

Movie director Spike Lee to speak at UCSD on April 13

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MOVIE DIRECTOR SPIKE LEE TO TALK AT UCSD ON APRIL 13

Spike Lee, known for his successful independent filmmaking debut "She's Gotta Have It," followed by "School Daze" and the highly acclaimed "Do the Right Thing," will speak at the University of California, San Diego at 8 p.m. Friday, April 13, in the Main Gym.

Tickets for this event are \$3 for all students, \$5 for UCSD faculty and staff, and \$8 for general admission.

Shelton Jackson Lee was born in Atlanta, the eldest of five children. His father, Bill Lee, is an acclaimed jazz bassist and composer, and his mother, the late Jacquelyn Shelton Lee, was a teacher of art and black literature. Lee's family moved to Brooklyn, New York, in 1957, two years after his birth.

Lee attended Morehouse College in Atlanta, as did his father and grandfather. His mother and grandmother attended Morehouse's sister school, Spelman College. After graduation, Lee had a summer internship with Columbia Pictures in Burbank, California. He returned to New York and pursued a master's degree in filmmaking at New York University's Institute of Film and Television. During his master's work at NYU, Lee wrote and directed "Joe's Bed-Stuy Barbershop: We Cut Heads," with an original score by Lee's father. The film won him the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Student Academy Award.

Based on Lee's success at NYU, he was signed by the William Morris talent agencies. When no offers followed his minor film success, Lee decided to produce independently. His first attempt was the production of "Messenger," which was not completed because of a dispute with the Screen Actors Guild. "She's Gotta Have It" was produced in 1985, on a budget of \$175,000, and became an instant hit. The film won the Cannes Film Festival award for best new film, and grossed over \$7 million within three weeks of opening in New York City, in August, 1986.

In "Do the Right Thing," Lee created street theatre with a heavy dose of social commentary, strictly from a black perspective. The film stars Danny Aiello, Ruby Dee, Ossie Davis, Richard Edson, Bill Nunn, Spike Lee and John Savage as Clifton. The original music score is by Bill Lee.

Lee is also known for his production of videos, such as "Da Butt," Anita Baker's "No One in the World," and Tracy Chapman's "Born to Fight," and for his production of television commercials for Nike athletic shoes.

Lee's latest film, "Mo' Better Blues," will be released this summer.

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