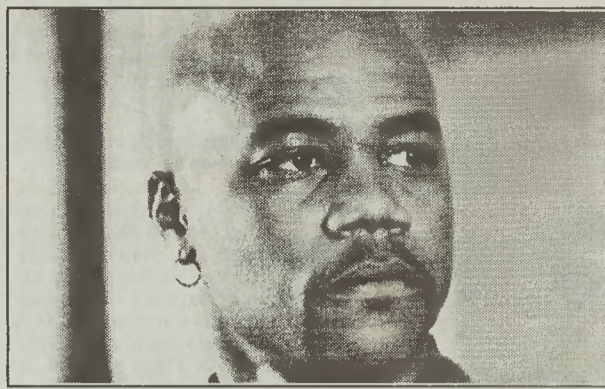




Spike sparks emotions

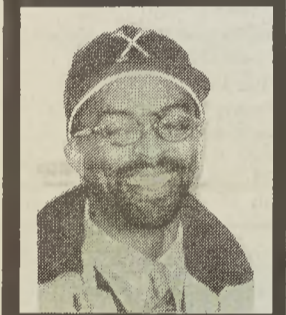
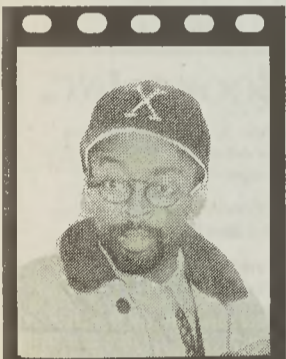
CELEBRATE YOUR BLACK HERITAGE



Cuba Gooding Jr.

Continued from 15A

concentrated to heavily on Malcolm early life as a thug. Betty Shabazz, Malcolm's widow, was annoyed that Lee didn't ask her for input. And, despite mostly glowing reviews, the picture failed to win a Best Picture Oscar nomination.



Lee

Lee felt criticism leveled at him was due to his attitude — uncompromising in his views. He has never been the darling of Hollywood powers. Even actors have been critical.

"When you say no to Spike, or you disagree with Spike, then he's got no use for you," Fishburne said. "So after that, your opinion don't matter."

Not all share the opinion. Halle Berry, who portrayed a crack addict in Lee's brilliant "Jungle Fever," is much less critical. "Once you get to know him and can break down all that stuff he puts up, he really is a nice guy underneath."

Born Shelton Jackson Lee on March 20, 1957, Spike was the oldest of Bill and Jacquelyn (Shelton) Lee's five children. He was named Spike by his mother because "he was tough baby." Soon after his birth, the family moved to Chicago, later settling in Brooklyn. Bill was a jazz musician while Jacquelyn taught at a private school.

Consequently, music and education were significant factors in Lee's upbringing. He credits his father's music, Stevie Wonder's album *Innervisions* and Alex Haley's "The Autobiography of Malcolm X" as major influences on his life.

Lee attended Morehouse College where he caught the film making bug his sophomore year. He received a bachelor's degree in communications in 1979.

Lee won a summer internship at Columbia Pictures. He earned a master's degree from New York University's Tisch School of Arts.

Lee's sixty-minute thesis film, "Joe's Bed-Sty Barbershop: We Cut Heads" got him signed with the William Morris Agency in 1983.

Information from "Today's Black Hollywood" by James Robert Parish was used in this article.

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Sunday Feb. 9
Intimate Portrait: Queen Latifah 10pm on Lifetime

Tuesday Feb. 11
Dramatic Moments in Black Sports 1am on TNT

Monday Feb. 3
Biography: Rosa Parks: Mother of Movement 8pm on A&E

Wednesday Feb. 5
Biography: Frederick Douglass 8pm on A&E

TCM presents Blacks in Cinema.
8pm *Intruder in The Dust*
9:45pm *Bright Road*
11pm *Cabin In The Sky*
1am *Green Pastures*
2:45am *Hallelujah*

Friday Feb. 7
Special: *NBA at 50*
Hosted by Denzel Washington 11pm on TNT.

Wednesday Feb. 12
Young Black History Makers Airtime TBA on BET.

TCM Presents Blacks in Cinema.
8pm *Souther*
10pm *Take a Giant Step*
12mid *Halls of Anger*
2am *Souther (Encore)*
4am *Cotton Comes To Harlem*

Thursday Feb. 13
Biography: Duke Ellington: Reminiscing in Tempo 8pm on A&E.

Saturday Feb. 15
Young Civil Rights Leaders 12noon on BET.

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