

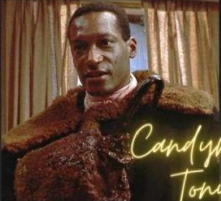
BLACK HISTORY month



“ Projects that feature Black actors and are created by Black People are so important because what we see in the media dictates how we think about the world. Representation is so important for Black Kids growing up. Amandla Stenberg



Set It Off
Queen Latifah, Jada Pinkett Smith, Verica A. Fox, & Kimberly Elise



Candyman, 1992.
Tony Todd



Scandal & HTGAWM
Shonda Rhimes



Love & Basketball



Waiting to Exhale, 1994- Whitney Houston, Angela Bassett, Loretta Devin, Lela Rochon



Girls Trip



Precious



The Best Man Sequal



Hidden Figures



MADEA AT TYLER PERRY



"BLACK CINDERELLA



FOR COLORED GIRLS



THE COLOR PURPLE



BLACK PANTHER



Madea Tyler Perry:

For as long as I can remember, Madea has always been something we've sat and watched in my family. I spent several days over at my Grandmother's house and she and my aunt will put on Tyler Perry plays and Movies. It certainly played an essential role in my life and was something familiar to the people in the community I grew up with. It allowed us to connect on different levels, from repeating funny things in the Madea movies to discussing our favorite ones. Often in my family we joked and made fun of each other using references created by Tyler Perry. It wasn't just the movies that Tyler Perry created using Madea, but it was the comedic tv series and plays that were also in almost every Black Person's home, especially at the height of BET(Black Entertainment Television). He opened up a lot of doors and connections by creating Madea. The first time I saw work done by Tyler Perry was the Big Happy Family play that my aunt turned on for us. Shortly after that, we watched the movie that was created based on that play. This was a common thing that Tyler Perry would do, even though they were similar storylines. They each had different roles and messages. Another thing I will say is that Tyler Perry was very good at using his work to show deeper messages and understanding, often during his plays he made it so real and he broke character because he was also having fun but because he wanted people to understand the message behind these plays and films that he makes.

Black Cinderella:

It's always great to see representations of people who look like me. I think everyone who has seen this movie, felt like they were a part of something that they were, for a very long time, discarded from. It's one of the best Black films to exist. We took an idea and made it our own and made it represent us. There are great people in this version of Cinderella who decided to partake to make this a film worth a watch. As a little girl, I was so excited that there was a Black

Princess when I watched this film; at the time I hadn't seen Princess Tiana, which only came out in 2009, while this live-action Cinderella came out in 1997, featuring stars such as Brandy, Whitney Houston, Whoopi Goldberg, and many more. I first watched this film in my great-grandmother's house, on a DVD player, many years ago. Over time, I know all the songs and I enjoy rewatching them over and over. It's a film that I wish people knew more about. There are still people who grew up without seeing someone on screen that looks like them, which means so many people in this world are missing that representation and inspiration that we all need in our lives, especially in this world for people of color.

For Colored Girls:

This film was one of the best heartbreaking, but captivating films I ever watched. Not only is it about representation, but there are several messages that this film conveys about being a Black woman in this society. The film was created based on a series of poems written by Ntozake Shange in 1997, "For colored girls who have considered suicide, when the rainbow is enuf," and just by the title there is a very important message and meaning behind the stories this poet/ author tells. It features several top Black actresses and actors, Janet Jackson, Whoopi Goldberg, Kerry Washington, Loretta Devlin, Kimberly Elise, Anika Noni Rose (who also plays Princess Tiana), Tessa Thompson, Phylicia Rashad, Macy Gray, Micheal Ealy, Hill Harper, and so forth. This movie presents a group of Black Women who live in the same Harlem apartment building and face personal crises, heartbreak, and so forth. The first time I watched this film as a young girl, it was one part that I understood which broke my heart, and there were parts I forgot. However, when I sat and watched this film it not only broke my heart with some of the scenes but it opened my eyes more to what was going on.

The Color Purple:

The Color Purple is by far one of the longest film adaptations. I think for a long time, I dreaded watching this movie because of how long it was. For anyone who's ever seen this movie, it's one of those films you have to watch more than once to understand. Though it has some moments that became culturally popular, it covers more themes about being a woman of color. It's one of the best Black films created. It covers the growth of the main character Celie, portrayed by Whoopi Goldberg, and the character development of all the characters she is surrounded by. It's one of those movies that are considered one you should have already watched. It's a movie meant to stir several emotions while watching. The main character goes through several traumatic events at such a young age from abuse from her dad, to the man she was sent off to, to not seeing her sister for a year, and so forth. While reading the book for English class, it helped me understand more about the film and why it was a trailblazer in the community I grew up in. The color purple is one of my favorite classic films created before I was born, there aren't many films like it now.

Black Panther:

Compared to the rest of those pieces of films I wrote about, this one is the newest and it had a worldwide impact when it first came out while I was in middle school. This film particularly impacted the younger generations who were seeing Chadwick Boseman had on to be one of the best superheroes and becoming the first Black Superhero to play an important role in the Marvel world. For weeks after the movie came out, all people were saying was “Wakanda Forever” and even though it was from a film in a made-up place, it made us feel connected not just to what was on screen but as a collective, it made us feel better about ourselves. The film made me very happy and pleased when I went to see it in the movies, and luckily I got to see it more than once. The Black Panther became a voice for many people and an inspiration for so

many young kids and it quickly became a cultural phenomenon, even for years after its initial release, leaving fans, including myself excited for the next installment of The Black Panther Franchise. Seeing how this film not only greatly impacted myself, and the people around me, but seeing how it impacted my little sister made it so much better.