

## **BAMcinématek and the Academy present *By Any Means Necessary: A Spike Lee Joints Retrospective*, Jun 29—Jul 10**

**Kicks off with a 25th anniversary screening of Spike Lee's *Do the Right Thing* for Closing Night of BAMcinemaFest with Lee and cast in attendance**

**15 films in 35mm plus a rare 16mm print of Lee's debut, *Joe's Bed-Stuy Barbershop: We Cut Heads***

*The Wall Street Journal* is the title sponsor for BAMcinemaFest, BAMcinématek, and BAM Rose Cinemas.

**Brooklyn, NY/May 22, 2014**—From Sunday, June 29 through Thursday, July 10, BAMcinématek and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences present ***By Any Means Necessary: A Spike Lee Joints Retrospective***, a 12-day series spanning three decades and commemorating the 15th anniversary of BAMcinématek, which launched in 1999 with a survey of Lee's career. The writer-director-actor's consistently surprising work displays a boundless visual imagination, some of the most fearlessly intelligent discourse on race relations in American cinema, and an ability to infuse independent projects and big-budget blockbusters alike with his edgy, energetic style. From June 27—July 27, the Academy will also present a west coast retrospective of Lee's work at the Academy's Linwood Dunn Theater and the Bing Theater on the Los Angeles County Museum of Art campus.

Kicking off the New York retrospective and closing BAMcinemaFest on June 29 is a 25th anniversary celebration of Lee's Oscar®-nominated ***Do the Right Thing***. The streets of Bed-Stuy boil in Lee's tale of tensions run high on Brooklyn's hottest day of the year. Loaded with an amazing supporting cast (including Samuel L. Jackson, John Turturro, and Rosie Perez) and music by Public Enemy, *Do the Right Thing* swings effortlessly from satire to social commentary. Upon its release, Roger Ebert praised the groundbreaking film as coming "closer to reflecting the current state of race relations in America than any other movie of our time," and 25 years later it remains an important cultural touchstone for a very different Brooklyn. This landmark event, presented on the Steinberg Screen at the BAM Harvey Theater, will feature a Q&A with Lee and members of the cast and crew including Danny Aiello, Rick Aiello, Giancarlo Esposito, Bill Nunn, editor Barry Alexander Brown, production designer Wynn Thomas, and others, moderated by Dr. Khalil Gibran Muhammad, director of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

One of the most influential contemporary filmmakers, Spike Lee's signature style combines complex camera angles, multiple storylines, and original music. A retrospective of his work is also a tour through Kings County, with seven of 16 films set in his native Brooklyn. Representing Bed-Stuy along with *Do the Right Thing* are Lee's loosely autobiographical ***Crooklyn*** (1994—Jul 2) and his 16mm NYU master's thesis ***Joe's Bed-Stuy Barbershop: We Cut Heads*** (1983—Jul 1), the first student film to screen at the New Directors/New Films festival. His classmates Ang Lee and Ernest Dickerson worked on the project as assistant director and cinematographer, respectively, and the film went on to win a Student Academy Award®, signaling the arrival of a fresh new voice in American independent cinema. Lee's next project, the groundbreaking sex comedy ***She's Gotta Have It*** (1986—Jul 4), was shot in Fort Greene where Lee grew up, and its critical success "posed

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him as a mid-80s rival to Woody Allen, nearly equaling him in the psychological authenticity of his characters and perhaps bettering him in sheer creative glee” (Peter Keough, *Chicago Reader*).

Rounding out Lee’s portraits of Brooklyn are ***Clockers*** (1995—Jul 7), about a teenage drug dealer in Boerum Hill’s Gowanus Houses; the Coney Island-set basketball drama ***He Got Game*** (1998—Jul 9) starring Denzel Washington, Ray Allen, and Rosario Dawson; ***Mo’ Better Blues*** (1990—Jul 1), a character study of fictional jazz trumpeter Bleek Gilliam (Washington) shot in the heart of DUMBO; and Lee’s exploration of interracial relationships, ***Jungle Fever*** (1991—Jul 2), in which a married Harlem man (Wesley Snipes) has an affair with a white woman (Annabella Sciorra) in Bensonhurst.

Race relations and politics provide an essential undercurrent in many of Lee’s films, and three highlights of the series examine civil rights from a historical perspective. Screening on Tuesday, July 8 are Lee’s Oscar®-nominated documentary ***4 Little Girls*** (1997), a heartbreaking account of the 1963 bombing of a Birmingham, Alabama, church; and ***Get on the Bus*** (1996), in which a group of African-American men travel from Los Angeles to Washington, DC for the 1995 Million Man March. ***Malcolm X*** (1992—Jul 6) remains one of Lee’s most celebrated works, starring Denzel Washington in an Oscar®-nominated performance as the legendary civil-rights activist.

Also screening in *By Any Means Necessary* are ***Bamboozled*** (2000—Jul 10), a searing satire about a “new millennium minstrel show” that becomes a runaway hit; ***Girl 6*** (1996—Jul 7), Lee’s freewheeling comedy about an aspiring actress turned phone sex operator starring Quentin Tarantino playing himself; ***School Daze*** (1988—Jun 30), a comedic look at politics at a historically black college, partly based on Lee’s experience at his alma mater, Morehouse College; ***Summer of Sam*** (1999—Jul 4), a paranoid thriller set in 1977 New York City, when the infamous Son of Sam killer was on the loose; and the post-9/11 drama ***25th Hour*** (2002—Jul 3), which landed on both Roger Ebert and A.O. Scott’s best of the decade lists.

### ***By Any Means Necessary: A Spike Lee Joins Retrospective Schedule***

#### **Sun, Jun 29**

5pm: *Do the Right Thing*\*

\*Co-presented by the Academy on the Steinberg Screen at the BAM Harvey Theater with Lee, cast, and crew in person

#### **Mon, Jun 30**

7, 9:30pm: *School Daze*

#### **Tue, Jul 1**

4:30, 9pm: *Mo’ Better Blues*

7:30pm: *Joe’s Bed-Stuy Barbershop: We Cut Heads*

#### **Wed, Jul 2**

4:30, 9:30pm: *Jungle Fever*

7pm: *Crooklyn*

#### **Thu, Jul 3**

5:15, 8pm: *25th Hour*

#### **Fri, Jul 4**

2, 7, 9pm: *She’s Gotta Have It*

4pm: *Summer of Sam*

#### **Sat, Jul 5**

2, 4:30, 7, 9:30pm: *Do the Right Thing*

#### **Sun, Jul 6**

2, 6:30pm: *Malcolm X*

**Mon, Jul 7**

4:30, 9:40pm: *Girl 6*

7pm: *Clockers*

**Tue, Jul 8**

4:30, 9:15pm: *Get on the Bus*

7pm: *4 Little Girls*

**Wed, Jul 9**

5:15, 8pm: *He Got Game*

**Thu, Jul 10**

5:15, 8pm: *Bamboozled*

**Film Descriptions**

*All films in 35mm unless otherwise noted.*

***25th Hour* (2002) 135min**

*With Edward Norton, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Rosario Dawson.*

Convicted drug dealer Monty (Norton) spends his last 24 hours as a free man saying goodbye to his family and closest pals, settling a score with Russian mobsters, and reflecting on his life gone wrong. The specter of 9/11 looms large over this elegiac, deeply felt New York story, which “produces a wrenching, dazzling succession of moods... The ending is as bittersweet and sincere an evocation of the American dream as I have seen on film” (A.O. Scott, *The New York Times*).

**Thu, Jul 3 at 5:15, 8pm**

***4 Little Girls* (1997) 102min**

*With Maxine McNair, Walter Cronkite, Chris McNair.*

On September 15, 1963, four African-American Sunday school students, aged 11 to 14, were killed in a racially-motivated bombing at a Birmingham, Alabama church. Lee’s longtime dream project is an “immensely dignified and moving” (*The New York Times*) account of both the crime and, most poignantly, the lives of the girls who died, amounting to a soul-shaking portrait of what was lost that terrible day, as well as its significance within the larger civil rights movement. *35mm print courtesy of the Academy Film Archive.*

**Tue, Jul 8 at 7pm**

***Bamboozled* (2000) 135min**

*With Damon Wayans, Savion Glover, Jada Pinkett Smith.*

A frustrated African-American television writer (Wayans) proposes an impossibly offensive “new millennium minstrel show,” complete with performers in black face, in hopes that it will get him fired by the network. Only problem is, not only does the show get picked up, it becomes a huge national hit. Lee’s provocative satire deploys centuries of egregious, racially-charged imagery to illustrate how the media peddles African-American stereotypes for the sake of ratings.

**Thu, Jul 10 at 5:15, 8pm**

***Clockers* (1995) 128min**

*With Mekhi Phifer, Harvey Keitel, Isaiah Washington.*

A product of the Brooklyn projects, train-obsessed teen Strike (Phifer) peddles crack for a local drug leader, who promises to promote him under one condition: he must first carry out a hit. Though Strike’s good-egg brother (Washington) ultimately confesses to the murder, tough cop Rocco (Keitel) isn’t buying it. Shot in an expressionistically murky vérité style, this Martin Scorsese-produced portrait of inner-city violence is a scorching indictment of gun and gangster culture.

**Mon, Jul 7 at 7pm**

**Crooklyn** (1994) 115min

*With Alfre Woodard, Delroy Lindo, David Patrick Kelly.*

Lee returns to the neighborhood for a sentimental tale of growing up in Brooklyn in the 70s. Woodard and Lindo shine as the no-nonsense parents, the script (co-written with siblings Joie and Cinqué Lee) crackles with energy, and Lee's unmistakably autobiographical touches (and excellent choice of music) enlighten this episodic coming-of-age tale.

**Wed, Jul 2 at 7pm**

**Do the Right Thing** (1989) 120min

*With Danny Aiello, Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee.*

The streets of Bed-Stuy boil in Lee's tale of tensions running high on the hottest day of the year. Loaded with an amazing supporting cast (including Samuel L. Jackson, Giancarlo Esposito, John Turturro, and Rosie Perez) and music by Public Enemy, *Do the Right Thing* swings effortlessly from satire to social commentary. Upon its release, Roger Ebert praised the groundbreaking film as coming "closer to reflecting the current state of race relations in America than any other movie of our time," and 25 years later it remains an important cultural touchstone for a very different Brooklyn. *DCP on Jun 29; 35mm on Jul 5.*

**Sun, Jun 29 at 5pm\* and Sat, Jul 5 at 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30pm\*\***

**\*Presented on the Steinberg Screen at the BAM Harvey Theater with Lee, cast, and crew in person**

**\*\*Presented at BAM Rose Cinemas**

**Get on the Bus** (1996) 120min

*With Ossie Davis, Charles S. Dutton, Andre Braugher.*

A motley group of African-American men—including an ex-gang member, a gay couple, and a Republican Lexus dealer—take a bus from LA to DC to attend the 1995 Million Man March. From this simple setup, Lee fashions a simultaneously thought-provoking, humorous, and entertaining road movie that explores the ins and outs of black masculinity in all its iterations. An independently financed labor of love, *Get on the Bus* finds Lee at his warmest and most energetically passionate.

**Tue, Jul 8 at 4:30, 9:15pm**

**Girl 6** (1996) 108min

*With Theresa Randle, Isaiah Washington, Spike Lee.*

After aspiring actress Judy (Randle) flunks her audition with Quentin Tarantino (he's directing "the greatest romantic African-American film ever made"), she finds the ultimate role as phone-sex operator Girl 6 in Lee's infectiously freewheeling fantasia of day-glo colors, creative camerawork, celebrity cameos (including Madonna and Naomi Campbell), and a slinky soundtrack by Prince. Lee's return to his indie roots is a delirious delight.

**Mon, Jul 7 at 4:30, 9:40pm**

**He Got Game** (1998) 136min

*With Denzel Washington, Ray Allen.*

In prison for killing his wife, Jake (Washington, extraordinary per usual) gets a deal from the state: convince his high-school basketball star son Jesus (NBA great Allen) to play for the governor's favorite college team, and Jake will find himself on the fast track to freedom. But he's got a long way to go in repairing his damaged relationship with Jesus first. Lee pulls out all the stylistic stops in this electric sports drama that crackles with visceral hoops scenes, a vibrant Coney Island setting, and a soundtrack that rocks both Public Enemy and Aaron Copland.

**Wed, Jul 9 at 5:15, 8pm**

**Joe's Bed-Stuy Barbershop: We Cut Heads** (1983) 60min

*With Monty Ross, Donna Bailey, Stuart Smith.*

Lee's Student Academy Award-winning® NYU thesis film displays the brash stylistic confidence, flashes of humor, and nuanced observations on race and inner-city life that he'd soon unleash in full force in works like *Do the Right Thing*. After Joe gets killed by the gangsters who had been using his barbershop as a front, Zack (Ross) takes over running the business—but does he have the fortitude to resist getting mixed up with the same thugs? 16mm.

**Tue, Jul 1 at 7:30pm**

***Jungle Fever*** (1991) 132min

*With Wesley Snipes, Annabella Sciorra, Spike Lee.*

Lee tackles issues of interracial relationships and drugs with this story of a married black man from Harlem (Snipes) who has an affair with a white woman from Bensonhurst (Sciorra). This “superbly orchestrated” (Jonathan Rosenbaum, *Chicago Reader*) drama boasts an original soundtrack by Stevie Wonder and electrifying supporting performances from Halle Berry and Samuel L. Jackson.

**Wed, Jul 2 at 4:30, 9:30pm**

***Malcolm X*** (1992) 202min

*With Denzel Washington, Angela Bassett.*

Denzel Washington gives an electrifying Oscar®-nominated performance as the iconic civil-rights activist in Lee’s sweeping biopic that charts the influential black nationalist’s ever-shifting identities and ideologies: from his troubled childhood and days as a small-time Harlem hoodlum to his spiritual awakening in prison and conversion to Islam. Crackling with a live-wire intensity and culminating in an appearance by Nelson Mandela, *Malcolm X* is no less than “one of the great screen biographies” (Roger Ebert).

**Sun, Jul 6 at 2, 6:30pm**

***Mo' Better Blues*** (1990) 130min

*With Denzel Washington, Spike Lee, Wesley Snipes.*

Jazz trumpeter Bleek Gilliam (a magnetic Denzel Washington) is a New York City bandleader with a gambling-addicted manager (Lee) and female troubles—but his single-minded narcissism keeps him from realizing he’s headed for ruin both artistically and romantically. Lee neatly subverts the usual “tortured artist” clichés in this bracing musical drama, loaded with knockout visual flourishes and featuring a score by the director’s own jazzman father.

**Tue, Jul 1 at 4:30, 9pm**

***School Daze*** (1988) 121min

*With Laurence Fishburne, Giancarlo Esposito, Tisha Campbell-Martin.*

Lee’s audacious follow-up to *She’s Gotta Have It* follows a self-styled radical (Fishburne) at the historically black Mission College as he tries to shake up the campus’ political consciousness and clashes with the cartoonishly macho Gamma Phi Gamma fraternity. Bursting with energetic musical numbers (including a beauty parlor showdown over black hair styles), *School Daze* pulls off a deft mix of comedy and commentary as it touches on colorism, class, and African-American identity.

**Mon, Jun 30 at 7, 9:30pm**

***She’s Gotta Have It*** (1986) 84min

*With Tracy Camilla Johns, Tommy Redmond Hicks, John Canada Terrell.*

Lee’s fearless feature debut (shot largely in Fort Greene) took the world by storm by appropriating the sex comedy, à la Woody Allen, to address black sexuality. A watershed independent film of the 1980s, *She’s Gotta Have It* was radical for its concern with a demographic hitherto unrepresented on screen: the cosmopolitan black female.

**Fri, Jul 4 at 2, 7, 9pm**

***Summer of Sam*** (1999) 142min

*With John Leguizamo, Adrien Brody, Mira Sorvino.*

Lee’s portrait of NYC in the summer of 1977—when Reggie Jackson led the Yankees, disco blared from stereos, the sexual revolution was in full swing, and a killer named Son of Sam gripped the city in fear. Lee’s rich work explores how paranoia infects a community, creating a lynch mob mentality that leads to finger pointing at outsiders and misfits.

**Fri, Jul 4 at 4pm**

**About BAMcinémathèque**

The four-screen BAM Rose Cinemas (BRC) opened in 1998 to offer Brooklyn audiences alternative and independent films that might not play in the borough otherwise, making BAM the only performing arts center in the country with two mainstage theaters and a multiplex cinema. In July 1999, beginning with a series celebrating the work of Spike Lee, BAMcinématek was born as Brooklyn's only daily, year-round repertory film program. BAMcinématek presents new and rarely seen contemporary films, classics, work by local artists, and festivals of films from around the world, often with special appearances by directors, actors, and other guests. BAMcinématek has not only presented major retrospectives by major filmmakers such as Michelangelo Antonioni, Manoel de Oliveira, Shohei Imamura, Vincente Minnelli (winning a National Film Critics' Circle Award prize for the retrospective), Kaneto Shindo, Luchino Visconti, and William Friedkin, but it has also introduced New York audiences to contemporary artists such as Pedro Costa and Apichatpong Weerasethakul. In addition, BAMcinématek programmed the first US retrospectives of directors Arnaud Desplechin, Nicolas Winding Refn, Hong Sang-soo, and, most recently, Andrzej Zulawski. From 2006 to 2008, BAMcinématek partnered with the Sundance Institute and in June 2009 launched BAMcinemaFest, a 16-day festival of new independent films and repertory favorites with 15 NY feature film premieres; the sixth annual BAMcinemaFest runs from June 18—29, 2014.

### Credits

*The Wall Street Journal* is the title sponsor of BAM Rose Cinemas and BAMcinématek.

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Pepsi is the official beverage of BAM.

Brooklyn Brewery is the preferred beer of BAMcinématek.

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### General Information

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, BAM Rose Cinemas, and BAMcafé are located in the Peter Jay Sharp building at 30 Lafayette Avenue (between St Felix Street and Ashland Place) in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn. BAM Harvey Theater is located two blocks from the main building at 651 Fulton Street (between Ashland and Rockwell Places). Both locations house Greenlight Bookstore at BAM kiosks. BAM Fisher, located at 321 Ashland Place, is the newest addition to the BAM campus and houses the Judith and Alan Fishman Space and Rita K. Hillman Studio. BAM Rose Cinemas is Brooklyn's only movie house dedicated to first-run independent and foreign film and repertory programming. BAMcafé, operated by Great Performances, offers a bar menu and dinner entrées prior to BAM Howard Gilman Opera House evening performances. BAMcafé also features an eclectic mix of spoken word and live music for BAMcafé Live on Friday and Saturday nights with a bar menu available starting at 6pm.

Subway: 2, 3, 4, 5, Q, B to Atlantic Avenue – Barclays Center (2, 3, 4, 5 to Nevins St for Harvey Theater)  
D, N, R to Pacific Street; G to Fulton Street; C to Lafayette Avenue  
Train: Long Island Railroad to Atlantic Terminal – Barclays Center  
Bus: B25, B26, B41, B45, B52, B63, B67 all stop within three blocks of BAM  
Car: Commercial parking lots are located adjacent to BAM

For ticket information, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100, or visit BAM.org.