Filmmaker Spike Lee keynotes Black History Month at CSU

Revolutions, Reels & Rhythms-themed lecture series also spotlights

Feb. 7, 2012 — As part of the Revolutions, Reels & Rhythms Black History Month lecture series at Chicago State, filmmaker Spike Lee will deliver a keynote address at 6:30 p.m., Feb. 8 in the university's Jacoby Dickens Center gymnasium.

“The American Dream is alive and well, and Spike embodies everything that dream has to offer,” said Kwesi Ronald Harris, director of Chicago State’s African-American Male Resource Center, event host with Student Activities. “Spikes’s message of opportunity, historical context, social justice and his commitment to higher education is everything we’re embracing at CSU.”

During Lee’s two-hour talk, students will have an intimate discussion as the filmmaker fields questions about the power of Hollywood and authentic storytelling in advancing American ideals.

Lee founded the Brooklyn-based 40 Acres and a Mule Filmworks Brooklyn in 1986, after gaining critical acclaim with his first feature film, “She’s Gotta Have It.” His oeuvre includes “Inside Man,” “25th Hour,” Academy Award nominated “4 Little Girls,” “Malcolm ”X and ‘Do the Right Thing.” Lee recently featured “Red Hook Summer” at Sundance Film Festival. The film takes place in summertime Brooklyn where 13-year-old Atlanta-raised Flik (Jules Brown) spends time with his preacher-grandfather, Enoch, played by Clarke Peters.

Black History Month celebrations continue with the Ujamaa Market, offering afrocentric wares in the Student Union on Feb. 16-17. On Feb. 22, CSU features Chicago-based AfriCaribe, a nonprofit that preserves Puerto Rican and Caribbean culture through music, dance and theater. On Feb. 28, The Nielsen Company will host a consumer research and buying power seminar and game to help students understand marketing and demographic trends and how to analyze data.

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