



### **Ghett'a Life**

One of the nice things about movies shot on location in Jamaica is that, even 40 years after the release of "The Harder They Come," we've yet to reach a critical mass of films exported from the island. As such, the urban locations and faces of the actors are still fresh. Only a really inept cinematographer could make the lush countryside look unappealing. "**Ghett'a Life**" tells a story that's as old as the movies themselves, but the circumstances surrounding it provide a sense of urgency to what otherwise would be considered just another boxing drama. In the days before a hotly contested election, Kingston is divided by gang violence and party politics. Sadly, it coincides with the emergence of 16-year-old aspiring boxer, Derrick (Kevoyn Burton), on the national boxing scene. The only training facility is on the other side of the wall dividing the warring communities and by attending classes there, Derrick is deemed a traitor. Just before he's about to become another victim of mindless revenge, writer/director Chris Browne comes up with a twist that could save the boy's life and career. "Ghett'a Life" benefits from the nicely captured look of life in the "garrison" communities, through which drive truckloads of soldiers and SUVs occupied by thugs, who look particularly evil. Anyone afraid of not being able to understand the patois should know ahead of time that the movie comes with easy to read subtitles. – *Gary Dretzka*

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