

## Malcolm X (1992)

Written by Arnold Pearl & Spike Lee  
Directed by Spike Lee

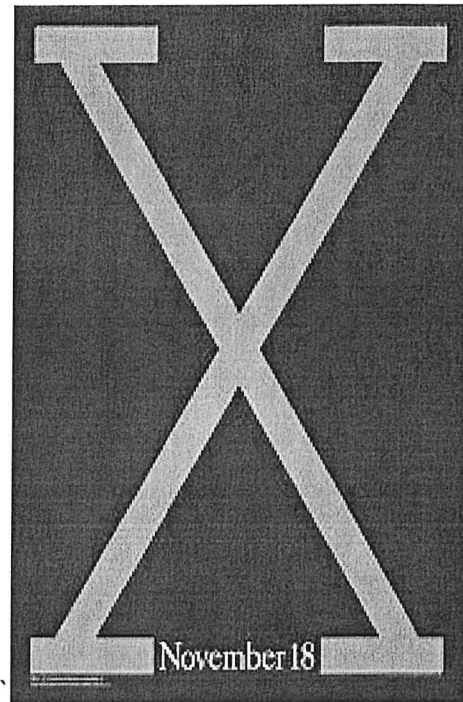
### Cast

Denzel Washington	Malcolm X
Angela Basset	Dr. Betty Shabazz
Albert Hall	Baines
Spike Lee	Shorty

### Awards

#### Oscar Nominations

Best Actor (Washington)  
Best Costume Design



### Plot Synopsis

Biography of Malcolm X, the famous African American leader. Born Malcolm Little, his father (a minister) was killed by the Ku Klux Klan. He became a gangster, and while in jail discovered the Nation of Islam writings of Elijah Muhammad. He preaches the teachings when let out of jail, but later on goes on a pilgrimage to the city of Mecca, there he converts to the original Islamic religion and becomes a Sunni Muslim. He changes his name to El-Hajj Malik Al-Shabazz and stops his anti-white teachings, as he realises the error of his mistakes. He is later on assassinated and dies a Muslim Martyr.

### Tidbits and Trivia

- The original director was going to be Norman Jewison but he had to withdraw from the project due to outside pressure demanding that the subject be made by a black filmmaker.
- It took almost 25 years to bring an adaptation Alex Haley's "The Autobiography of Malcolm X" to the big screen. Among the early screenwriters was James Baldwin.
- The film's 2nd unit filmed all the scenes at Mecca. Spike Lee did not accompany them as he is not a Muslim (only Muslims are allowed to enter the city of Mecca).
- The video you see at the opening speech, is the beating of 'Rodney King'. A taxi driver who became famous after his violent arrest by officers of the Los Angeles Police Department, and was videotaped by a bystander, George Holliday. The incident raised a public outcry among people who believed it was racially motivated.
- The first non-documentary production that was given permission to film in Mecca.
- Albert Hall would later play Elijah Muhammed in Michael Mann's film Ali.