

BLACKKKLANSMAN (2018)

- August 10th, 2018
- 2 hrs 15 mins
- \$15,000,000 (estimated)
- Directed by Spike Lee
- Written by Dean Georganis, Jon Hoeber
- Production company: 40 Acres & A Mule Filmworks, Blumhouse Productions, Legendary Entertainment
- Rated R for language throughout, including racial epithets, and for disturbing/violent material and some sexual references

QUICK THOUGHTS

- Phil Svitek
- Demetri Panos
- Nakia Richardson

DEVELOPMENT

- In July 2015 screenwriters/co-producers Charlie Wachtel and David Rabinowitz discovered the book *Black Klansman* by Ron Stallworth
- They interviewed Stallworth and wrote a spec screenplay, then pitched the script to producers Shaun Redick and Ray Mansfield
- They brought the property to QC Entertainment, which had co-produced the successful 2017 film Get Out
- QC again teamed up with Jason Blum's company Blumhouse Productions, and Jordan Peele's company Monkeypaw Productions, to produce the project

WRITING (Charlie Wachtel, David Rabinowitz)

- Charlie is known for *The Paperboy* and *Horror Haiku*
- David Rabinowitz is a producer and writer, known for BlackKkKlansman (2018), The Shadow Guide: Prologue (2016) and Harmless (2012)
- Director Spike Lee and his writers moved the story back seven years from when it actually took place in 1979 to 1972. This allowed the film to reference both the then trendy blaxploitation movies and the re-election campaign, supposedly supported by the Klan, of President Richard Nixon

STORY/TOPICS

- Movies with blacks pretending to be white (*Sorry to Bother You*) - racism in language and voice
 - <https://www.indiewire.com/2018/08/blackkkklansman-sorry-to-bother-you-white-voice-racism-1201995406/>
 - Contrary to popular belief, the real Ron Stallworth never used a "white" voice on the phone. He ironically had to use his real voice or they would have caught him if he slipped out of character. When his white colleagues told him it could not work, he asked what made his voice any different from theirs, but they never answered
- Fixing the system from inside vs changing the system

- Where hate comes from (tender scene of couple of Felix and wife)
- Dialectism (Birth of a Nation comparison - length of scene)
- Birth of a Nation (symbol and status)
 - Not the first time Spike Lee reworked DW Griffith's movie - The Answer (short)
- Levels of racism and ideals (Walter, Ivanhoe, Felix)
 - The inherent problems of grouping people - refer to Viktor Frankl
- History vs fiction (no ending call to David Duke, no political agenda from Ron)
- Moment of levity (calling David Duke, Flip)
- Moments of tension (finding our Flip, taking picture with David Duke, etc)
- Flip embracing his Jewish heritage as a result
- Ending:
 - The Unite the Right rally, also known as the Charlottesville rally or Charlottesville riots was a white supremacist rally that occurred in Charlottesville, Virginia, from August 11 to 12, 2017. Protesters were members of the far-right and included self-identified members of the alt-right, neo-Confederates, white nationalists, Klansmen, neo-Nazis, and various militias. The marchers chanted racist and antisemitic slogans, carried semi-automatic rifles, swastikas, Nazi symbols (such as the Odal rune, Black Sun, and Iron Cross), the Valknut, Confederate battle flags, Deus Vult crosses, flags and other symbols of various past and present anti-Muslim and antisemitic groups. Within the Charlottesville area, the rally is often known as A12 or 8/12. The organizers' stated goals included unifying the American white nationalist movement and to oppose removing a statue of Robert E. Lee from Charlottesville's Emancipation Park
 - The rally occurred amidst the backdrop of controversy generated by the removal of Confederate monuments throughout the country in response to the Charleston church shooting in 2015. The event turned violent after protesters clashed with counter-protesters, leaving over 30 injured. On the morning of August 12, Virginia governor Terry McAuliffe declared a state of emergency, stating that public safety could not be safeguarded without additional powers. Within an hour, the Virginia State Police declared the assembly to be unlawful. At around 1:45 p.m., a self-identified white supremacist rammed his car into a crowd of counter-protesters about 0.5 miles (0.8 km) away from the rally site, killing Heather Heyer and injuring 19. The alleged perpetrator, James Alex Fields Jr., was arrested and charged with second-degree murder. In December 2017, the charges were increased to first-degree murder. Attorney General Jeff Sessions described the attack as domestic terrorism against counterprotesters, and authorities began a civil rights investigation. On June 27, 2018, James Alex Fields Jr. was charged with multiple hate crimes
 - **Donald J. Trump**: You have some very bad people in that group, but you also had people that were very fine people on both sides.

CAST:

- In September of that year, Spike Lee signed on as director and John David Washington was in negotiations to star
- Since 2015, Washington had shifted to an acting career like his father, Denzel
- The following month, Adam Driver, Laura Harrier, Topher Grace, and Corey Hawkins had joined the cast
- In November, Paul Walter Hauser, Jasper Pääkkönen, and Ryan Eggold joined the cast, with Ashlie Atkinson joining a month later

ALEC BALDWIN (Dr. Kennebrew Beauregard)

- Raven-haired, suavely handsome and prolific actor Alec Baldwin was born on April 3, 1958 in Massapequa, New York, and is the oldest, and best-known, of the four Baldwin brothers in the acting business (the others are Stephen Baldwin, William Baldwin and Daniel Baldwin).
- Alexander Rae Baldwin III is the son of Carol Newcomb (Martineau) and Alexander Rae Baldwin, Jr., who was a high school teacher and football coach. He is of English, Irish, French, Scottish, and German descent.
- Alec burst onto the TV scene in the early 1980s with appearances on several series, including The Doctors (1963) and Knots Landing (1979), before scoring feature film roles in Forever, Lulu (1987), Beetlejuice (1988), Working Girl (1988), Married to the Mob (1988) and Talk Radio (1988). In 1990, Baldwin appeared in the first on-screen adaptation of the "Jack Ryan" character created by mega-selling espionage author, Tom Clancy. The film, The Hunt for Red October (1990), was a box office and critical success, with Baldwin appearing alongside icy Sean Connery. Unfortunately, Baldwin fell out with Paramount Studios over future scripts for "Jack Ryan", and subsequent Ryan roles went to Harrison Ford.
- Baldwin instead went to Broadway to perform "A Streetcar Named Desire", garnering a Tony nomination for his portrayal of "Stanley Kowalski" (he would reprise the role in a 1995 TV adaptation). Baldwin won over critics as a lowlife thief pursued by dogged cop Fred Ward in Miami Blues (1990), met his future wife Kim Basinger while filming the Neil Simon comedy, The Marrying Man (1991), starred in the film adaptation of the play, Prelude to a Kiss (1992) (in which he starred off-Broadway), and made an indelible ten-minute cameo as a hard-nosed real estate executive laying down the law in Glengarry Glen Ross (1992). He also made a similar tour-de-force monologue in the thriller, Malice (1993), as a doctor defending his practices, in which he stated, "Let me tell you something: I am God".
- Demand for Baldwin's talents in the 1990s saw more scripts swiftly come his way, and he starred alongside his then-wife, Kim Basinger, in a remake of the Steve McQueen action flick, The Getaway (1994), brought to life the famous comic strip character, The Shadow (1994), and starred as an assistant district attorney in the civil rights drama, Ghosts of Mississippi (1996). Baldwin's distinctive vocal talents then saw him voice US-aired episodes of the highly popular UK children's show, Thomas & Friends (1984), plus later voice-only contributions to other animated/children's shows, including Clerks (2000), Cats & Dogs (2001), Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within (2001) and The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie (2004).
- In the early 2000s, Baldwin and Basinger endured an acrimonious break-up that quickly became tabloid fodder but, while his divorce was high-profile, Baldwin excelled in a number of lower-profile supporting roles in a variety of films, including State and Main (2000), Pearl Harbor (2001), The Cooler (2003) (for which he received an Academy

Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor), The Aviator (2004), Along Came Polly(2004) and The Departed (2006). As he was excelling as a consummate character actor, Baldwin found a second career in television comedy. Already known for his comedic turns hosting Saturday Night Live (1975), he essayed an extended guest role on Will & Grace(1998) in 2005 before taking on what would arguably become his most famous role, that of network executive "Jack Donaghy", opposite Tina Fey in the highly-acclaimed sitcom, 30 Rock (2006). The role brought Baldwin two Emmy Awards, three Golden Globes, and an unprecedented six Screen Actors Guild Awards (not including cast wins).

- Continuing to appear in films as 30 Rock (2006) wrapped up its final season, Baldwin remarried in 2012 to Hilaria Baldwin (aka Hilaria Lynn Thomas), and is rumored to be considering a run for political office.

JOHN DAVID WASHINGTON (Ron Stallworth)

- Twenty-six years after directing Denzel Washington in his iconic biopic "Malcolm X" (1992), Spike Lee casts Denzel's son John David Washington
- At a post-film cast Q&A on August 11, 2018, actor John David Washington revealed that right before his character's post-KKK gun shooting scene was filmed, director Spike Lee told him that the metal targets depicting black men running were not props and that they were purchased on the Internet. Washington said filming that scene with that knowledge affected his performance
- John David Washington was born on July 28, 1984 in the USA. He is an actor and producer, known for The Book of Eli (2010), Ballers (2015) and Malcolm X (1992)
- Son of actor Denzel Washington and actress and singer Pauletta Washington.
- Won a football scholarship to Morehouse College, class of 2006
- Was signed by the St. Louis Rams after going undrafted in the 2006 NFL draft
- Was allocated to the NFL Europe, is playing for the Hamburg Sea Devils (Germany) in the 2007 season as a Running Back
- Grandson of Lennis Washington. Older brother of Katia Washington, and twins Malcolm and Olivia Washington
- Nephew of actress Rita Pearson
- John David is his first name, David isn't his middle name because he doesn't have one. He doesn't like when people just call him John

ISIAH WHITLOCK JR. (Mr. Turrentine)

- Mr. Turrentine (Isiah Whitlock Jr) says his trademark "Sheeeeeeee-it" spoken by his character Clay Davis from The Wire (2002)
- Isiah Whitlock Jr. was born on September 13, 1954 in South Bend, Indiana, USA. He is an actor and writer, known for Cedar Rapids (2011), 25th Hour (2002) and Pete's Dragon(2016)

ROBERT JOHN BURKE (Chief Bridges)

- Robert John Burke was born on September 12, 1960 in Washington Heights, New York, USA as John Burke. He is an actor, known for RoboCop 3 (1993), Confessions of a Dangerous Mind (2002) and Tombstone (1993)

- Frequently plays unfriendly, square-jawed, growly-voiced suits, commonly Feds or gangsters, who always seem to be foiling the protagonists
- Attended the acting conservatory of the State University of New York at Purchase (SUNY Purchase).
- He became a NY State Certified firefighter after helping with the rescue efforts during 9/11..
- Has two children.
- When not doing movies Robert is a Volunteer firefighter In Long Island NY. [2010]
- In 2013 at the same time he played a NYPD police patrol officer on Person of Interest(2011) and an NYPD internal affairs detective on Law & Order: Special Victims Unit (1999). Due to his corrupt actions on Person of Interest, his character there could have been investigated by his character on Special Victims Unit.

BRIAN TARANTINA (Officer Clay Mulaney)

- Brian Tarantina was born on March 27, 1959 in New York City, New York, USA. He is an actor, known for Summer of Sam (1999), Uncle Buck (1989) and Knight and Day (2010)

ARTHUR J NASCARELLA (Officer Wheaton)

- Arthur J. Nascarella's appearance in films is often as a mobster or police officer, but he has also portrayed fathers, a priest, and other good men. His notable film credits include a corrupt cop in Cop Land (1997), the hypocritical ambulance Captain Barney in Martin Scorsese's film Bringing Out The Dead (1999) and fed-up casino boss, Nicky "Fingers" Bonnatto in The Cooler (2003). He's played principal roles in multiple Spike Lee films, including New Jersey Drive (1995), Clockers (1995), He Got Game (1998), and Summer of Sam (1999). On television, he currently appears on the Showtime series Billions as the local pizza shop owner Bruno Capparelo, and he played fictional mobster and Capo Carlo Gervasi in The Sopranos. Before he became an actor, he was a 21-year veteran of the NYPD. He also served eight years in the United States Marine Corps

KEN GARITO (Sergeant Trapp)

- Ken Garito was born on December 27, 1968 in Brooklyn, New York, USA. He is an actor, known for BlacKkKlansman (2018), Crash (2004) and Summer of Sam (1999)

FREDERICK WELLER (Master Patrolman Andy Landers)

- Frederick Weller was born on April 18, 1966 in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. He is an actor and director, known for Armageddon (1998), The Shape of Things (2003) and In Plain Sight (2008). He has been married to Ali Marsh since September 6, 2003. They have one child

LAURA HARRIER (Patrice)

- Laura Harrier was born on March 28, 1990 in Chicago, Illinois, USA as Laura Ruth Harrier. She is an actress, known for Spider-Man: Homecoming (2017), The Last Five Years(2014) and 4th Man Out (2015)
- Attended Evanston Township High School from 2004-2008 in Evanston, IL.

- Her father is African-American and her mother is of Rusyn (from Ukraine) and English descent.
- Her maternal grandmother was born in Lucknow, India, to American missionary parents. Laura's great-grandfather was noted Methodist minister and missionary J. Waskom Pickett.

ADAM DRIVER (Flip Zimmerman)

- Adam Douglas Driver was born in San Diego, California. His mother, Nancy (Needham) Wright, is a paralegal from Mishawaka, Indiana, and his father, Joe Douglas Driver, who has deep roots in the American South, is from Little Rock, Arkansas. His stepfather is a Baptist minister. His ancestry includes English, Dutch, German, Irish, and Scottish. Driver was raised in Mishawaka after his parents' divorce, attending Mishawaka High School, where he appeared in plays. After 9/11, he enlisted in the Marines, serving for more than two years before being medically discharged after he suffered an injury, which prevented him from being deployed.
- Driver attended the University of Indianapolis (for a year) and then transferred to study drama at Juilliard in New York, graduating in 2009. He began acting in plays, appearing on Broadway, before being cast in Lena Dunham's series Girls (2012), as her character's love interest, Adam Sackler. The role gained him attention, and he subsequently began a robust film career, appearing in small roles in J. Edgar (2011) and Lincoln (2012), supporting roles in Frances Ha (2012) and Inside Llewyn Davis (2013), and graduating to major parts in the comedy-drama This Is Where I Leave You (2014) and the upcoming Star Wars: The Force Awakens (2015) and Martin Scorsese's Silence (2016), the latter film opposite Andrew Garfield

TOPHER GRACE (David Duke)

- During an interview with Dave Karger at the 2018 Cannes Film Festival, Topher Grace said that once he got the role and during the filming, he was not allowed to tell anyone that he was playing David Duke
- Topher Grace was born Christopher John Grace in New York City, New York, to Pat, a schoolmaster's assistant, and John Grace, an executive. He was raised in Darien, Connecticut. He attended boarding school in New Hampshire for two years, where he began his acting career in such musicals as "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" and "The Pirates of Penzance." He also tried his first shot at directing with a choose-your-own-adventure-style movie starring his classmates. He hated being called Chris in school, so he changed it to Topher as time went on. He attended New Hampshire's Brewster Academy and the University of Southern California
- Grace dropped out of USC to start his show business career in That '70s Show (1998) at age 20. He was cast in that show because the show's creators, Bonnie Turner and Terry Turner, saw him act in a high-school play--their daughter attended same high school. Apart from school plays, Grace had absolutely no acting experience before landing the role of Eric Forman

RYAN EGGOLD (Walter Breachway - KKK leader)

- Southern California native Ryan Eggold graduated from the USC's esteemed theatre department, then immediately landed recurring roles on CBS's Young and the Restless,

HBO's Entourage, Cartoon Network's Out of Jimmy's Head, ABC's Brothers & Sisters and The CW's Veronica Mars, before obtaining his first series regular gig on the FX's Dirt. He continues to recur on Entourage, as a member of Johnny Drama's show-within-the-show.

- In addition to his work in television, Ryan made his professional stage debut in the acclaimed 2006 Ahmanson Theatre/Center Theatre Group production Dead End, directed by Nick Martin, and has since appeared in productions of Leipzig, and the L.A. Weekly Award-winning production of Marat/Sade.
- Along with his continued involvement on Dirt and Entourage, Ryan is hard at work these days on producing, directing and starring in an original screenplay, Lunchers.
- When he isn't acting, Ryan is writing music, playing guitar, piano and singing in his band.

JASPER PAAKKONEN (Felix Kendrickson - radical)

- Jasper Pääkkönen, according to Finnish tabloid Ilta Sanomat, is "the most profitable film actor in Finland" for having starred in three of Finland's biggest box office hits during his career. Many of Pääkkönen's films have made #1 in the Finnish box office, including Pahat Pojat (Bad Boys - a true story) which is the all time most successful film in the Finnish box office. Other Pääkkönen's commercial and critical successes include Matti (#2 in Finland's all time box office), Frozen Land and Lapland Odyssey. For his role in Pahat Pojat, Pääkkönen was awarded Best Actor Award in Brussels International Independent Film Festival. He has earned international praise from film critic Michael Giltz from Huffington Post who called the actor "handsome and compelling" in his role in Lapland Odyssey. Film critic Leslie Felperin from Variety named Pääkkönen a "rising thesp, showing impressive range" in his starring role in Matti. In 2006 the European Film Promotion introduced Pääkkönen as the Shooting Star of Finland at the Berlin international film festival. Apart from his work in film, in 2009 Pääkkönen founded the Pokerisivut.com poker magazine together with film producer Markus Selin. In 2010 Pokerisivut.com was awarded Best Overall Affiliate at the London 2010 iGB Affiliate Awards. Pääkkönen is a member of the Vision Fly Fishing world team and has appeared in fly fishing TV shows and DVD's as a celebrity guest

PAUL WALTER HAUSER (Ivanhoe - ignorant)

- Paul Walter Hauser was born on October 15, 1986 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA. He is an actor and producer, known for L. Tonya (2017), BlackKkKlansman (2018) and Kingdom(2014)
- Started doing stand up comedy at age 16 and has shared the stage with Pauly Shore, Dave Attell, and Rob Paravonian.
- Was considered for the role of Trey Hamburger in "Ghosts/Aliens".
- His five favorite films are It's A Wonderful Life, The Departed, Wet Hot American Summer, Dazed And Confused, and A Few Good Men.

DIRECTING: (Spike Lee)

- "What's the famous Mark Twain quote? My demise has been greatly exaggerated? A couple [people] had written me off: I'm done. Over! Not relevant!" Lee told AP. "But you know what? They don't know! Count me out if you want to! Come on, I'm in Brooklyn! We go hard!"

- Lee's most powerful touch is his use of archival footage, opening with the Confederate crane shot of Victor Fleming's "Gone with the Wind" (1939), climaxing with the blackface of D.W. Griffith's "The Birth of a Nation" (1915) and ending with real-life footage from last year's deadly white supremacist rally of neo-Nazis and KKK members in Charlottesville, Virginia
- As an American flag appears upside down at the end credits, fading from red-white-and-blue to a symbolic black-and-white, Spike throws up a distress signal for the nation
- Spike Lee was born Shelton Jackson Lee on March 20, 1957, in Atlanta, Georgia. At a very young age, he moved from pre-civil rights Georgia, to Brooklyn, New York. Lee came from artistic, education-grounded background; his father was a jazz musician, and his mother, a schoolteacher. He attended school in Morehouse College in Atlanta and developed his film making skills at Clark Atlanta University. After graduating from Morehouse, Lee attended the Tisch School of Arts graduate film program. He made a controversial short, The Answer (1980), a reworking of D.W. Griffith's The Birth of a Nation (1915), a ten-minute film. Lee went on to produce a 45-minute film Joe's Bed-Stuy Barbershop: We Cut Heads (1983) which won a student Academy Award. In 1986, Spike Lee made the film, She's Gotta Have It (1986), a comedy about sexual relationships. The movie was made for \$175,000, and earned \$7 million at the box office, which launched his career and allowed him to found his own production company, 40 Acres and a Mule Filmworks. His next movie was School Daze (1988), which was set at a historically black school, focused mostly on the conflict between the school and the Fraternities, of which he was a strong critic, portraying them as materialistic, irresponsible, and uncaring. With his School Daze(1988) profits, Lee went on to make his landmark film, Do the Right Thing (1989), a movie based specifically his own neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York. The movie portrayed the racial tensions that emerge in the Bed-Stuy neighborhood on one very hot day. The movie garnered Oscar nominations for Best Original Screenplay, for Danny Aiello for supporting actor, and sparked a debate on racial relations. Lee went on to produce and direct the jazz biopic Mo' Better Blues (1990), the first of many Spike Lee films to feature Denzel Washington, including the biography of Malcolm X (1992), in which Washington portrayed the civil rights leader. The movie was a success, and garnered an Oscar nomination for Washington. The pair would work together again on He Got Game(1998), an excursion into the collegiate world showing the darker side of college athletic recruiting, as well as the 2006 film Inside Man (2006). Spike Lee's role as a documentarian has expanded over the years, highlighted by his participation in Lumière and Company (1995), the Oscar-nominated 4 Little Girls (1997), to his Peabody Award-winning biographical adaptation of Black Panther leader in A Huey P. Newton Story(2001), through his 2005 Emmy Award-winning examination of post-Katrina New Orleans in When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts (2006) and its follow-up five years later If God Is Willing and da Creek Don't Rise (2010). Through his production company 40 Acres and A Mule Filmworks, Lee continues to create and direct both independent films and projects for major studios, as well as working on story development, creating an internship program for aspiring filmmakers, releasing music, and community outreach and support. He is married to Tonya Lewis Lee, and they have two sons, Satchel and Jackson
- Trademarks:
 - Frequently casts himself

- Frequently casts John Turturro, Samuel L. Jackson, Delroy Lindo, Kim Director and Roger Guenveur Smith
- His films frequently involve African Americans and African-American themes
- Films called "A Spike Lee Joint"
- Frequently has characters directly address the camera. Frequently places actors on dollies to achieve a gliding or rotating effect against the background of the shot.
- His films often have the phrase "Wake Up!" as in an urging to the awakening of maturity and social conscience.
- Baseball: Every one of his narrative feature films makes reference to baseball teams and players.
- Often casts Denzel Washington and Michael Imperioli.
- Frequently uses a technique he calls the "double dolly." This is where the camera and the subject are placed on a dolly and pushed through the scene. This makes the subject look like they are floating or gliding.

TRIVIA

- David Duke did not discover that Ron Stallworth was a black man until 2006, when a Miami Herald reporter contacted him for his side of the story
- The real David Duke called Ron Stallworth to express his concern over his "baffoonish, cartoonish idiot" portrayal in the film. Duke also said he respected director Spike Lee. After seeing the film, he was not pleased that the film did not follow the events of the book
- Both director Spike Lee and star John David Washington are graduates of the Historically Black College/University (HBCU) Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. (Frequent Spike Lee collaborator Sam Jackson is also a graduate)

PRODUCTION/CINEMATOGRAPHY (Chayse Irvin)

- Chayse Irvin is an Canadian/American cinematographer best known for his collaborations with Director/Artist Kahlil Joseph.
- Chayse' first feature film as cinematographer was Medeas (2013) in which he won the prestigious "Best Cinematography Debut" at the Camerimage Film Festival. Soon after Chayse began collaborating with Kahlil Joesph on numerous works of art eventually collaborating together on Beyonce's Lemonade in 2016. In 2017 at the Cannes Lions festival, Chayse won Gold for Sampha "Process", Silver for John Malkovich x Squarespace, and Bronze Apple Watch Series 2 "Go Time". In the same year Andrea Poloraro's "Hannah" took home Best Actress award for Charlotte Rampling and soon after Won, Silver Hugo Best Cinematography at the Chicago International Film Festival.
- Chayse is a member of the Canadian Society of Cinematographers and resides in Brooklyn New York
- Filming began in October 2017
- Ossining, New York was one location used in October
- The director's eye shines during a Black Panther speech by Stokley Carmichael (Corey Hawkins), spotlighting the individual faces of the inspired crowd. We also get such

auteur staples as the “floating dolly shot,” as cinematographer Chayse Irvin (Beyoncé’s “Lemonade”) shows characters floating down the hallway toward a Klansman with a burning cross reflection in his eye. It’s all backed by the powerful guitar of Terence Blanchard (“Inside Man”)

- This was the first Spike Lee film since *Oldboy* (2013) to be shot on film. Although the past three or four films of his were all digital, Lee expressed his passion for shooting on celluloid film

EDITING/VFX (Barry Alexander Brown)

- Barry Alexander Brown was born on November 28, 1960 in Warrington, Cheshire, England. He is an editor and director, known for *Do the Right Thing* (1989), *Inside Man* (2006) and *Oldboy* (2013)

SOUND/MUSIC (Terence Blanchard)

- A world renowned trumpeter/composer/band leader and Blue Note recording artist, Terence Blanchard is the most prolific jazz musician to ever compose for motion pictures. Blanchard was born and raised in New Orleans where he studied with the Marsalis brothers at the famed New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts. In 1980, he won a scholarship to Rutgers University and immediately began performing in the Lionel Hampton Orchestra. Two years later, he succeeded Wynton Marsalis in the legendary Jazz Messengers before forming his own influential groups. Blanchard originally began performing on Spike Lee's soundtracks, including "Mo Better Blues" in which he ghosted the trumpet for Denzel Washington. Blanchard lives in New Orleans with his wife, Robin, and his four children
- The film featured the late musician Prince singing "Mary, Don't You Weep" over the end credits. This was a previously unreleased live rehearsal recording

PROMOTION

- On April 12, 2018, the film was selected to compete for the Palme d'Or at the 2018 Cannes Film Festival, where it premiered on May 14
 - Director Spike Lee received a six-minute standing ovation at the Cannes Film Festival after the premier of the film
- It opened in the United States on August 10, 2018, which was chosen to coincide with the one-year anniversary of the Charlottesville rally

BOX OFFICE

- In the United States and Canada, *BlacKkKlansman* was released alongside *Slender Man* and *The Meg*, and was projected to gross around \$10 million from 1,512 theaters in its opening weekend
- It made \$3.6 million on its first day (including \$670,000 from Thursday night previews)
- It went on to debut to \$10.8 million, finishing fifth at the box office and marking Lee's best opening weekend since *Inside Man* (\$29 million) in 2006

RECEPTION

- On review aggregation website Rotten Tomatoes, the film has an approval rating of 97% based on 218 reviews, with an average rating of 8.2/10

- The site's critical consensus reads, "BlackKkKlansman uses history to offer biting trenchant commentary on current events -- and brings out some of Spike Lee's hardest-hitting work in decades along the way."
- [CinemaScore](#) gave the film an average grade of "A–"
- [Peter Bradshaw](#) of [The Guardian](#) gave the film three out of five stars, writing: "It's an entertaining spectacle but the brilliant tonal balance in something like Jordan Peele's satire *Get Out* leaves this looking a little exposed. Yet it responds fiercely, contemptuously to the crassness at the heart of the Trump regime and gleefully pays it back in its own coin."
- For [IndieWire](#), David Ehrlich gave the film a grade of "B+" and wrote that it is "far more frightening than it is funny," and "packages such weighty and ultra-relevant subjects into the form of a wildly uneven but consistently entertaining night at the movies."
- Alex Hudson from [Exclaim!](#) gave the film a rating of 9/10 and said: "Spike Lee's latest is all about America's current political moment, and the film's central concerns — hateful rhetoric dressed up as "pride," prejudiced cops abusing their power — feel viscerally relevant."
- [A. O. Scott](#), writing for [The New York Times](#), saw the film as both political and provocative in opening up discussion on timely subject matter following Charlottesville. He stated, "Committed anti-racists can sit quietly or laugh politely when hateful things are said. Epithets uttered in irony can be repeated in earnest. The most shocking thing about Flip's (Adam Driver's undercover detective role) imposture is how easy it seems, how natural he looks and sounds. This unnerving authenticity is partly testament to Mr. Driver's ability to tuck one performance inside another, but it also testifies to a stark and discomfiting truth. Maybe not everyone who is white is a racist, but racism is what makes us white. Don't sleep on this movie".
- In his review for New York magazine, David Edelstein found the film to be a potent antidote for previous films which Lee sees as unduly supportive of the racist viewpoint in the past such as Griffith's [The Birth of a Nation](#) stating: "Lee himself has a propagandist streak, and he knows nothing ever sold the message of white emasculation and the existential necessity of keeping blacks down as well as Griffith's 1915 film. It revived the Klan and--insult to injury--is still reckoned a landmark of narrative filmmaking. If there were no other reason to make *BlackKkKlansman*, this one would be good enough."