

# Spike Lee Plans Phone Sex With Madonna

NEW YORK - Spike Lee is looking forward to having phone sex with Madonna.

But first the once-angry black activist and filmmaker is promoting his latest film "Clockers", which opens Sept. 15th and deals with a subject he was once criticized for avoiding, drugs.

His adaptation of Richard Price's bestseller about a cocaine-dealing black teen-ager may spark controversy, and he personally hopes the drug film as a genre drops dead.

"I didn't want to do a black gangster, hip-hop shoot 'em up in the drug genre," said Lee, 38, sounding a reflective note nine years after his debut film, "She's Gotta Have It".

His next film, "Girl 6", a low-budget comedy due next spring, has an aspiring African-American actress (Theresa Randle) working at a phone sex service. Madonna will be among a bevy of celebrity co-stars that include Naomi Campbell, Debi Mazur and Quentin Tarantino, Halle Berry, Rolanda Watts and Isaiah Washington.

"I've been very fortunate," Lee said, noting that "Jackie", his biography of baseball's black pioneer Jackie Robinson that will probably star Denzel Washington, should be before the cameras by then. "That will be my eleventh film in ten years."

As one who paved the way for a generation of African-



SPIKE LEE

American filmmakers, Lee sounds a modest note when he says, "My experience isn't everyone else's experience. Everything I've wanted to make, I've made ... so far. It must be a great stroke of luck."

Don't try to peg him as a Hollywood insider.

"It's too dangerous and too early in the game to sit back and look at what I've done," he insisted. "I'm just trying to amass a body of work. If I was part of the Hollywood Establishment, I wouldn't have had to pick up the

phone and call Bill Cosby, Magic Johnson, Michael Jordan, Janet Jackson and Oprah Winfrey and Tracy to give me money to finish 'Malcolm X'."

Suppressing a laugh at the omission of "Malcolm X" from nominations for Best Picture or Best Director, he said, "I really think how you look at whether someone is accepted in Hollywood is the Academy Awards, and that is where they have definitely let me know how they feel about me."

"Clockers" is Lee's biggest

picture since "Malcolm X". Originally director Martin Scorsese was set to do the film with Robert De Niro starring as a tormented alcoholic detective, but Scorsese and De Niro exited to do "Casino" instead and Lee was hired.

Only he had little interest in doing a "drug movie."

"Myself and movie audiences

are becoming fatigued with the drug movie. It's time for it to die," he said.

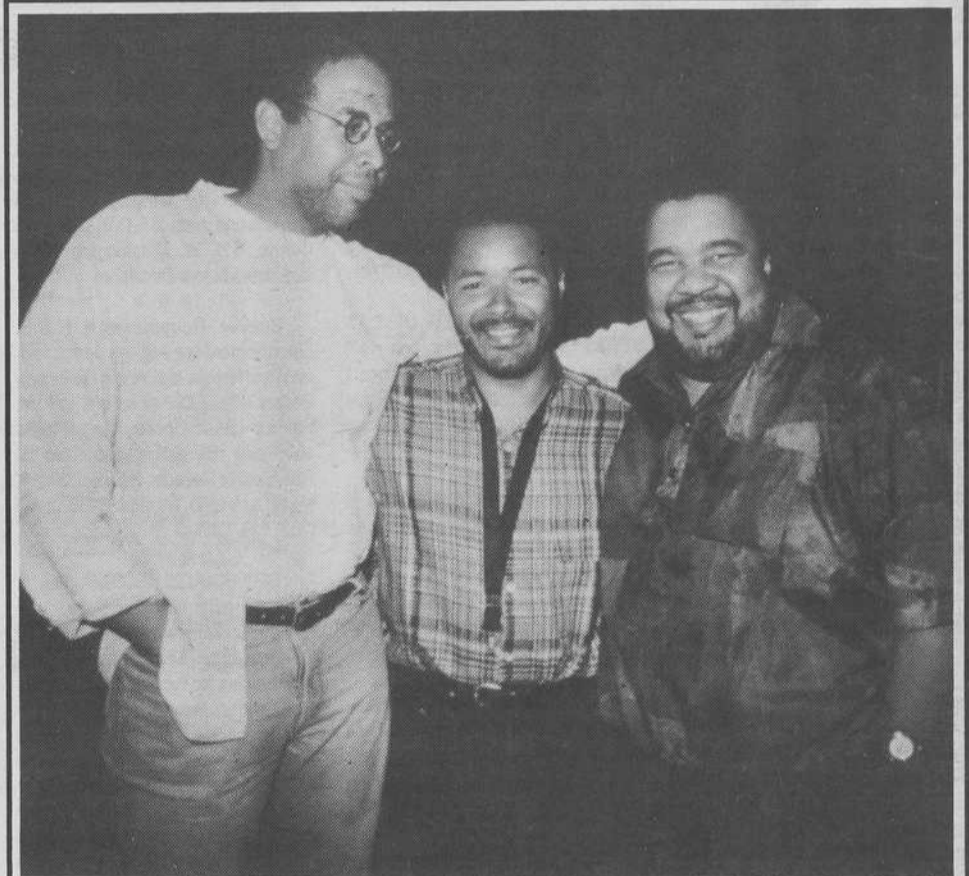
So he asked himself: "How could I make this film different from John Singleton's 'Boyz n the Hood' and the Hughes brothers' 'Menace to Society'?"

Lee chose to focus not on the white detective (now played by Harvey Keitel) but on Strike, a

ghetto kid who at 19 has become a "clocker," a round-the-clock drug dealer.

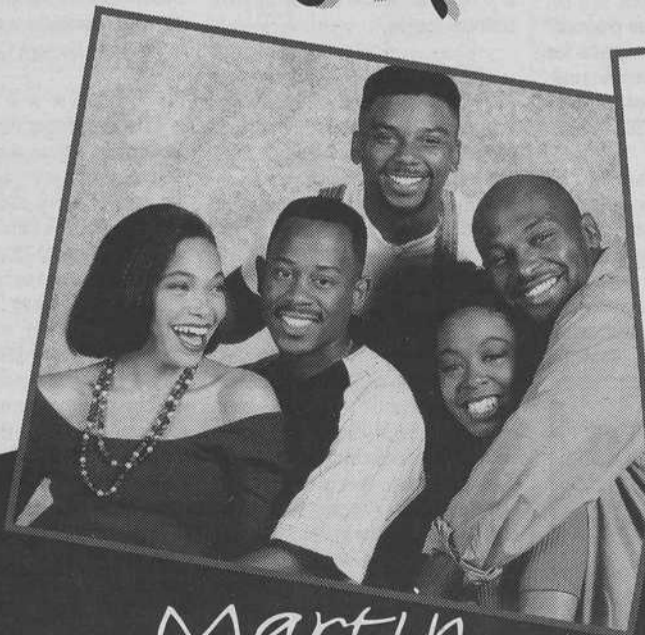
"We didn't want to treat life cheaply. We did not want to glorify the violence, have Schwarzenegger play a detective. Also we wanted to be somewhat optimistic, at least offer a sliver of hope," he said.

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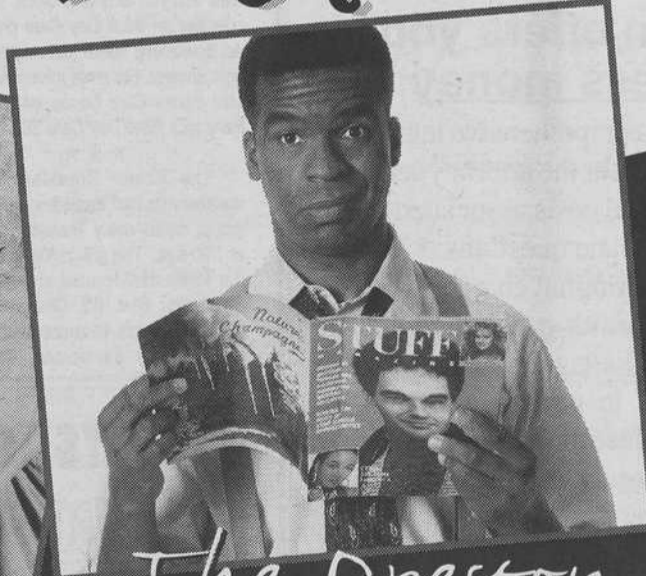
EMI Recording artist Najee becomes the filling in an instrument sandwich as he takes time out from recording his new album, *Songs In The Key of Life*. The talented saxophonist is flanked by bass players Stanley Clarke (left) and George Duke (who is the producer of this project). Najee's interpretation of Stevie Wonder's 70s classic LP will be released this fall.

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