

OPINION/EDITORIAL

Thrilling: American Gangster is must-see

Gabrielle Leonard
ARGUS STAFF

No one took Frank Lucas seriously as the cab driver and friend of drug boss Ellsworth "Bumpy" Johnson until something happened that gave Lucas the opportunity to become the largest heroin kingpin in all of Harlem, NY. Set in the year 1968, "American Gangster" follows the rise and fall of the infamous drug lord Frank Lucas. Lucas, played by Denzel Washington, was born in Greensboro, NC. He eventually takes over Harlem's biggest drug ring after his boss, Johnson, dies at 62 from a heart attack.

In this movie, Lucas battles to stay on top of Harlem, all the while, being closely pursued by Ritchie Roberts, played by Russell Crowe. Roberts' and Lucas' acting throughout this movie makes for a true Oscar-worthy performance.

The acting is so intense that it distracts viewers from the underlying story of racism in Harlem. Lucas was not only the kingpin who was importing the purest kind

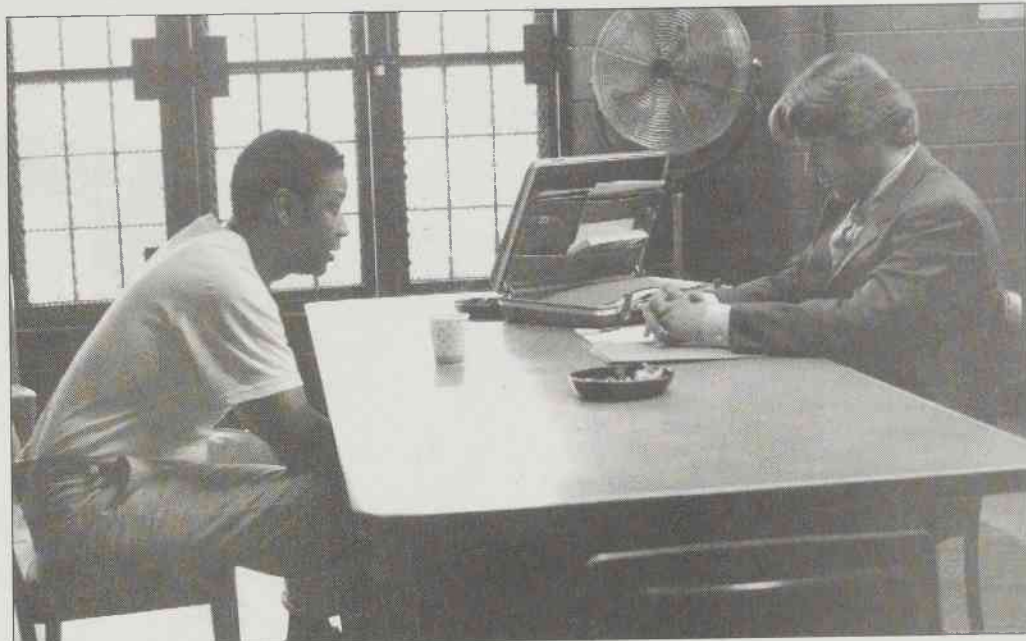
of heroin into the United States and selling it for a cheaper price, but he was also looked at as an immense threat. The Italians and mob bosses who had previously been in control of the drug trade began to resent the fact that a black man might be outsmarting them.

If you are familiar with the true-life story of Lucas, this movie brings to life a small part of his real life. But nevertheless, I recommend this engrossing movie to anyone who is into the grittiness of inner city life.

The most memorable moment of the movie was when Lucas explained how his self-made empire is completely different from the one that his good friend Johnson had.

"The man I worked for had one of the biggest companies in New York City. He didn't own his own company. White man owned it, so they owned him. Nobody owns me, though."

Production Company: Universal Studios and IMAGINE Entertainment.



Infamous drug lord Frank Lucas is played by Greensboro native Denzel Washington. Photo courtesy of MCT

Not everyone thrilled with deal Gov. Easley made to bring Skybus to Triad

Erik Spencer
ARGUS STAFF

The discount airline Skybus is planning to build its new hub in Greensboro at Piedmont Triad International Airport. Skybus is known for its inexpensive airfare, which will entice students on a budget who may be looking for a cheap way to fly home or visit friends and family.

"I think it's a great idea," said Javon Carter, mathematics major. Carter said she was happy to hear about Skybus coming to Greensboro. "I'm going home [New Jersey] for Thanksgiving and I have to drive 100 miles [to Raleigh airport]."

Ashley Ray, a molecular biology major, agrees that the new hub is a good idea. "I feel it creates another outlet to purchase inexpensive tickets," she said.

The Piedmont Triad Airport Authority approved an incentives package of \$52 million, but estimates by the Greensboro News & Record say that number could be closer to \$57 million. The construction of the new hub is set to begin in January.

Greensboro was selected over Richmond, Va., which put forth a package estimated at \$50 million, according to Winston-Salem economic officials, who were quoted in the Winston-Salem Journal.

The city of Greensboro, private investors and PTL fought for the new Skybus hub. Skybus will create 400 new jobs, offer cheaper flights (some as low as \$10 one-way) with seven new destinations. Increased airport traffic will result, and with as many as 1 million new passengers.

Skybus can transform the economy of an area and present new business opportunities and other amenities.

Not everyone is enthusiastic about the Skybus deal. Former North Carolina Supreme Court Justice Robert Orr had this to say in a recent news release:

"Customers will either be excited about

the service Skybus provides or they won't. It is not up to the State of North Carolina to interfere. Again, this incentive represents our continued flawed approach to economic development. Instead of wasting state funds to subsidize everyday business decisions, we need to focus our investments on improving business conditions and encouraging growth statewide for the betterment of all North Carolina citizens."

Mr. Orr's comments responded to Gov. Mike Easley announcing the state would be subsidizing Skybus Airlines to increase its presence at Piedmont Triad International Airport.

Movie Review: 'Engine Four' lives up to expectations

Franklin Terry
ARGUS STAFF

"Engine Four" is a documentary style-movie based on the story of a breakthrough in North Carolina history. Eight black Winston-Salem firefighters faced racism, made life-changing decisions and risked their lives to help their community overcome the boundaries of segregation.

The movie covered many aspects of the lives of the firefighters who were stationed at Fire Station No. 4. They faced adversity and risked injury or even death while also dodging racial bullets. They were put to the test and expected to fail. As a result, they were put through extensive training classes in hopes that they would be unsuccessful.

The firehouse's bathroom, bedrooms and kitchen were segregated until a sense of brotherhood was formed. They began to overcome the racial limitations in the firehouse, and it eventually spread throughout the community. People respected the firemen for their work ethic and heroism.

By eventually breaking the mold and forcing people to overlook their skin color, they began to gain respect for their community work. In the movie, the "Engine Four" firefighters give personal testimonies of their experiences on and off the job.

"Engine Four" thoroughly covers a great deal of what a good story is supposed to be with a very good ending.



Photo courtesy of the City of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County Library

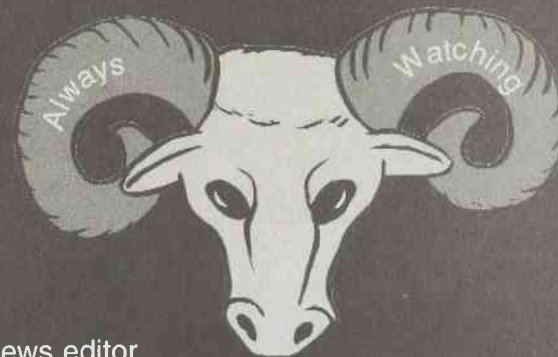
"Engine Four" is about the first all-black firefighting unit in Winston-Salem

Overcoming a great amount of boundaries, Winston-Salem became the first city to house a non-segregated firehouse, with the help of Marshal Kurfees and Kenneth R. Williams board members who fought for Black firefighters to work at "Engine four".

This story was created and made possible making Engine Four a part of Winston-Salem history.

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The News Argus

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I appreciate the opportunity to be able to keep up with the campus events and happenings online. "Hats off" to the New Argus staff and powers to be that made this happen. — S. Harding

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