

Spike Lee's *Crooklyn* premieres on AHN-Prime Dec. 18 on WBFX

NEW YORK — The African Heritage Network Prime-Time Presentations (AHN-Prime) hosted by legendary film stars Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, debuts the television premiere of Spike Lee's coming of age film, *Crooklyn* as a Thanksgiving special.

"The film evokes a time when young urban African-American children were motivated primarily by two things: television and sugar," said Lee. *Crooklyn* airs on WBFX Dec. 18 at 8 p.m.

"*Crooklyn* is a pretty good example of what families used to be. Nowadays, it seems as though families are all but broken up completely," said Ossie Davis. "The definition of a family is a group of people who sorta hang on to each other no matter what and refuse to let each other go down. They just stay together. So there are some positive elements in *Crooklyn*," he added.

Lee, whose earlier films have taken probing views of such controversial social issues as interracial romance, urban violence, black-on-black racism and the life and beliefs of Malcolm X, now turns his talents as a visual storyteller to the daily life and fortunes of the Carmichael family.

Academy award nominee Alfre Woodard (HBO's *Miss Evers' Boys*, *Passion Fish*, *Cross Creek*) stars as Carolyn Carmichael,

the loving but careworn mother who struggles to make ends meet for her unemployed musician husband, Woody (Delroy Lindo of *Malcolm X*) and their five children. Her 10-year-old daughter, Troy (played by newcomer Zelda Harris), has her hands full keeping up with four terminally obnoxious brothers. As a crisis envelops the household, Troy and her family must rely on each other — and their sense of humor — to face both the wild joys and shared sorrows of everyday life in *Crooklyn*.

Most of the action in *Crooklyn* takes place on a single block in Brooklyn, N.Y., centered on the brownstone where the Carmichael family lives. Their father, Wendell (Shariff Rashid), Nate (Chris Knowings) and Joseph (Tse-Mach Washington) spend most of the long summer days watching television, eating junk food and getting in and out of trouble.

"As a film maker, and more importantly as a black filmmaker, I think it's important to expand the subject matter of the films we



The African Heritage Network (AHN), hosted by Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, presents a special prime-time presentation and broadcast premier of *Crooklyn*, Spike Lee's portrayal of a loving family struggling to make it in the 1970s.

do," says Lee. "As a group, we've gotten into a rut telling the same story again and again — the hip-hop, drug, gangsta rap, urban, inner-city movie. I don't think that's the totality of the African-American experience, and I really think that audiences are starting to want more than these movies can give them. Besides, ever since my first film, *She's Gotta Have It*, people have been asking me, 'Spike, when are you gonna make a movie I

can take my children to?'" AHN-Prime's hosts, Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, are two of the entertainment industry's most well-known and gifted couples. Their film, television and stage careers extend over 50 years. AHN-Prime airs in 125 television markets and covers 96 percent of African-American television households across the country.

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THE JACKAL (R) 1:30-4:15 PM
MORTAL KOMBAT (R) 1:30-4:15 PM
HOME ALONE 3... THE JTS (PG) 12:30-2:45 PM
SCREAM THE SERIAL... THE JTS (R) 1:30-4:15 PM
MIDWINTER IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL... THE JTS (R) 12:45-2:15 PM
BEAN (PG-13) 1:30-2:45 PM
ANASTASIA (G) 12:30-2:45 PM
FLUNDER... THE JTS (PG) 1:30-2:45 PM
FLUNDER... THE JTS (PG) 12:30-2:45 PM

Carmike 10 922-1301
3040 REYNOLDA RD.
FOR BUCKER OR POORER... THE JTS (PG) 1:30-4:15 PM
FLUNDER (PG) 12:30-2:45 PM
ALLEN RESURRECTION (R) 2:30-5:00 PM
MIDWINTER IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL... THE JTS (R) 12:45-2:15 PM
ANASTASIA (G) 12:30-2:45 PM
MORTAL KOMBAT (PG-13) 1:30-2:45 PM
FLUNDER (PG) 1:30-2:45 PM

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SCREAM THE SERIAL... THE JTS (R) 1:30-4:15 PM
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Marketplace 6 727-1787
2000 PETERS CREEK PKWY.
THE JACKAL (R) 1:30-4:15 PM
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MORTAL KOMBAT (PG-13) 1:30-2:45 PM
EYE'S BAYOU (R) 2:45-5:15 PM
HOME ALONE (PG) 12:30-2:45 PM

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

First Night Piedmont celebration expands

Craig W. Ewing, president of Safe Events Inc. announced the planning for a major Millennium celebration for the Piedmont Triad today. Centered on the annual New Year's Eve arts festival, First Night Piedmont, Safe Events is now in implementation stages of planning for the celebration which the entire Piedmont area may utilize to usher in the new century. Part of the plan is to ensure that all age groups are able to celebrate together safely. It's important that the entire family have an opportunity to share in this occasion.

A critical piece of the planning is to incorporate a sister hub of celebration in Greensboro. The successful eight-year history of First

Night Piedmont in Winston-Salem is now twice its size. For more than two years, members of Safe Events Inc. and notables in the Greensboro area have been meeting together to develop a center for the festival in Greensboro. Through a series of grants, work with the United Arts Council of Greensboro and support by the City of Greensboro, First Night Piedmont has placed its centerpiece for activity in Greensboro at the Greensboro Cultural Center. This year activities are planned at the Cultural Center throughout the evening on New Year's Eve and culminates with a wonderful finale at Festival Park including the largest fireworks display ever incorporated in a First



This year's Safe Events New Year's Eve celebration will feature a performance by the 5th Dimension. Night Celebration. This year the First Night Celebration will be held in several locations. Activities will be held at the LJV Coliseum, the LJV Annex, the Piedmont Club, Reynolds Auditorium in Winston-Salem, the Greensboro Cultural Center and Festival Park in Greensboro.

Children's book author and prizewinning poet to visit church

New Bethel Baptist Church will present poet and children's book author Carole Boston Weatherford in a reading and book signing Dec. 11 at 4 p.m. Part inspiration, part history lessons, Weatherford's rousing readings are steeped in oral traditions. Her lively rhythms invite audiences of all ages to chant refrains and play percussion. Weatherford will share excerpts from her latest books: *Mighty Menfolk*, *Me and the Family Tree*, *Grandma & Me*, and *My Favorite Toy*. The board book series, which was illustrated by Michele Mills, explores themes of family, community and child's play. With rhyming text and delightful illus-

trations, this new series offers a fresh view of the way the youngest children see the world. In addition to these titles, Weatherford authored the prize-winning poetry volume, *The Tan Chanteuse*, and *Juneteenth Jamboree*, the first children's book about the emancipation holiday. She has been writing since age 5, when she dictated a poem to her mother. She began writing children's books after she herself became a mother. In 1995, she won the Furious Flower Poetry Prize and a North Carolina Arts Council Fellowship. When she's not writing, she conducts readings and residences at schools and cul-

tural institutions. She holds a master's degree in creative writing from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and a master's in publications design from the University of Baltimore. A native of Baltimore, Md., she resides in High Point, N.C., with her husband, two children and a pet iguana.

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4 Admission to the Party (Includes party favors, hats, noisemakers and 2 drinks) **\$35 per person**

ENTERTAINMENT
SPECTRUM BAND - Featuring Lafayette Thomas (Rhythm & Blues) - Dinner Bar 5pm - 2am
AAA Disc Jockey Larry Martin - (Featuring a classic mix of songs) - Fourth Bathroom 9pm - 2am

ADMISSION: All prices include tax and gratuity. PARTY ONLY tickets will be sold in advance through the Gift Shop. Reservations will be taken Monday-Friday 8:00am - 6:30pm. Cherry St. Bar also WILL BE OPEN.

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