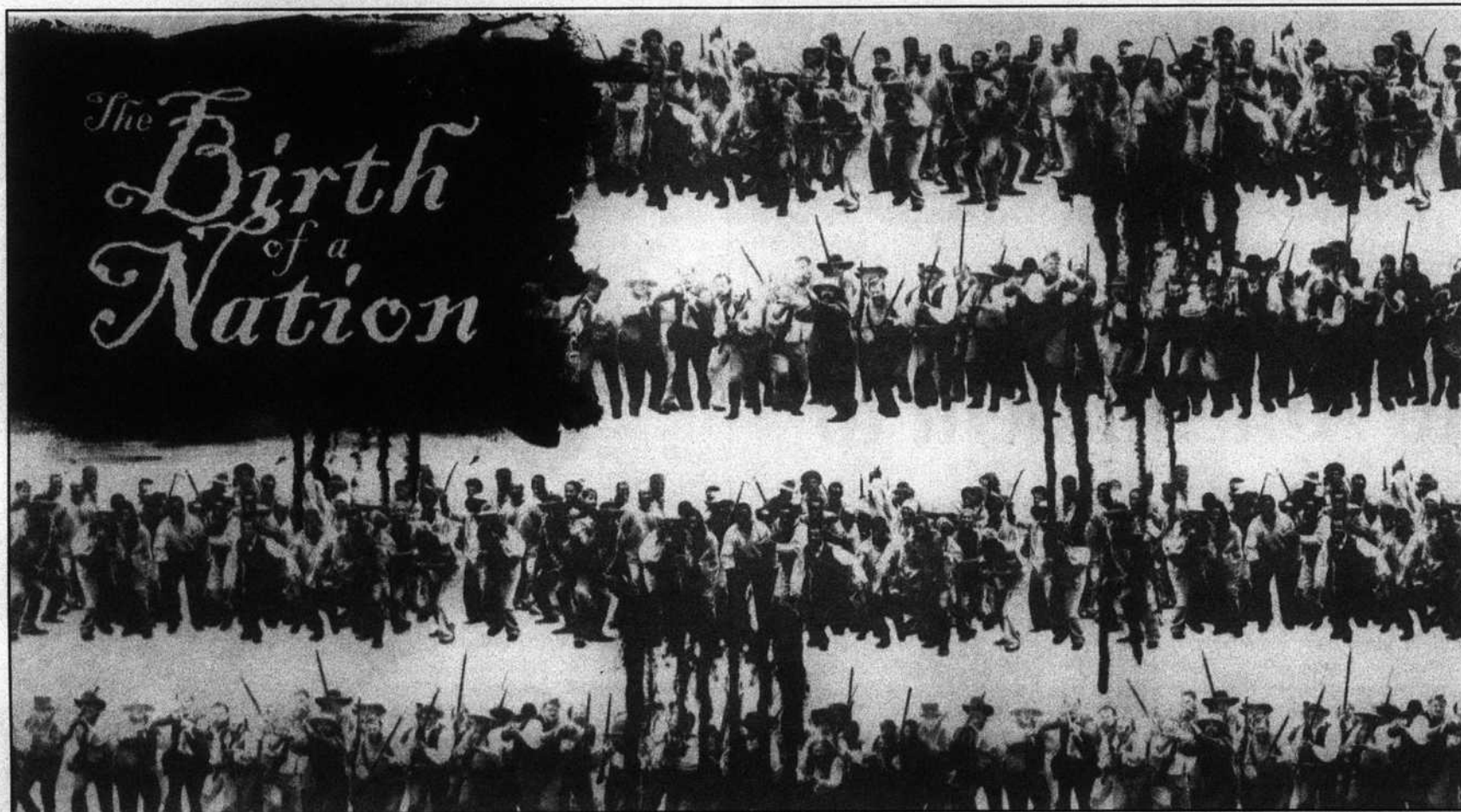


## AT THE MOVIES



## 'The Birth of a Nation' movie review

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THE CHRONICLE

The Birth of a Nation is a American period drama that chronicles the life of Nat Turner, a slave who led a rebellion in Southampton County, Virginia, in 1831. The film was co-written, co-produced and directed by Nate Parker in his directorial debut. The film stars Parker as Turner and was released on Oct. 7, 2016 and was highly praised for its directing, acting, soundtrack and cinematography.

The film opens when Turner is a young boy on a plantation with his family. His father soon runs away from the plantation after killing a slave tracker. Turner is then introduced to the bible and begins to learn how to read. He soon starts preaching to the congregation of his slave owners congregation.

After the passing of his slave owner he his forced to work in the fields while also

preaching to the other slaves on the plantation. A severe drought has hit Southampton County at the time which has caused some slaves on the local plantations to become uneasy and talks of an uprising start to spread.

Turner's owner, his former owners son Sam, then buys a female slave, Cherry, who later becomes his love interest and wife. Cherry is given to Katherine, Sam's sister as a wedding present, and goes to live with her. Cherry and Turner begin to bond and their relationship flourishes.

Sam Turner is then approached by the local pastor with a proposition to make money to get him out of debt. The proposition involves Nat preaching to other slaves in order to end the talk of rebellion and keep the slaves in order.

While preaching Turner sees the atrocities of other slaves in neighboring plantations. Later his wife is assaulted by two slave trackers and after baptizing a white

man on his masters property Turner is tied to a post and nearly beaten to death with a whip. After being nursed back to health he finds his grandmother dead in her rocking chair. This was essentially the straw that broke the camels back as he then starts to enact his plan of rebellion.

He asks a fellow slave to round up other slaves to meet and discuss his plan. He tells them of the visions he has had and tells them "the first shall be last, and the last shall be first." After seeing a solar eclipse in the sky he takes that as his sign to begin the rebellion.

After spending time with his still ailing wife Turner goes to Samuel's room and butchers him with an ax. He goes to his mothers house and informs her of his actions and what he plans for the future. He collect more men to join his ranks. They proceed to neighboring farms and kill their owners while liberating the slaves.

A young boy in the party runs off and informs the white people of the plans of the rebelling slaves. The slaves reach the armory in Jerusalem which was the original plan but they are met by a militia who had set a trap for the men and they are slaughtered.

Turner escapes the melee and goes to see Cherry one last time to say his good-byes. Turner then walks into town and is beaten by several white people and subsequently arrested. The movie closes as Turner is walked down the path to be put to death. He is then strung up and hanged as an angry mob looks on a celebrates his death. While being hanged Turner sees an angel and closes his eyes for the last time. The young boy who ran from the mob is then seen crying as he looks on at the death of Turner. The young boy is then seen as an adult fighting in the civil war as the screen fades to black.