

# New Film Honors the Life of Harriet Tubman

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When one speaks of freedom fighters, Harriet Tubman's name should always be among the first – if not highlighted as a primary justice crusader. For it was on this date 169 years ago – Dec. 6, 1849 – that Tubman escaped slavery.

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Tubman became a leader in the abolitionist movement, and during the Civil War she served as a nurse and spy for the federal forces. Her historic accomplishments are being praised and remembered all over social media. “Every great dream begins with a dreamer,” Twitter user Nichole Baxter wrote, quoting Tubman. “Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience,

and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.” Henderson wrote on Twitter: “Both John Brown and Harriet Tubman ran into the same obstacle when trying to free slaves: Slaves that had been made docile to the point they were petrified to fight for their

own freedom.” Wrote another Twitter user, Ryan Royster: “Where are my Harriet Tubman \$20 bills? Happy freedom day to one of the country’s greatest heroes.” During President Barack Obama’s administration, the White House announced that beginning in 2020, the \$20 bill would feature Tubman. “Imagine a USA where the millions of people freed from slavery had actually been emancipated and not had to endure another 100 years of indentured labor and segregation. If people like Harriet Tubman had a political office and a voice in the restructuring of the country,” wrote another Twitter user, DeDe, who concluded with the hashtag “Shero.” Just last week, a film – slated for a 2019 release – wrapped that will highlight the life of Tubman, who was born into slavery.

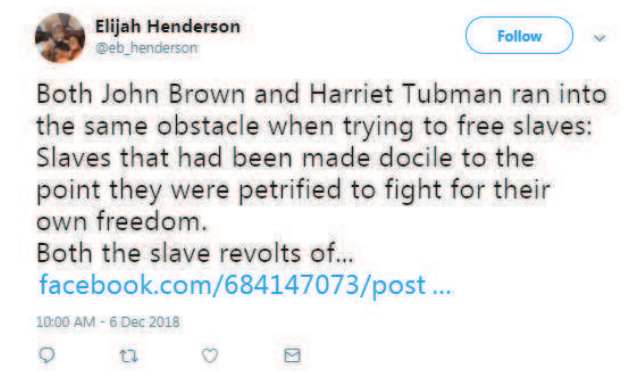
The cast of the film titled, “Harriet,” includes Tony and Grammy Award winner Cynthia Erivo, who plays Harriet Tubman. Tony and Grammy winner Leslie Odum, Jr., along with singer-songwriter Janelle Monae, portray characters in the film. Gregory Allen Howard crafted the story and will produce the film



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along alongside Daniela Taplin Lundberg and Debra Martin Chase. As noted in a television broadcast on WTVR in Virginia, the story of the segments, but her story has never been told in an exclusive feature-length project. Virginia Commonwealth University Afri-

made. “There is a growing tide of black representation on television and in movies,” I’Anson said. “Old myths about the unprofitability of black-led films are slowly falling away. Maybe a film about Harriet Tubman, one of the greatest heroes of black history, isn’t getting here too late.” “Maybe it’s right on time,” he added. Said George Mason University NAACP President Dyonah Contee, “If the story is portrayed accurately, viewers will learn more about the harsh conditions of slavery and gain an understanding of the strength and courage needed to do what Harriet did.”



abolitionist, who died in June 1913, has been told in academic textbooks, television series, and even YouTube history can American Studies professor Dr. Chioke I’Anson told WTVR that it’s absurd no feature film has previously been

## Widows cont’d from pg 6

overhaul failed to resonate with the American audience. Now, Academy Award-winning director Steve McQueen (for “12 Years a Slave”) has brought a much more faithful adaptation to the screen, although the setting has been shifted from London to Chicago. The crime caper revolves around a trio of widows who opt

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to follow in their late husbands’ felonious footsteps in the wake of a botched bank heist. McQueen assembled an A-list ensemble featuring Oscar-winners Viola Davis (for “Fences”) and Robert Duvall (for “Tender Mercies”), as well as nominees Liam Neeson (for “Schindler’s List”), Daniel Kaluuya (for “Get Out”) and Jacki Weaver (for “Silver Linings Playbook” and “Animal Kingdom”). The impressive cast also includes Colin Farrell and Michelle Rodriguez. Not long past the point of departure, veteran bank robber Harry Rawlings (Neeson) masterminds a robbery in which he and his partners perish. Trouble is, Harry died indebted to a couple of South Side mobsters (Kaluuya and Brian Tyree Henry) to the tune of \$2

million. Given a month to come up with cash (or else), Harry’s widow Veronica (Davis) hatches a plan to raise the money by burglarizing a safe in the mansion of a well-connected family headed by corrupt, Windy City Alderman Tom Mulligan (Duvall). To that end, she recruits a couple of the other grieving widows (Michelle Rodriguez and Elizabeth Debicki) and a getaway driver (Cynthia Erivo) with promises of a multimillion-dollar payday. The plot proceeds to thicken in convincing fashion while touching on such timely themes as politics, loyalty, race and class. Since it would be a crime in itself to spoil the ensuing developments even one iota, suffice to say McQueen slowly ratchets up the tension in a searing, multi-layered suspense thriller not to be missed. With the help of a delicious script expertly executed by a coterie of her talented co-stars, the incomparable Ms. Davis steals the show and delivers yet another Oscar-quality performance. Vintage Viola!

Excellent ★★★★★  
Rated R for violence, sexuality, nudity and pervasive profanity  
In English and Spanish with subtitles  
Running time: 129 minutes  
Production Studios: Regency Enterprises / Film4 / See-Saw Films / New Regency Pictures  
Studio: 20th Century Fox  
To see a trailer for Widows, visit: TheSkanner.com.

## FINAL WEEK!! - TICKETS ARE GOING FAST!

# BLACK NATIVITY

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