

Black Lives Matter movies

Films to promote understanding in honor of the Black Lives Matter movement.



Do The Right Thing (1989) directed by Spike Lee

Written and directed by Spike Lee, this early, important film is set in the Bed Stuy neighborhood of Brooklyn as racial tensions build and police brutality spirals out of control.

Malcolm X (1992) directed by Spike Lee

Very fine biographical drama starring Denzel Washington as Malcolm Little, later known as civil rights activist Malcolm X. This epic film takes us through Malcolm X's career, incarceration, conversion, controversies and eventual assassination in 1965.

Freedom Riders (2010) directed by Stanley Nelson

In the 1960s, a group of activists known as the 'Freedom Riders' brought to the fore the racial problems in the US by traveling on integrated buses into the South. The nonviolent group was often met with physical violence by white residents. This documentary marked the 50th anniversary of the struggle, retracing their history and courage. Based in part on the book **Freedom Riders 1961 and the Struggle for Racial Justice** by historian Raymond Arsenault.

Fruitvale Station (2013) directed by Ryan Coogler

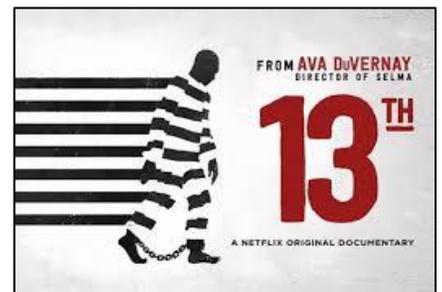
Starring Michael Jordan, this film tells the true story of the death of Oscar Grant in 2009 at the hands of a BART police officer, Johannes Mehserle in Oakland. The film won the Grand Jury Prize and Audience Award for US dramatic film at Sundance in 2013.

Selma (2014) directed by Ava DuVernay

Historical drama written by Paul Webb based on the 1965 Selma to Montgomery voting rights marches initiated by James Bevel and led by Martin Luther King Jr., Hosea Williams, and John Lewis. There were three Selma to Montgomery protest marches along the 54-mile highway from Selma, Alabama, to the state capital, Montgomery.

13th (2016) directed by Ava DuVernay

This film is named after the 13th Amendment which abolished slavery in 1865, DuVernay's Emmy-winning documentary follows history from slavery through to the mass incarceration of Black people in the United States. The documentary addresses police brutality and why there is need for reform.



I Am Not Your Negro (2016) directed by Raoul Peck

This Oscar-nominated documentary is based on James Baldwin's unfinished manuscript, **Remember This House**. It's narrated by Samuel L. Jackson, and explores the history of racism through civil rights leaders like Medgar Evers, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King.

Moonlight (2016) directed by Barry Jenkins

Powerful story of a young African-American man who grapples with his identity and sexuality while experiencing the everyday struggles of childhood, adolescence, and burgeoning adulthood.

Mudbound (2017) directed by Dee Rees

American historical drama written by Dee Rees and Virgil Williams and based on the 2008 novel by Hillary Jordan. Two World War 2 veterans – one white, one black – return to rural Mississippi and each confront racism and the trauma of PTSD. The film premiered at Sundance in 2017.

Detroit (2017) directed by Kathryn Bigelow

American period crime drama written by Mark Boal. Based on the Algiers Motel incident during Detroit's 1967 12th Street Riot, the film's release commemorated the 50th anniversary of the event.

If Beale Street Could Talk (2018) directed by Barry Jenkins

Based on James Baldwin's 1974 novel this film tells the heart-breaking story of African-American teen sweethearts whose world is torn apart when the young man is wrongly arrested for the rape of a Puerto Rican woman through the machinations of a racist cop.

BlackKkKlansman (2018) directed by Spike Lee

American crime film based on the 2014 memoir *Black Klansman* by Ron Stallworth who was the first African-American detective to serve in the Colorado Springs Police Department. Determined to make a name for himself, Stallworth bravely sets out on a dangerous mission to infiltrate and expose the Ku Klux Klan.

Blindspotting (2018) directed by Carlos López Estrada

American comedy-drama written, produced and starring Daveed Diggs and Rafael Casal. Collin must make it through his final three days of probation for a chance at a new beginning in his Oakland, Californian, neighborhood. His bond with his volatile best friend soon gets tested when Collin sees a police officer shoot a suspect in the back during a chase through the streets.

American Son (2019) directed by Kenny Leon

Based on a Broadway play written by Christopher Demos-Brown, a mother (Kerry Washington) fights to be taken seriously at a Florida police department as she and her husband (Steven Pasquale) search for their missing son.

Da 5 Bloods (2020) directed by Spike Lee

The latest from Spike Lee is an adventure between four Black army veterans who return to Vietnam and find an unlikely treasure.