



Eastern Connecticut State University

NEWS

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Acclaimed Filmmaker Spike Lee Comes to Eastern

Willimantic, CT—World-renowned film director, producer, writer and actor

Spike Lee is speaking at Eastern Connecticut State University at 7 p.m. in Shaffer Auditorium on Oct. 6th.

Born Shelton Jackson Lee in Atlanta, GA, Lee's family moved to Brooklyn, NY when he was a small child. Lee honed his film skills at Morehouse College in Atlanta and continued at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, graduating in 1982.

Well known for his passionate and politically provocative films Lee burst onto the cultural landscape while directing and appearing in the "Be Like Mike" series of Nike commercials featuring Michael Jordan, which subsequently cemented Jordan's reputation as a highly successful commercial pitchman. Lee's other commercial credits include ads for Levi jeans, the New York Times, Taco Bell, American Express, AT& T, ESPN, MTV, Ben & Jerry's, and NBC's Saturday Night Live. An avid sports fan, Lee also gained further pop culture notoriety by establishing himself as the New York Knicks biggest fan with his courtside antics.

Lee's political activism is also illustrated by the name of his production company, 40 Acres & A Mule Filmworks, titled after the colloquial term for compensation that was to be awarded to freed American slaves after the Civil War.

Lee's movies examine complex social issues ranging from race relations, the role of the media in contemporary life, urban crime and poverty, and politics. Film critic Roger Ebert to described Spike Lee as one of the greatest filmmakers working in America today. His debut film, the 1986 independently produced comedy, *She's Gotta Have It* earned the Prix de Jeunesse Award at the Cannes Film Festival. Additionally, Lee's film *Do the Right Thing* was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay in 1989. His emotionally charged documentary *4 Little Girls* was nominated for the Best Feature Documentary Academy Award in 1997. The honorary Cesar Award, the national film award of France, was bestowed upon Lee in 2003.

In addition to his ongoing filmmaking career, Lee also teaches film at his alma mater, New York University.

Tickets for Spike Lee's lecture are \$10 for the general public. To buy tickets, or for information about other upcoming Arts and Lecture Series events, please call (860) 465-4693 or e-mail tickets@easternct.edu.

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Eastern Connecticut State University is part of the Connecticut State University (CSU) system and is the state's public liberal arts university. ECSU serves more than 5,000 students each year on its Willimantic campus.

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It is the policy of Eastern Connecticut State University to ensure equal access to its events. If you are an individual with a disability and will need accommodations for this event, please contact the Office of University Relations at (860) 465-5735.