

Review: Spike Lee's 'BlacKkKlansman' is daring, essential

By LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press



Adam Driver, left, and John David Washington in a scene from 'BlacKkKlansman.'

In 1979, a man named Ron Stallworth who was the first African-American police officer and detective in the Colorado Springs Police Department also became a card-carrying member of the Ku Klux Klan and the leader of the local chapter. He would send a white co-worker to play him for in-person meetings as part of the wild undercover operation, but Stallworth was the one on the phone, insisting his hatred for non-white races with everyone from the local chapter members to the KKK's "grand wizard" David Duke himself.

It's Stallworth's story that provides the framework for Spike Lee's blistering new

film, "BlacKkKlansman," but hardly the full picture. Deceptively epic in scope, in "BlacKkKlansman" Lee has made an immensely entertaining film about everything — love, friendship, ambition, civil rights, the power of words and

images to uplift and destroy and the various shades and ideologies of racism and revolution that will leave you craving another viewing.

John David Washington (Denzel Washington's son) plays Ron Stallworth, a com-

posed and deliberate man who isn't afraid to ask for what he wants, whether it's a job or a quick promotion out of the dreaded records room and into undercover work.

Many around him are quick to throw labels and make assumptions about what he can and can't do. His co-worker calls him a toad, because of his race. His black student union girlfriend, Patrice, asks if he's a pig (i.e. a cop). At work, he seems extreme — a rookie suggesting a dangerous undercover operation to infiltrate the KKK. In life, he seems compliant. As Patrice (a brilliant Laura Harrier) tells him, meaningful change is impossible when working within the structures of a racist system.

But Ron has a plan to infiltrate The Organization, and a

few around him like the police chief (Robert John Burke), and two detectives, Flip Zimmerman (Adam Driver) and Jimmy Creek (Michael Buscemi) are at least willing to go along with it for a while. Flip draws the card to be in-person Ron, which turns out to be a headache of its own when one of The Organization's members, Felix (Jasper Paakkonen), starts to suspect that he might actually be Jewish.

These scenes are riveting to watch, infused with a perfectly executed tension as Flip carefully navigates his way through meetings and interactions with the group, including the docile chapter leader Walter (Ryan Eggold), the maniacally sinister Felix and the perpetually drunk and dumb Ivanhoe (Paul Walter Hauser). They are, on the

whole, dopes used for comedic effect, but there is something else going on below the surface. You're always keenly aware that these shadowy, back bar racists could with the right leader become the mainstream.

Mind you, "BlacKkKlansman" is not a subtle film and is often repetitive where it least needs it. Stallworth's "white voice" and racist musings over the phone are perfectly used a few times, until the effect eventually begins to dull.

But it is an exhilarating, distressing, funny and profound film. Every frame is packed with meaning and metaphor from the opening, the famous crane shot from Victor Fleming's "Gone With the Wind," onward to the sins of the present day. It's a Spike Lee joint not to be missed.

THE DAILY ASTORIAN TV SCHEDULE

Evening listings
FRIDAY—SUNDAY

FRIDAY EVENING													AUGUST 10	
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6 (N)		Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Fresh Off the Boat	Speechless	What Would You Do?		20/20		KATU News (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel	
3	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News (N)		Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy!	Fresh Off the Boat	Speechless	What Would You Do?		20/20		KOMO 4 News (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel	
4	KING	(5) NBC News (N)	KING 5 News	KING 5 News	Evening	American Ninja Warrior "Indianapolis City Finals"		Dateline NBC		Dateline NBC		KING 5 News (N)	(35) Tonight Show	
6	KOIN	(7) KOIN Local 6 (N)	Evening News (N)	Extra	Ent. Tonight	Whistleblower (N)	Hawaii Five-0 "E Ho'oko Kuleana"		Blue Bloods "Out of the Blue"		News (N)	(35) Colbert		
7	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News (N)	Evening News (N)	KIRO 7 News (N)	Ent. Tonight	Whistleblower (N)	Hawaii Five-0 "E Ho'oko Kuleana"		Blue Bloods "Out of the Blue"		KIRO 7 News (N)	(35) Colbert		
9	KGW	(7) KGW News at 6:00 p.m. (N)	Tonight Cassidy	Inside Edition	American Ninja Warrior "Indianapolis City Finals"		Dateline NBC		Dateline NBC		KGW News (N)	(35) Tonight Show		
9	KRCW	(3) Modern Family	Modern Family	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	Illusion (N)	Masters of Illusion	Penn&Teller "Imagine (Magic) Dragons"	News at 10 (N)	Friends	Two and a Half	Two and a Half		
10	KOPB	(10) Lost L.A.	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		The Coroner "The Captain's Pipe"	Hinterland 1/2	(50) Hinterland	Night Music "Pt. 2 of 2"	(35) Masterpiece Mystery!	"Breathless"			
12	KPTV	(12) News (N)	Timbers in 30	Family Feud	Family Feud	The Resident "Haunted"		The Orville "If the Stars Should Appear"	10 O'Clock News (N)		News (N)		Page Six TV	
13	KPDx	(13) Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	FOX 12's News (N)		9 O'Clock News (N)	Family Guy	American Dad!	The Game	The Game		
13	KCPQ	(13) Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	The Resident "Haunted"		The Orville "If the Stars Should Appear"	Q13 NEWS AT 10 (N)		Most Wanted	The Simpsons		
20	TBS	(20) Family Guy	Family Guy	Bob's Burgers	Bob's Burgers	*** San Andreas (2015, Action)	Carla Gugino, Alexandra Daddario, Dwayne Johnson.		*** Now You See Me (13, Cri) Common, Jesse Eisenberg.		Two and a Half	Two and a Half		
20	KZJO	(22) Friends	Friends	Mom	Modern Family				Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Two and a Half	Two and a Half		
29	ESPN	(29) Baseball Little League World Series (L)				SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (N)	SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)			
30	ESPN2	(30) ATP Tennis Rogers Cup (L)				Rolling With Tide		Kickboxing Glory 56			First Take			
31	NICK	(31) The Loud House	The Loud House	The Loud House	The Loud House	Double Dare	Double Dare	To Be Announced			Friends		(35) Friends	
32	DISN	(32) Raven's Home "Head Over Wheels"				Freaky Friday (18) Heidi Blickenstaff.		Big City Greens	Stuck in Middle	Bizaardvark	Bug Juice "Friendship vs. Zombies"			
34	FAM	(34) (5:10) *** Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Johnny Depp. (50) *** The Parent Trap (1998, Family) Dennis Quaid, Natasha Richardson, Lindsay Lohan.											The 700 Club	
35	FMC	(35) (5:00) Pixels (15) Adam Sandler. (55) *** Pixels (15, Act/Com) Kevin James, Adam Sandler. (50) FXM Presents						Unfinished Business (15, Com) Dave Franco, Vince Vaughn. (05) FXM Presents	Unfinished Business (15) Vince Vaughn.					
36	LIFE	(36) The Closer "The Other Woman"				The Closer "No Good Deed"		The Closer "Overkill"	(05) The Closer "Serving the King" 1/2	(05) The Closer "Serving the King" 2/2				
38	ROOT	(38) (5:00) MLB Baseball Seattle Mariners at Houston Astros (L)				Post-game	MLB Baseball Seattle Mariners at Houston Astros Site: Minute Maid Park -- Houston, Texas				Post-game			
39	FS1	(39) (5:10) BIG3 Basketball (L)				MLB Whiparound (L)		TMZ Sports (N)	Skip and Shannon: Undisputed Opinions on the biggest sports topics of the day.		NASCAR Racing			
43	SPIKE	(43) Mom	Friends	Friends	(35) Friends	(10) Friends	(50) Friends	(25) Friends	*** Tron: Legacy (2010, Adventure) Garrett Hedlund, Olivia Wilde, Jeff Bridges.					
44	COM	(44) The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	*** Horrible Bosses (2011, Comedy) Charlie Day, Jason Sudeikis, Jason Bateman.		Kevin Hart (N)	Chappelle's Show				
45	HIST	(45) Ancient Aliens "The New Evidence"				Ancient Aliens "The Alien Disks"		Ancient Aliens (N)	(05) Search "Artificial Intelligence" (N)	(05) Aliens "Aliens and Evil Places"				
46	A&E	(46) (5:00) Live PD				Live PD (05) Live PD: Rewind		Live PD Live access inside the country's busiest police forces. (L) (N)						
47	TLC	(47) Say Yes to the Dress	Say Yes to the Dress	Say Yes to the Dress	Say Yes to the Dress	90 Day Fiancé "And So It Begins" Rachel		90 Day Fiancé "And So It Begins" Rachel	Unexpect "Unsafe and Unplanned" (N)		90 Day Fiancé "And So It Begins"			
48	DISC	(48) Cooper's Treasure "Island of Fortune"				BattleBots "This is BattleBots!"		Cooper's Treasure "Into the Storm" (N)	Mad Dog Made "Dog Bites Bear" (N)		Cooper's Treasure "Into the Storm"			
49	NGEO	(49) Border Wars "3,000-Pound Coke Bust"				Port Protection "The Axeman Cometh"		Life Below Zero "Winter's Edge"	Ultimate Survival "Desolation Island"		Wicked Tuna "The Meat is Here" (N)			
50	TNT	(50) Supernatural "No Exit"				Supernatural "Crossroad Blues"		*** Live Free or Die Hard (2007, Action) Justin Long, Timothy Olyphant, Bruce Willis.						
51	AMC	(51) (5:30) *** Lethal Weapon 2 (1989, Action) Danny Glover, Joe Pesci, Mel Gibson.				*** Lethal Weapon 3 (1992, Action) Danny Glover, Rene Russo, Mel Gibson.			(35) *** Lethal Weapon 4 (198) Danny Glover, Mel Gibson.					
52	USA	(52) NCIS "Baltimore"				NCIS "A Bowl of Cherries"		NCIS "One Book, Two Covers"	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family		
53	FOOD	(53) Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins		
54	HGTV	(54) Beachfront Hunt	Beachfront Hunt	Beachfront Hunt	Beachfront Hunt	My Dream Home	My Dream Home	Aloha Dream (N)	My Dream Home	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters	House Hunters		
56	FX	(56) (5:30) *** Jurassic World (15) Bryce Dallas Howard, Chris Pratt.				Now You See Me 2 (2016, Action) Lizzy Caplan, Woody Harrelson, Jesse Eisenberg.								
57	CNN	(57) Cuomo Prime Time				Cuomo Prime Time					2000s "The Platinum Age of Television"			
58	FNC	(58) Hannity				Fox News @ Night		The Five	Hannity		The Ingraham Angle			
61	CNBC	(61) American Greed: Scam "Conn's Job"				Greed "Florida Rehab Gone Wild"		The Profit "Marijuana Millions"	The Profit in Cuba		The ProfitPuertoRico			
63	BRAV	(63) Housewives "Judge, Jury and Gina"				*** The Green Mile (1999, Drama) David Morse, Bonnie Hunt, Tom Hanks.					The Green Mile (99, Dra) Tom Hanks.			
64	TCM	(64) (5:00) Tarnished Angels Rock Hudson.				*** Written on the Wind (56, Dra) Lauren Bacall, Robert Stack, Rock Hudson.			Too Much, Too Soon (58, Bio) Errol Flynn, Efreem Zimbalist Jr., Dorothy Malone.		(15) The Last Voyage Robert Stack.			
65	SYFY	(65) *** Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (2007, Adventure) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.						Wynonna Earp "No Cure for Crazy" (N)	Killjoys (N)		Futurama	Futurama		
162	RFD	(162) County Reporter	FarmHer	Chasing-Madison	The Jimmy Dean Show		Rural Eve. News	Country's Family Reunion	County Reporter	Chasing-Madison	Time Life Library			

SATURDAY EVENING													AUGUST 11	
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	
2	KATU	(2) KATU News (N)	Paid Program	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	The Good Doctor "Sacrifice"		20/20		20/20		KATU News (N)	(35) HonorWrestle	
3	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News (N)		Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy!	The Good Doctor "Sacrifice"		20/20		20/20		KOMO 4 News (N)	(35) HonorWrestle	
4	KING	(5) NBC News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	Paid Program	Little Big Shots "Tour De Harvey"	Little Big Shots "Tour De Harvey"		Dateline NBC Investigative features are covered.		Dateline NBC Investigative features are covered.		KING 5 News (N)	Sat. Night Live	
6	KOIN	(7) KOIN 6 News (N)	Weekend News (N)	Entertainment Tonight Weekend	Entertainment Tonight Weekend	Pink Collar Crimes (N)		CrimeTime Saturday	48 Hours		48 Hours	KIRO 7 News (N)	(35) Amer.Ninja	
7	KIRO	(7) Weekend News (N)	KIRO 7 News (N)	Entertainment Tonight Weekend	Entertainment Tonight Weekend	Pink Collar Crimes (N)		CrimeTime Saturday	48 Hours		48 Hours	KIRO 7 News (N)	(35) Scandal	
9	KGW	(7) NBC News (N)	Naturally, Danny	Champion Within	Health Happiness	Little Big Shots "Tour De Harvey"		Dateline NBC Investigative features are covered.		Dateline NBC Investigative features are covered.		KGW News (N)	Sat. Night Live	
9	KRCW	(3) Modern Family	Modern Family	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Friends	Friends	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	News at 10 (N)	Pawn Stars	Impractical Jokers	Bones	
10	KOPB	(10) Great British Baking "Puddings"		Travel: Art Wolfe	Stevens' Europe 2/3	Trekker "Tough Boats: The Nile, Egypt"		Brown "The Flower of the Fairway"	Hillary "Race to the Pole" (N)		Hillary "Race to the Pole" (N)	M'piece "Sherlock: The Six Thatchers"		
12	KPTV	(12) (5:45) Basketball		In Depth	James Brown	*** Best Men (1997, Comedy) Andy Dick.		Prime News	Prime News	10 O'Clock News (N)		To Hell & Back "Patrick Molloy's"		
13	KPDx	(13) Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Two and a Half	Two and a Half	Two and a Half	Two and a Half	News (N)	Seahawks	West Coast Wrestling Connection		
13	KCPQ	(13) (5:45) Basketball		Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Two and a Half	Two and a Half	Two and a Half	Two and a Half	News (N)	Seahawks	To Hell & Back "Patrick Molloy's"		
20	TBS	(20) Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Full Frontal	Wrecked	
20	KZJO	(22) Modern Family	Modern Family	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	Modern Family	Modern Family	Q13 News at 9	Seahawks	Most Wanted	Bones "The Prisoner in the Pipe"	The X-Files		
29	ESPN	(29) Baseball Little League World Series (L)				SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)		
30	ESPN2	(30) (5:00) ATP Tennis Rogers Cup (L)				Boxing Classics		Boxing Classics		Boxing Classics		Boxing Classics		
31	NICK	(31) The Loud House	The Loud House	Henry Danger	Henry Danger	NickyRickyDicky		Full House	Full House	Full House	Full House	Friends	(35) Friends	
32	DISN	(32) Stuck in Middle	Stuck in Middle	Freaky Friday		(40) Andi Mack		(10) Bizaardvark	(35) Bizaardvark	Full House	Raven's Home	Stuck in Middle	Bunk'd	
34	FAM	(34) (05) *** Beauty and the Beast (91) Voices of Richard White, Paige O'Hara.				(10) *** Cinderella (2015, Family) Helena Bonham Carter, Charlotte Blanchett, Lily James.			(45) *** Mulan (98, Ani) Eddie Murphy, Ming-Na Wen.					
35	FMC	(35) (5:55) Kung Fu Panda 3 (16, Ani) Angelina Jolie, Jack Black. (45) FXM Presents				*** Life of Pi (2012, Fantasy) Irrfan Khan, Adil Hussain, Suraj Sharma.			(20) FXM Presents	*** Let's Be Cops (14) Damon Wayans Jr., Jake Johnson.				
36	LIFE	(36) The Other Mother (17) Kimberley Crossman, Tyler Christopher, Annie Wersching.				*** A Sister's Secret (2009, Drama) Cynthia Preston, Alexandra Paul.			(05) Room for Murder (2018, Suspense) Lorynn York, Tonya Clarke, James Maslow.					
38	ROOT	(38) (4:00) MLB Baseball Sea.Hou. (L)				Post-game	MLB Soccer Vancouver Whitecaps at Portland Timbers (L)		Post-game	MLB Baseball Seattle Mariners at Houston Astros				
39	FS1	(39) (4:00) MLB Baseball Mil./Atl. (L)				USGA Golf U.S. Women's Amateur Semifinal Site: The Golf Club of Tennessee -- Kingston Springs, Tenn.				Basket. Junior NBA World Championship	Basket. Junior NBA World Championship			
43	SPIKE	(43) *** Fast Five (2011, Action) Paul Walker, Dwayne Johnson, Vin Diesel.				I Am Paul Walker (N)			Fast Five (2011, Action) Paul Walker, Vin Diesel.					
44	COM	(44) (5:00) *** Step Brothers (08, Com) John C. Reilly, Will Ferrell. *** Step Brothers (2008, Comedy) John C. Reilly, Richard Jenkins, Will Ferrell.							*** Meet the Parents (2000, Comedy) Robert De Niro, Blythe Danner, Ben Stiller.					
45	HIST	(45) Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	(05) Pawn Stars	(35) Pawn Stars	(05) Pawn Stars	(35) Pawn Stars	
46	A&E	(46) (5:00) Live PD				Live PD (05) Live PD: Rewind		Live PD Live access inside the country's busiest police forces. (L) (N)						
47	TLC	(47) Say Yes to the Dress: Atlanta	Say Yes to the Dress: Atlanta	Say Yes to the Dress: Atlanta	Say Yes to the Dress: Atlanta	Say Yes Dress (N)	To Be Announced	Four Weddings (N)	(05) To Be Announced		(05) Say Yes Dress "It's Dani Day"			
48	DISC	(48) Misfit Garage				Street Outlaws		Street Outlaws	Street Outlaws		Street Outlaws			
49	NGEO	(49) Surviving Maximum Security				Southern Justice "Hillbilly Heroin"		Southern Justice "Bad Blood"	Southern Justice "Narco Knock Out"		Southern Justice "Hillbilly Heroin"			
50	TNT	(50) *** Rush Hour 2 (2001, Action) Chris Tucker, Zhang Ziyi, Jackie Chan.				*** Avengers: Age of Ultron (2015, Action) Scarlett Johansson, Chris Hemsworth, Robert Downey Jr..					Keanu (16, Com) Keegan-Michael Key.			
51	AMC	(51) (5:00) *** Lethal Weapon 4 (1998, Action) Danny Glover, Chris Rock, Mel Gibson.				*** xXx (2002, Action) Samuel L. Jackson, Martin Coakos, Vin Diesel.					XXX: State of the Union (05) Ice Cube.			
52	USA	(52) (5:25) *** Iron Man (08, Act) Gwyneth Paltrow, Jeff Bridges, Robert Downey Jr..				*** Iron Man 3 (2013, Action) Gwyneth Paltrow, Guy Pearce, Robert Downey Jr..					(55) The Longest Yard Adam Sandler.			
53	FOOD	(53) Chopped "Grill Masters: Battle Four"				Chopped "Chopped: Impossible, Part 1"		Chopped "Chopped: Impossible, Part 2"	Chopped "Chopped: Impossible, Part 3"		Chopped			
54	HGTV	(54) Caribbean Life	Caribbean Life	Caribbean Life	Caribbean Life	Fixer Upper		Fixer "Flip House to Family Project"	Mountain Life	Mountain Life	Renovation "A Family Affair" (N)			
56	FX	(56) (4:00) Sisters (15)	*** The Other Woman (2014, Comedy) Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, Leslie Mann, Cameron Diaz.			Fixer Upper		Fixer "Flip House to Family Project"	Rebel Wilson, Elizabeth Banks, Anna Kendrick.		Snowfall			
57	CNN	(57) History of Comedy "Carnal Knowledge"				History of Comedy "Sketch and Improv"		History of Comedy "Drawn to Be Funny"	History of Comedy "Gone Too Soon"		History of Comedy "Spark of Madness"		The History of Comedy "Politics Aside"	
58	FNC	(58) Justice With Judge Jeanine				The Greg Gutfeld Show		Justice With Judge Jeanine	The Greg Gutfeld Show		Watters World			
61	CNBC	(61) Undercover Boss "Associa"				Undercover Boss "ADT"		Undercover Boss "Phenix Salons, INC."	Boss "The Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf"		Undercover Boss "Associa"		Paid Program	
63	BRAV	(63) Movie	*** National Lampoon's Vacation (83) Chevy Chase.			*** National Lampoon's European Vacation (85) Chevy Chase.			*** National Lampoon's Vacation (83) Chevy Chase.					
64	TCM	(64) (5:00) *** The Pride of the Yankees (42) Gary Cooper. *** Sergeant York (1941, War) Walter Brennan, Joan Leslie, Gary Cooper.							*** The Story of Dr. Wassell (44, War) Laraine Day, Signe Hasso, Gary Cooper.					
65	SYFY	(65) Movie	*** The Cabin in the Woods (12) Chris Hemsworth, Kristen Connolly.			*** Dan Mads of Egypt (2016, Adventure) Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, Brenton Thwaites, Gerard Butler.					Futurama	Futurama		
162	RFD	(162) Opry Encore	Dailey and Vincent	Mollie B Polka Party		Larry's Country Diner	*** God Milla's	Country's Family Reunion	Hee Haw		Time Life Library			

SUNDAY EVENING													AUGUST 12	
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6 (N)		America's Funniest Home Videos	America's Funniest Home Videos	Celebrity Family Feud (N)		The \$100,000 Pyramid (N)		To Tell the Truth (N)		KATU News (N)	(35) Castle	
3	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News (N)		America's Funniest Home Videos	America's Funniest Home Videos	Celebrity Family Feud (N)		The \$100,000 Pyramid (N)		To Tell the Truth (N)		KOMO 4 News (N)	(35) Full Measure	
4	KING	(5) NBC News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	Little Big Shots "Little Miss Sunshine"	Little Big Shots "Little Miss Sunshine"	America's Got Talent "Judge Cuts Four"								