

News Release



For Immediate Release
January 31, 2006

Regional Enterprise Tower
425 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1750
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ACCLAIMED FILMMAKER SPIKE LEE TO SPEAK IN PITTSBURGH as the African American Cultural Center of Greater Pittsburgh Presents “An Evening with Spike Lee,” February 16

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www.africanaculture.org

PITTSBURGH, PA – Spike Lee, the formidable director behind such modern classics as *Do the Right Thing*, *Mo' Better Blues*, *School Daze* and *Malcolm X*, comes to Pittsburgh for one night only on February 16 at 8 p.m. at the Byham Theater, Cultural District, Downtown.

One of the world's most recognized, influential and innovative filmmakers, Lee will talk about film as a form of art and as social commentary. Immediately following his sixty-minute lecture, the audience will have the chance to ask questions of Lee during a talk-back session.

Known for seminal works that often stand at the forefront of exploring race relations, social complexities and gender dynamics, Lee recently announced plans to make a documentary examining how race and politics collided in the aftermath of last year's Hurricane Katrina.

Following the discussion, Lee will attend a private reception at the African American Cultural Center's 209/9th Street Gallery, where the exhibition "Extreme Canvas: Hand-Painted Movie Posters from Ghana" is currently on display (a poster promoting Lee's *Malcolm X* is included in the exhibition). Entertainment will be provided by Dwayne Dolphin (bass), James Johnson III (drums) and Mike Murry (piano) who will play musical selections from Lee's films. This reception is open only to those who purchase the \$60 Gold Circle Tickets for "An Evening with Spike Lee."

Tickets for "An Evening with Spike Lee" are on sale now, and can be purchased at the Box Office at Theater Square (655 Penn Ave.) by calling 412.456.6666, or online at www.pgharts.org. Tickets are \$18, \$25, \$30 and \$60. Discounts are available for students and groups of 10 or more. Only \$60 Gold Circle Tickets include the Post-Show Reception.

About Spike Lee

As a writer-director, actor, producer, author and educator, Spike Lee has revolutionized the role of black talent in cinema. Widely regarded as today's premier African American filmmaker Lee is a forerunner in the do-it-yourself school of independent film. He is currently in post-production of his 17th film, *the Inside Man* starring Denzel Washington, Jodie Foster and Clive Owen and in production on a documentary with the current working title *When the Levee Broke*.

His debut film, the independently produced comedy, *She's Gotta Have It*, earned him the Prix de Jeunesse Award at the Cannes Film festival in 1986 and set him at the forefront of the Black New Wave in American Cinema. His second feature, the very

profitable *School Daze* helped to launch the careers of several young Black actors. Lee's timely 1989 film, *Do The Right Thing*, garnered an Academy Award nomination for Best Original Screenplay and Best Film & Director awards from the Los Angeles Film Critics Association. Lee's *Jungle Fever*, *Mo' Better Blues*, *Clockers* and *Crooklyn* – were also critically well received.

Born in Atlanta, Georgia and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Lee returned south to attend Morehouse College. After graduation, he returned to Brooklyn to continue his education at New York University's Tisch School of Arts in Manhattan where he received his Master of Fine Arts Degree in film production. He founded 40 Acres and a Mule Filmworks based in the Fort Greene section of Brooklyn, where he has resided since childhood.

Lee is also involved in documentaries and sports programs. He completed the Emmy and Oscar nominated documentary, *4 Little Girls*, for HBO and received an Emmy Award for his piece on Georgetown's John Thompson for HBO/Real Sports.

Additionally, Lee has authored six books on the making of his films. The fifth book, *Five For Five*, served as a pictorial reflection of his first five features. Mr. Lee then followed up with authoring a book entitled *Best Seat in the House* with Ralph Wiley. Most recently he has co-authored a children's book entitled *Please Baby Please* with his wife Mrs. Tonya Lewis Lee.

About The African American Cultural Center

The African American Cultural Center of Greater Pittsburgh presents, interprets and preserves the art, culture, and history of African Americans in Pittsburgh and of people of African descent throughout the world. The Center realizes its mission with an engaging schedule of visual and performing arts programs as well as educational and public programs.

The programs of the African American Cultural Center's 2005-2006 season are supported by lead gifts from The Heinz Endowments, The Pittsburgh Foundation and The PNC Financial Services Group. Additional programmatic support provided by The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and The Mary Hillman Jennings Foundation. Operating support has been provided by the Allegheny Regional Asset District. More information is available at the African American Cultural Center's Web site, www.africanaculture.org.

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