

GO! watch

MOVIES & SHOWTIMES

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Kick off Black History Month with biopics, documentaries about prominent Black figures

BY MAKENZIE WHITTLE • The Bulletin

Throughout the month of February, the listicles in the GO! Watch section will be filled with films written or directed by or heavily feature Black actors in lead roles. While some have probably already appeared in lists, and no doubt a few will make their way on to others, these stories should be looked at throughout the year and not just for one month.



Warner Bros. photos

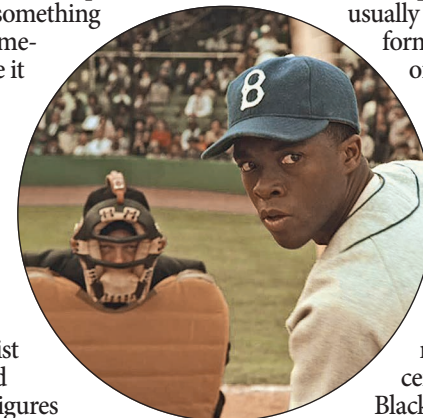
Denzel Washington stars in "Malcolm X" (1992).

BELOW: Chadwick Boseman in a scene from "42" (2013).

This is a cinema section that many white audiences have neglected to immerse themselves in either for lack of enthusiasm or simply lack of awareness. This reporter is no different, and it is something that I am consciously remedying to the point where it will no longer be a conscious effort. These are beautiful, important stories that deserve a wider audience recognition and luckily Hollywood is on a course to promote more films like these into more awareness. This week's list will focus on biopics and documentaries on real figures in Black history.

"42" (2013) — Chadwick Boseman could have appeared on this list three times because in his short career he played three greats in Black history including James Brown ("Get On Up") and Thurgood Marshall ("Marshall"). In "42" he takes the role of color line breaker Jackie Robinson as he is

recruited for the Brooklyn Dodgers by manager Branch Rickey (Harrison Ford). The film itself is sentimental and hits all those notes that biopics about Black people usually do but it's Boseman's performance that knocks it out of the park. Rent it on Amazon Prime, Google Play, iTunes, Vudu and YouTube.



"Hidden Figures" (2016) — While the film does have at least one scene of white saviorism (which never actually happened), the remainder of the film centers around the three Black women NASA mathematicians during the early years

of the U.S. space program. The three leads — Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer and Janelle Monae — capture the emotions of these three women beautifully. The overall film, while not entirely groundbreaking, still resonates by bringing attention to these

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