

It's the hottest day of the summer.

You can do nothing,
you can do something,
or you can...

Do The Right Thing “comes closer to reflecting the current state of race relations in America than any other movie of our time.”

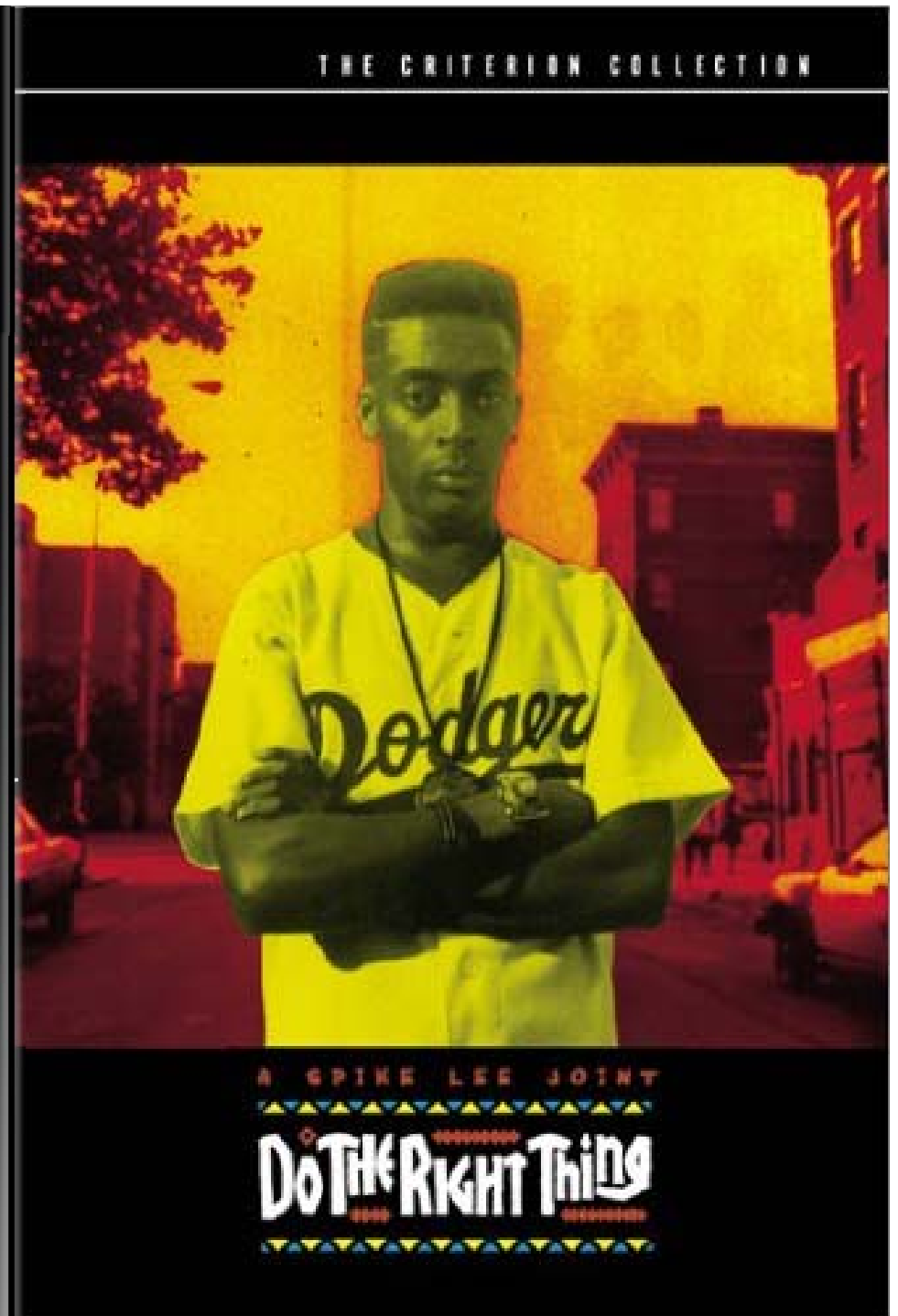
Roger Ebert





What was happening in 1989?

- ✧ January 20 – George H.W. Bush becomes the 41st President
- ✧ January 24 – Ted Bundy is executed
- ✧ February 15 – Soviet war in Afghanistan
- ✧ February 24 – Ayatollah Khomeini places \$3 million bounty on author Salman Rushdie
- ✧ March 14 – Bush implement gun control on assault weapons
- ✧ March 25 – Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska
- ✧ April 19 – Central Park Jogger incident
- ✧ April 21 – students begin protesting in Tiananmen Square





- ✧ May 2 – 1st crack in the iron curtain Hungary dismantles 150 miles of barbed wire fencing along Austria border.
- ✧ May 14 – Mikhail Gorbachev visits China, the first Soviet leader to do so since the 1960s.
- ✧ June 4 – The Tiananmen Square massacre takes place in Beijing on the army's approach to the square, and the final stand-off in the square is covered live on television.
- ✧ July 5 – The television show *Seinfeld* premieres.



August 23 – Yusef Hawkins is shot in the Bensonhurst, Brooklyn sparking racial tensions between African Americans and Italian Americans.



November 7 – David Dinkins becomes the first African American mayor of New York City.



December 3 – U.S. President George H. W. Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev release statements indicating that the Cold War between their nations may be coming to an end.

1989 Academy Awards

Best Actor in a Supporting Role – Danny Aiello (nominated)

Best Writing, Screenplay Written Directly for the Screen – Spike Lee (nominated)

1989 Cannes Film Festival

Golden Palm – Spike Lee (nominated)

1990 Chicago Film Critics Association Awards

Best Director – Spike Lee (won)

Best Picture (won)

Best Supporting Actor – Danny Aiello (won)

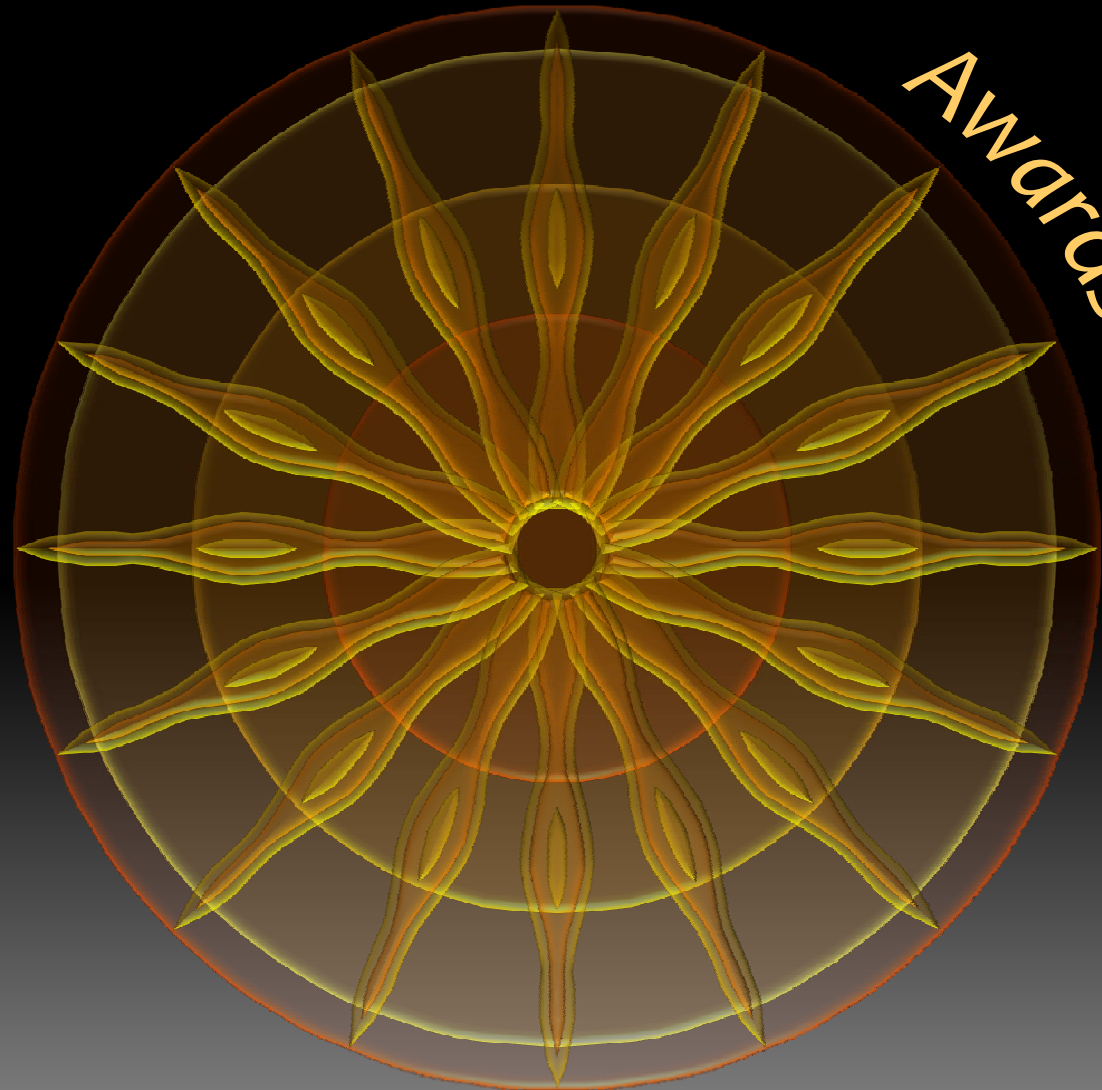
1990 Golden Globes

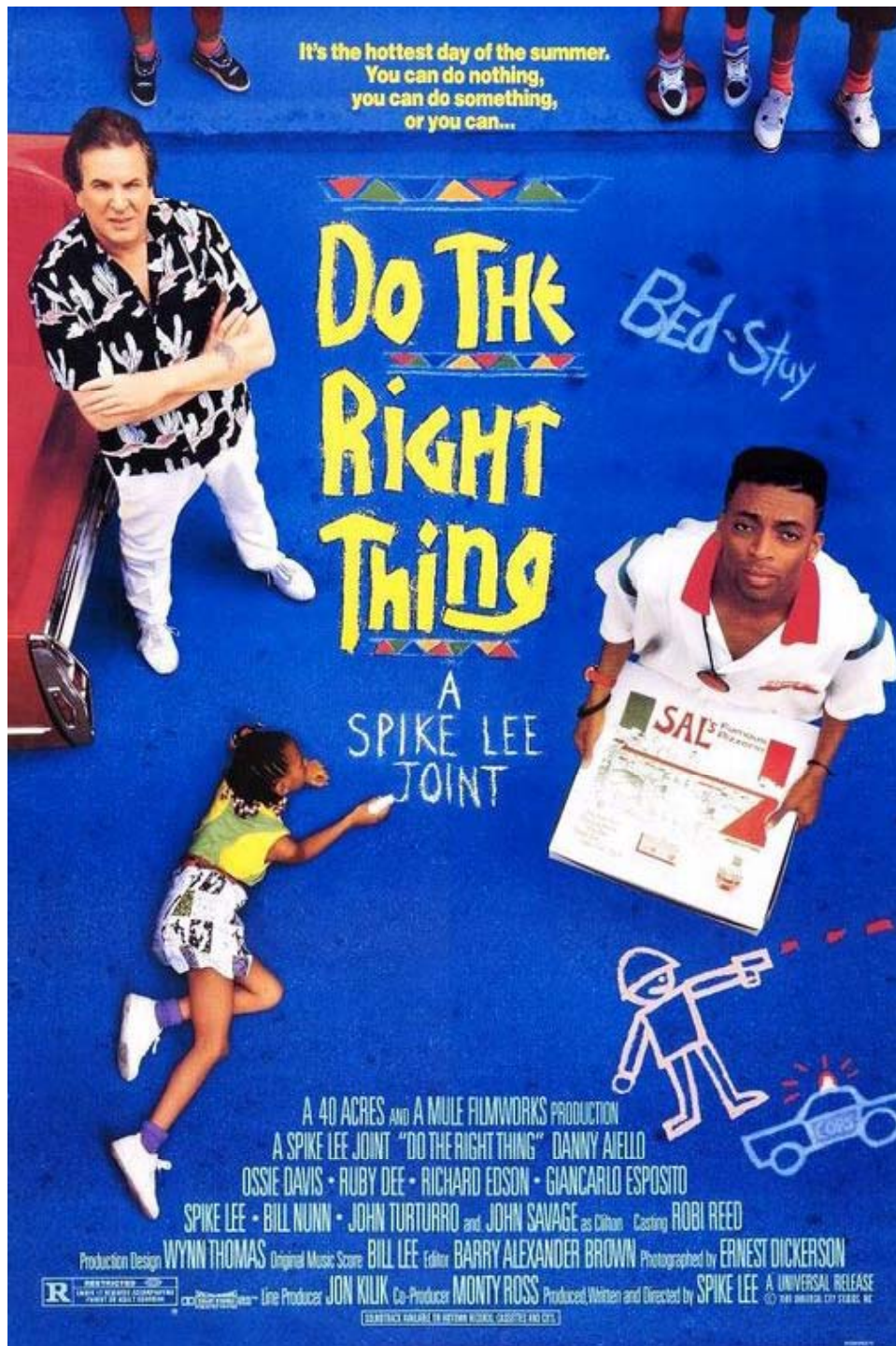
Best Director (Motion Picture) – Spike Lee (nominated)

Best Motion Picture – Drama (nominated)

Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role in a Motion Picture – Danny Aiello (nominated)

Best Screenplay (Motion Picture) – Spike Lee (nominated)





**Now Let's Watch
the Film**



Fun Facts

- ✧ Radio Raheem's (Bill Nunn) description of his four finger rings (Love and Hate) is a homage to Rev. Harry Powell (Robert Mitchum) in *The Night of the Hunter* (1955)
- ✧ Spike Lee originally wanted Robert De Niro for the role of Sal. But De Niro turned down the part, saying that it was too similar to many of the parts he had played in the past.
- ✧ The character of Smiley was not originally in the script. Roger Guenveur Smith approached Spike Lee requesting a role, and his scenes were added in during shooting.
- ✧ President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama reportedly saw this movie on their first date in 1989.

This film was inspired by an actual incident in New York where some black youths were chased out of a pizzeria by some white youths in Howard Beach.

The word 'fuck' is used approximately 240 times in this film, a rate of two a minute.

Graffiti on the wall behind Mookie and Jade reads "Tawana told the truth" in reference to the Tawana Brawley alleged rape and abduction case of 1987

The story takes place at the intersection of Bedford and Stuyvesant Avenues. In reality, the two do not cross each other, however the film was shot in the Bed-Stuy section of Brooklyn.



We have one scene where our man spray-painted
dump Koch. And also we had this plan because the
film came out in August and that fall was the
Democratic primary. So throughout the film, you hear
Mister Señor Love Daddy, played by Samuel Jackson,
telling people to vote, vote, vote. And Dinkins won.

~ Spike Lee



Discussion Questions



**Presentation By:
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