DO THE RIGHT THING (1989) â?? AFI Movie Club Pick for April 11, 2022

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

Do the Right Thing is a 1989 American comedy-drama film produced, written, and directed by Spike Lee, starring Lee himself, Danny Aiello, Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee, Richard Edson, Giancarlo Esposito, Bill Nunn, John Turturro, and Samuel L. Jackson, and is the feature film debut of Martin Lawrence and Rosie Perez. The story explores a Brooklyn neighborhoodâ??s simmering racial tension between its African-American residents and the Italian-American owners of a local pizzeria, culminating in tragedy and violence on one of the hottest of summer days.



Appearing on the 10th-anniversary edition of the American Film Instituteâ??s list of the greatest American films, DO THE RIGHT THING (1989) explores racial tensions exacerbated by the summer heat in a New York neighborhood. An imperative work from iconic director and 2011 AFI Honorary Degree recipient Spike Lee, the film features Public Enemyâ??s powerful call to action â?? â??Fight the Powerâ?• â?? which was since rankedâ?¯#40 on AFIâ??s list of the greatest movie songs of all time.

The film ends with the following quotes by Martin Luther King, Jr., and Malcolm X: â??â??Violence as a way of achieving racial justice is both impractical and immoral. It is impractical because it is a

descending spiral ending in destruction for all. The old law of an eye for an eye leaves everybody blind. It is immoral because it seeks to humiliate the opponent rather than win his understanding; it seeks to annihilate rather than to convert. Violence is immoral because it thrives on hatred rather than love. It destroys the community and makes brotherhood impossible. It leaves society in a monologue rather than dialogue. Violence ends by defeating itself. It creates bitterness in the survivors and brutality in the destroyers,â?? â?? Martin Luther Kingâ?•; and, â??â??I think there are plenty of good people in America, but there are also plenty of bad people in America and the bad ones are the ones who seem to have all the power and be in these positions to block things that you and I need. Because this is the situation, you and I have to preserve the right to do what is necessary to bring an end to that situation, and it doesnâ??t mean that I advocate violence, but at the same time I am not against using violence in self-defense. I donâ??t even call it violence when itâ??s self-defense, I call it intelligence,â?? â?? Malcolm X.â?•

Do the Right Thing was ranked 96th on AFIâ??s 2007 100 Yearsâ?¦100 Moviesâ??10th Anniversary Edition list of the greatest American films. It was added to the National Film Registry in 1999, and won Best Picture and Best Director from the Los Angeles Film Critics Association, in addition to Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Supporting Actor (Danny Aiello) from the Chicago Film Critics Association. The New York Film Critics awarded Ernest Dickerson with Best Cinematography, and the film received the following Academy Award nominations: Actor in a Supporting Role (Danny Aiello), and Writing (Screenplay Written Directly for the Screen). The Golden Globe Awards also nominated *Do the Right Thing* for Best Motion Picture â?? Drama; Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role in a Motion Picture (Danny Aiello); Best Director â?? Motion Picture; and Best Screenplay â?? Motion Picture.

Until next time, Iâ??ll see you at the movies!



HollywoodGlee celebrating the start of the 2019 AFI FEST presented by Audi.
(Photo credit: Larry Gleeson)

About AFI Movie Club

AFI has created a global, virtual gathering of those who love the movies. As a non-profit, AFI Movie Club is a member-powered organization, dependent upon the support of its movie fans. To support AFI Movie Club please consider becoming a member or donating. AFI Movie Club was launched as a free program to r er. AFI shines a spotlight on /MovieClub to find out how to watc aming service credentials. (Source: AFI News Release)

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