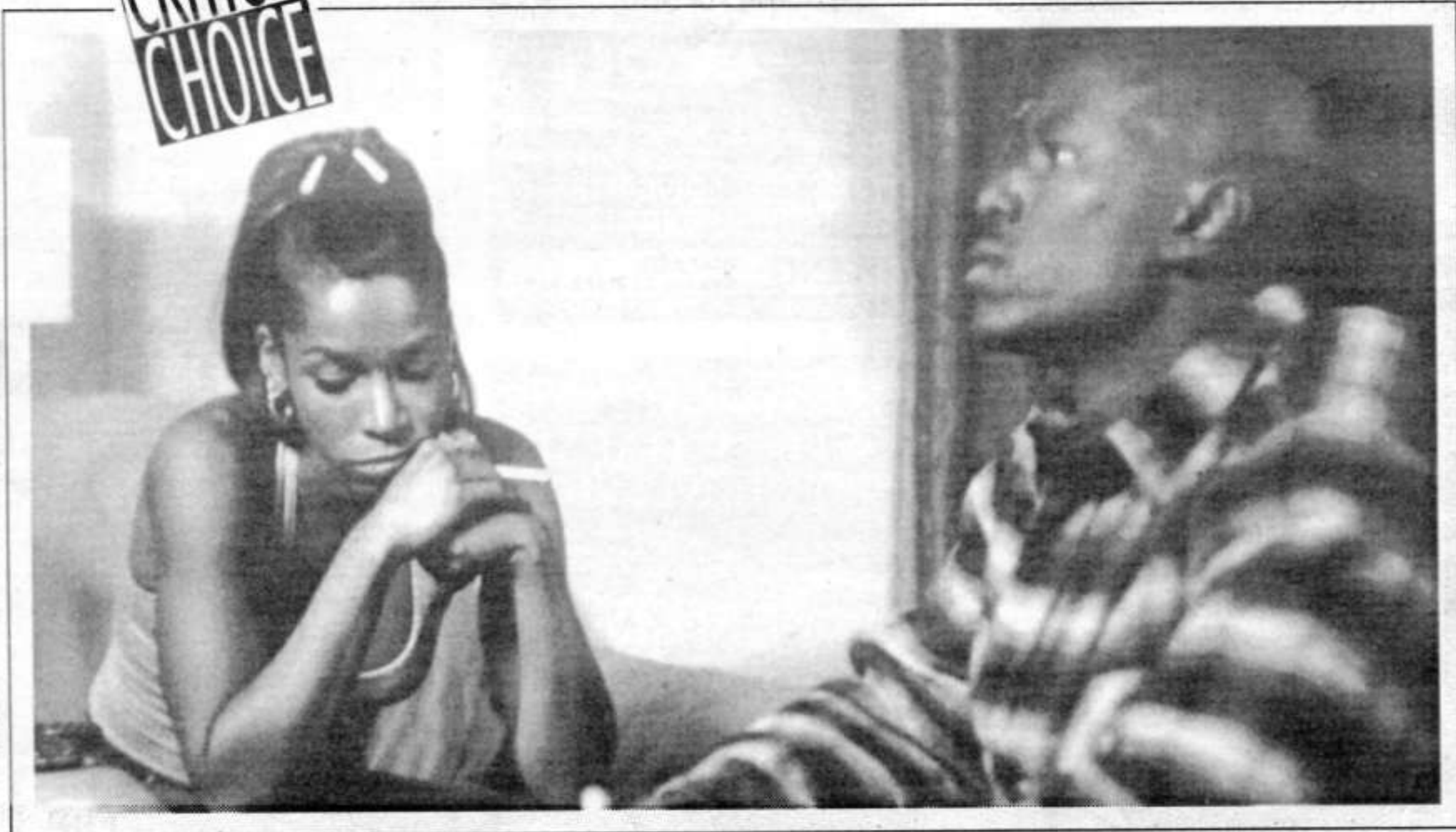


Document Citation

Title	Baby boy
Author(s)	Jonathan Rosenbaum
Source	<i>Reader (Chicago, Ill.)</i>
Date	2001 Jun 29
Type	review
Language	English
Pagination	6
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Baby boy, Singleton, John, 2001

CRITIC'S
 CHOICE



Baby Boy Chicago Reader, 6/29/01, p 6

Like John Singleton's other features, this is far from flawless; at 129 minutes it's longer than it needs to be, and the music hits you like a sledgehammer at moments when any music at all is redundant and something of an insult. But the characters are so full-bodied and the feelings so raw and complex that I'd call this the best thing he's done to date—by which I mean the most convincing and serious, telling us at least as much about everyday life in South Central Los Angeles as did *Boyz N the Hood*, his first movie. The title character, well played by Tyrese Gibson, is a 20-year-old with a pronounced Oedipus complex who lives with his

36-year-old mother (A.J. Johnson), has fathered two kids with separate girlfriends (Taraji P. Henson and Tamara LaSeon Bass), and starts to feel crowded when his mother falls for a reformed gangster (Ving Rhames, also especially good). Sexually explicit both visually and aurally, this shows rare inventiveness in exploring one character's fantasies during an orgasm. With Omar Gooding and Snoop Dogg. Century 12 and CineArts 6, Chatham 14, City North 14, Crown Village 18, Esquire, Ford City, Gardens, Lawndale, Lincoln Village, Norridge, North Riverside, 62nd & Western.

—Jonathan Rosenbaum