

## **Huey Newton**

### ***BlackkKlansman (2018)***

Cast: John David Washington, Adam Driver, Laura Harrier, Topher Grace.

Director: Spike Lee

Synopsis: “Ron Stallworth is 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: infiltrate and expose the Ku Klux Klan. The detective soon recruits a more seasoned colleague, Flip Zimmerman, into the undercover investigation of a lifetime.

Together, they team up to take down the extremist hate group as the organization aims to sanitize its rhetoric to appeal to the mainstream.”

### **Review:**

This film is about the betrayal of the brotherhood between one man to another. From where I am, this man has not even paid respect to the people that came before him, all of the people that were beaten by the police, the people who were killed by the police, and the people that made him have those rights to be “free” in these United States. Spike Lee has chosen to look at the shimmer of espionage and how ironic a black man could be a police officer but doesn’t look at all of the racist police officers in a police precinct. Spike Lee only presents only one of the thousands of white, empowered police officers that feel the right to blast lead into black people. There are times where the main character acknowledges this, but not all of these stories can end up being wrapped in a nice bow. Additionally, even though this film is about a black rookie police officer, it seems Spike Lee has captured more about the white, undercover cop and how brave this man is and what he may lose if his cover would be destroyed. For a story about a

black man being a cop, there are a lot of white people being praised for resisting their racial prejudices. Spike Lee has ruined the power of black people during the most troubling times of their life by making fun of and misdirecting the audience to believe that this was okay, that being a black man in a police precinct doesn't bring uneasiness to many African Americans. Black and Klansman should never be in the same sentence or be paraded around like a circus for everyone to come see a freak perform his tricks.

**Diane Nash**

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**Review:**

I should hate this...I really should, but as Martin Luther King Jr., once said, “Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend.” Spike Lee has fought against what people of the time would’ve thought of a black man being a police officer and the lingering sense that some people of the black community have unsettling feelings with the police as a whole. Spike Lee has framed the true story of Ron Stallworth to be accurate of the time, the characters, attitudes, morals, and more of the time. This movie is a success to not only my people but to everyone who watches this film. This story is not only a story of the history of racism in the United States, but the story of determination that leaves a light sense of inspiration in the audience. A true key factor of the story that Spike Lee has made the main character and that has made John David Washington look like a side character is a fact of overcoming adversities between groups. Spike Lee has shown how people from different backgrounds can live and work

together rather than work against each other. The audience can practically smell how beautiful the flower of friendship can be if it is nurtured and provided forth with the correct efforts. As someone who has fought police brutality firsthand, seeing the irregularities of police officers in their morals. I do not feel unsettled by a black man being a rookie, kick-ass detective. In this film, Spike Lee has proceeded to inspire and humorize the ideology behind the Ku Klux Klan in a way that is able to digest the most horrendous parts of our history. As a civil rights activist during the most crucial moments in our history, I can't say the sight of a black man with the words Klansman hanging so close to his face brought comfort and joy to my life, but the power that Spike Lee possesses in his work carries a torch I know I've carried with me. Lee's fearless tactics to go into the war of racism in the police departments of the past and showing the change in people and the love that they can possess in the most heartless of places.