

Education

- Educator
- Journalist
- Consultant
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Spike Lee's First Three



KEITH O. HILTON

This summer Spike Lee's fourth commercial movie venture, "Mo' Better Blues" premieres. Thus far, he has rarely been lost for words and will probably most expertly deal with the forth-

coming criticism that his movies are now becoming too commercial.

His first three films were: 1. She's Gotta Have It, 2. School Daze and 3. Do the Right Thing. Each has

already become semi cult movies by serious videophytes.

To Spike Lee's credit, he has consistently referred to himself as a filmmaker. A filmmaker with an Afrocentric consciousness, I feel comfortable adding.

Recently, Tony Brown, one of the senior professors of the U.S. African press, wrote in his weekly column about comments Spike made regarding (Brown's) movie venture, "The White Girl"

Spikes's comments were not very favorable. Professor Brown correctly diffused what could have become an unattractive public verbal sparing match.

Brown wrote that "these attack-actions do not allow love and understanding to develop. And without love and understanding, the similarities that unite, cannot replace the differences that divide and alienate."

Brown also made it clear that whenever he was critical of Hollywood in his weekly column, his words were not personally directed at those such as Eddie Murphy, Robert Townsend or Spike Lee.

Again I write that Spike Lee is a filmmaker. And in my opinion, one of the best around.

If and when Spike Lee directs his tenth, twentieth

and thirtieth film, the pattern would already have been set from the beginning: namely that he is a filmmaker, not a revolutionary filmmaker, nor a soothsayer filmmaker, not a conformist filmmaker, nor a patriotic filmmaker.

Filmmakers make films, entertainers entertain, entrepreneurs conduct business, educators educate. Spike Lee has that special gift of bringing the African experience to life. He can not and does not claim to possess the final word on the African American experience.

Still, I am of the opinion that one's culture and roots are important career ingredients.

The (African) world has a right to applaud those (African) filmmakers with an Afrocentric consciousness (i.e. Spike Lee and Tony Brown) and be critical of those who just make films; applaud those African entertainers with an Afrocentric consciousness (i.e. Bill Cosby and Miriam Makeba) and be critical of those who just entertain.

Africans have the right to applaud those African singers with an Afrocentric consciousness (i.e. Cecilia Cruz, Fela, Public Enemy) and be critical of those who just sing.

And yes, Africans need to

applaud those African educators with an Afrocentric consciousness and be critical of those who just (mis) educate.

Spike Lee's first three movies were imperfect. My suspicion is that most of his remaining films will also be imperfectly relevant.

HILTON: HIGHER EDUCATION IS DESIGNED TO DIALOGUE WITH COLLEGE AND WORLD READERS. Education is ongoing and certainly not limited to classroom study. Let's talk. (714) 899-0650.

Year-Round Schools Still In Session

Although school ended Thursday, June 7 for approximately 95,000 students in the Clark County School District, some students will remain in school through the summer.

Seventeen year-round elementary schools with some 16,000 students will remain in session until the first week of August. Also, elementary and secondary students who plan to take summer school classes will be in school during parts of June July and August.

School speed zones will remain in effect at schools that are in session during the summer.

West Coast Black Publishers Association

EDUCATION FUND INC.
1219 - 20TH STREET
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301

The West Coast Black Publishers Scholarship Fund introduces a scholarship/internship program to commence in the fall semester 1989. The program is funded by Philip Morris U.S.A. and is available to minority students interested in pursuing careers in print journalism.



BUSINESS



COMMUNICATIONS



JOURNALISM



PRODUCTION

Eligibility Requirements

- Student must reside in a WCBPA location; however, he or she can attend any accredited institution for higher education in the U.S.
- Student must major or minor in the subject areas, and demonstrate strong interest in journalism.
- A commitment to a three-year scholarship and internship program will be required.
- Student must maintain a 2.5 G.P.A.
- Student must demonstrate a financial need.
- Student whose application is accepted will be identified as West Coast Black Publishers/Philip Morris U.S.A. Scholar.

Selection Process

- Selection committee will review student's submission of an essay on the impact of Black media in the U.S.
- Three letters of recommendations from a college professor, community leader and employer must be submitted.
- Funds will be transferred directly to the college/university.
- Applications available at local college/university or West Coast Black Publishers Association Newspapers.

For further information, call (805)324-9466.

**NEED HELP
WITH READING,
WRITING, MATH,
& GED — AGE: 16+**

**CONTACT
A.O.I.P.
647-2117
1-4 P.M.**