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CALENDAR



Sept/Oct '95



THE ART OF  
SCREENWRITING  
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**SPIKE LEE**  
Sept 16 - Oct 1  
TERENCE DAVIES  
Oct 7 & 8  
**SECOND  
LOOK**  
Oct 14 & 15  
ABEL FERRARA  
Oct 21 - 29

Lee, Spike

In the William Fox Gallery

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Program information 718-784-0077

Travel directions 718-784-4777

Take the **3** train to Steinway Street; use the 34 Avenue exit.

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# A SPIKE LEE RETROSPECTIVE

Nearly ten years ago, Spike Lee burst onto the American film scene with the low-budget *She's Gotta Have It*. A surprise critical and commercial success, the film sparked a resurgence in African-American filmmaking and inspired a generation of independent filmmakers.

With the inventive and socially conscious *School Daze* and *Do The Right Thing*, Lee made his move into mainstream commercial filmmaking while maintaining an uncompromisingly independent artistic voice. An assured director, outspoken advocate for African-Americans, self-described provocateur, and marketing genius, Lee has emerged as a social and cultural phenomenon.

His subject is contemporary black urban life. His films, which fuse melodramatic and comedic tones, deftly explore complex relationships within families and

communities. The richness of his style and his eagerness for experimentation are reflected in the vivid colors, fluid camera movements, and jarring off-kilter compositions which characterize his films.

In addition to his talent as director, writer, actor, and producer, Lee has proven himself a canny businessman with a flair for controversy and self-promotion. While critics and audiences have received his "joints" with a mixture of enthusiasm, animosity, encouragement, and disbelief, Lee remains one of America's most accomplished and respected filmmakers. Few directors have so thoroughly explored race relations, urban tensions, class divisions, and African-American sexuality and culture.

Special thanks to Forty Acres and a Mule, Universal Pictures, Warner Bros., Island Pictures, HBO, and Broadway Video. Organized by Erika Muhammad, Assistant Curator of Film & Video.

SEPTEMBER 16-OCTOBER 1, 1995

IN THE RIKLIS THEATER all films are screened in 35mm unless otherwise noted

## SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16



DO THE RIGHT THING

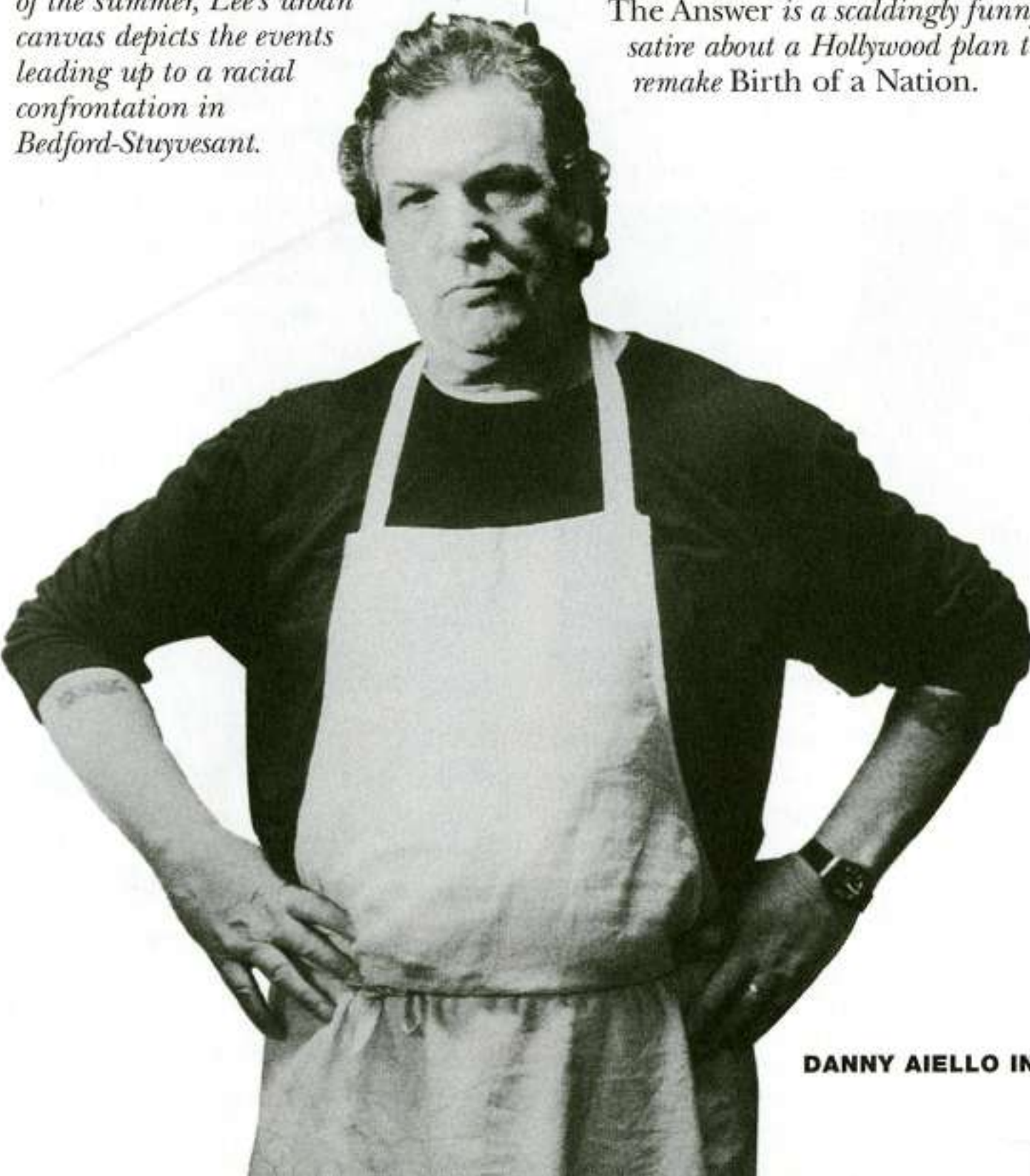
**DO THE RIGHT THING** 2:00 p.m. **A DISCUSSION WITH SPIKE LEE AND DONALD BOGLE**

Lee will discuss his career during this special program moderated by film historian Donald Bogle, author of *Blacks in American Films and Television*. A selection of scenes will be shown, including a look at Lee's new movie, *Clockers*. Special ticket required; advance purchase is strongly recommended.

4:30 p.m. **INTRODUCED BY SPIKE LEE**

**Do The Right Thing** Universal, 1989, 120 mins. With Danny Aiello, Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee, John Turturro.

Set during the hottest day of the summer, Lee's urban canvas depicts the events leading up to a racial confrontation in Bedford-Stuyvesant.



DANNY AIELLO IN DO THE RIGHT THING

## SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 17

2:00 p.m. **JOIE LEE AND CINQUE LEE IN PERSON**

**Crooklyn** Universal, 1994, 144 mins. With Alfre Woodard, Delroy Lindo, Zelda Harris.

This family collaboration, written by Lee and siblings Joie and Cinque, is the poignant serio-comic saga of a young girl in Brooklyn during the mid-1970s.



CROOKLYN

5:30 p.m. **Joe's Bed-Stuy Barbershop: We Cut Heads** 1982, 60 mins., 16mm. With Monty Ross. **The Answer** 1980, 20 mins., 16mm.

Lee's award-winning NYU thesis film is a lively and well-observed drama about the world of the corner barbershop and the numbers racket.

The Answer is a scaldingly funny satire about a Hollywood plan to remake *Birth of a Nation*.

## SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16

2:00 p.m. **SPIKE'S EDITORS: BARRY BROWN AND SAM POLLARD IN PERSON**

**School Daze** Columbia, 1988, 120 mins. With Larry Fishburne, Giancarlo Esposito, Tisha Campbell.

Lee's first Hollywood movie mixes ribald comedy, pointed social commentary, stylized musical numbers, and naturalistic drama while examining social stratification at a black college. After the screening, two of Lee's long-time editors will discuss their work. Barry Brown edited *School Daze*, *Do The Right Thing*, and *Malcolm X*. Sam Pollard edited *Mo' Better Blues*, *Jungle Fever*, *Crooklyn*, and *Clockers*.



MO' BETTER BLUES

5:00 p.m. **Mo' Better Blues** Universal, 1990, 127 mins. With Denzel Washington, Wesley Snipes, Giancarlo Esposito.

A jazz-world drama of artistic obsession, *Mo' Better Blues* is about a trumpet player whose life is ruled by music and his tangled romances.

## SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 17

2:00 p.m. **NELSON GEORGE IN PERSON**

**She's Gotta Have It** Island, 1986, 84 mins. With Tracy Camilla Johns.

Lee's debut feature examines its heroine, Nola Darling, from many viewpoints, including those of her father, her ex-roommate, her analyst, a lesbian friend, and her three current lovers. George, author of *Blackface*, was an investor in *She's Gotta Have It*.

4:30 p.m. **ST. CLAIR BOURNE IN PERSON**

**Making "Do The Right Thing"** St. Clair Bourne, 1989, 58 mins., 16mm. **TV WORK BY SPIKE LEE:**

## SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16

2:00 p.m. **WYNN THOMAS, RUTH CARTER, AND JON KILIK IN PERSON**

**Malcolm X** Warner Bros., 1992, 199 mins. With Denzel Washington, Angela Bassett, Al Freeman Jr.



MALCOLM X

Lee's sweeping epic of the life of the controversial civil rights leader features a riveting performance by Denzel Washington in the title role. Production designer Wynn Thomas, costume designer Ruth Carter, and producer Jon Kilik have been key collaborators on all of Spike Lee's movies since *School Daze*.

### SUNDAY OCTOBER 1



JUNGLE FEVER

2:00 p.m. **INTRODUCED BY RANDY BALSMEYER AND MIMI EVERETT**

**Jungle Fever** Universal, 1991, 132 mins. With Wesley Snipes, Annabella Sciorra, Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee, Samuel L. Jackson.

Set in Harlem and Bensonhurst, this explosive urban drama explores the interracial romance between a married architect and his secretary, and includes a gripping sub-plot about a drug addict, brilliantly played by Samuel L. Jackson. Title and special effects designers Balsmeyer and Everett will discuss this movie's unforgettable opening sequence.

5:00 p.m. **MUSIC VIDEOS AND COMMERCIALS BY SPIKE LEE**

An hour-long program of music videos for Branford Marsalis, Miles Davis, Arrested Development, Tracy Chapman, Anita Baker, Public Enemy, and Naughty by Nature and commercials for Nike, Levis, and Jesse Jackson's 1988 presidential campaign.



DENZEL WASHINGTON IN MALCOLM X

**Iron Mike Tyson** HBO, 1991, 7 mins. **Horn of Plenty** Saturday Night Live, 1986, 5 mins. **MTV Art Breaks** 1991, 6 mins. TV work shown in video.

The outstanding behind-the-scenes documentary includes candid interviews with actors and crew members, and also shows the effect that the production had on the residents of Bedford-Stuyvesant.



ANNABELLA SCIORRA AND WESLEY SNIPES IN JUNGLE FEVER