

"Cooley High" (1975)

"When it came out, "Cooley High" was widely compared to another story of teenage boys coming of age, "American Graffiti," but with the benefit of hindsight, "Cooley" is the better film, more clear-eyed and honest in its view of adolescence. (Also, its Motown soundtrack has aged better than the doo-wop and early rock of "Graffiti.") Written by "Good Times" co-creator Eric Monte, "Cooley High" follows teenage friends from Chicago's Cabrini-Green projects as they cruise, skip class, ball, flirt, fight, and get in just enough trouble. Featuring Glynn Turman, Lawrence Hilton-Jacobs, and Garrett Morris, the movie's low-key good humor influenced a kid from the projects who made his very first film appearance in "Cooley" as a basketball player: Robert Townsend."

Source: Yard Barker

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