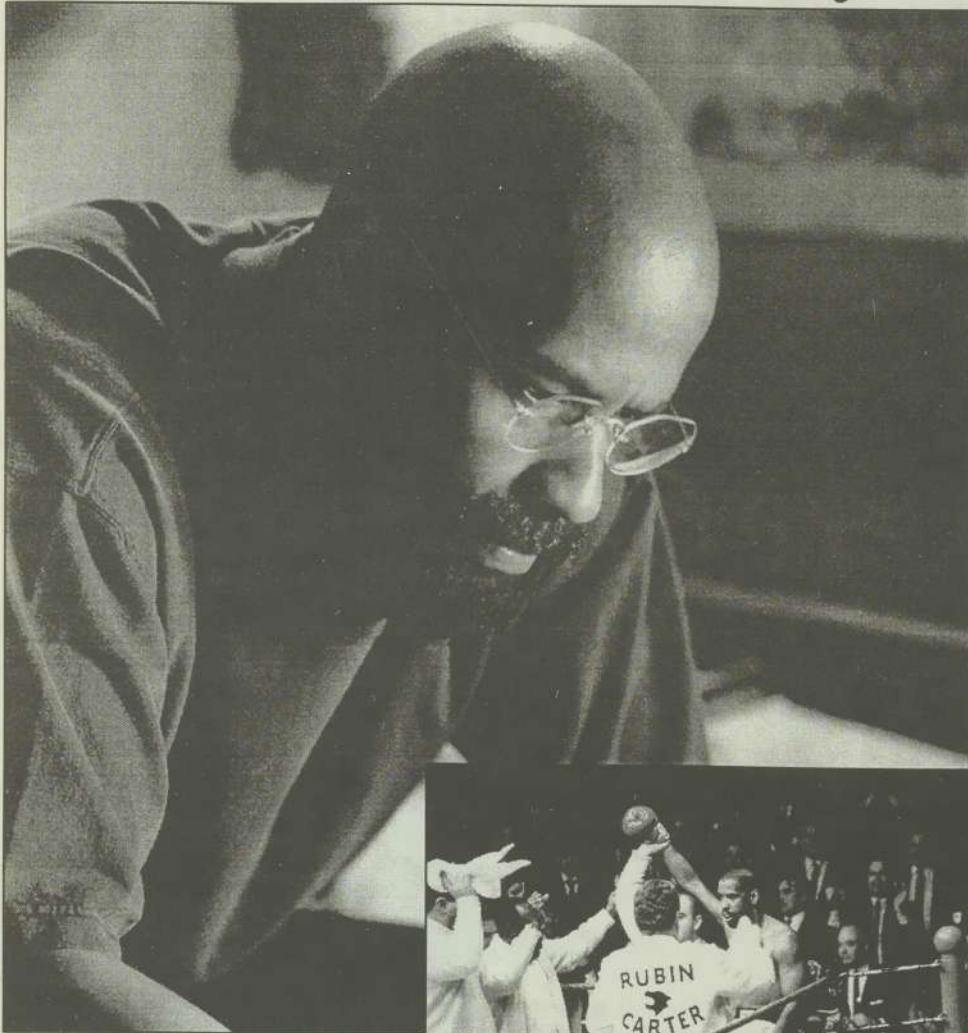


Washington in the eye of the *Hurricane*



Denzel Washington portrays a boxer wrongfully convicted of murder in *The Hurricane*.



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TIMOTHY A. BELL

Design Editor

Denzel Washington gives audiences a realistic performance in the controversial true story about racism and injustice in *The Hurricane*.

Washington is Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, a boxer who is wrongfully convicted of murder and sentenced to three life terms in prison. In order to keep hold of his sanity, Carter channels his frustration and anger through the writing of his autobiography *The Sixteenth Round*. After two appeals are turned down, Carter eventually loses all hope for freedom and withdraws from the outer world.

Years later a troubled youth named Lesra Martin, played by Vicellous Reon Shannon (*Mighty Ducks 2*), identifies with Carter after reading his book, and they quickly form a friendship that leads to a full-fledged campaign to free Carter.

John Hannah (*The Mummy*), Deborah Unger (*Payback*) and Liev Schreiber (*Scream 2*) play the three Canadian guardians of Martin who give an exceptional amount of selfless commitment by literally focusing all of their time and effort to freeing Carter.

Dan Hedaya (*A Civil Action*) co-stars in the film as Detective Vincent

Della Pesca, a racist who does everything in his power, including creating evidence, to keep Carter behind bars.

Washington portrays the boxer so well that it's hard to tell where he ends and the Hurricane begins. He allows the audience to feel the pain of being isolated in a world of corruption and helplessness. Washington spent two years training for this role and it shows, not only through the fierceness in the ring, but also in his resolve to clear his name and rise above the system.

Unfortunately, despite how appealing and powerful this film is,



it's not an actual representation of the facts surrounding the 20-years of hell the Hurricane endured. In a lot of ways, this movie is like *JFK*, in that a real life situation has been spruced up by Hollywood to make the message more understandable.

The Hurricane is a reflection of how racism destroys humanity, and it would be an injustice to anyone who doesn't spend the money to go and see it.

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