

Spike Lee, Taye Diggs & More Attend Prince IMAX Screening For Sign O' The Times



Spike Lee, Don Lemon, and Taye Diggs were amongst the crowd that attended an IMAX screening of Prince's Sign O' The Times concert movie in New York Wednesday night. IMAX, Mercury Studios, FilmRise, and Paisley Park Studios hosted the event at the KMC Kips Bay 15 IMAX theatre in New York City. The evening started with attendees walking the purple carpet and standing in front of a floral arrangement and sharing their observations on Prince's legacy. Luann de Lesseps, Dianne Brill, Amir Arison, and Genevieve Gorder joined artists and musicians, including members of Interpol, Eugene Hutz (Gogo Bordello), Blu DeTiger, and Emmett Skye, along with designers and cultural figures in honoring Prince's artistry. DJs AKU (Florence & The Machine), The Muses, Rex DeTiger, and a surprise live tribute performance provided the entertainment while guests sipped on purple cocktails.

Sign O' The Times is one of the most important concert films, as it captured Prince at his height and was the companion film to an equally significant album. It was Prince's second time directing a film, having done so previously with *Under The Cherry Moon*. *Sign O' The Times* was praised by critics, unlike UTCM and despite it not doing so well at the box office, it has become an essential part of the Prince story and pop music. The IMAX version of the film will be available on streaming platforms and in theaters on August 29th.





Media Questions Of The Week

Why wasn't Spike Lee's *Highest 2 Lowest* promoted more?



How long will the Soul Train and BET Hip-Hop Awards shows be indefinitely suspended?

R.I.P. Bill Lee



Jazz musician and composer Bill Lee died on May 24th at age 94. Lee was a bass player known for scoring his son Spike Lee's first four films. Mr. Lee was a native of Snow Hill, Alabama and he eventually settled in the Fort Greene section of Brooklyn in 1959. He was one of many Black artists who made their home there and created a bohemian community. Lee accompanied several other artists including Bob Dylan, Aretha Franklin, Duke Ellington, Harry Belafonte, Arlo Guthrie, Odetta, Simon and Garfunkel and Tom Paxton. He was the founder and director of the seven-piece New York Bass Violin Choir, critically acclaimed for its performances of Lee's folk operas. He scored Spike Lee's *Mo' Better Blues*, *Do The Right Thing*, *School Daze*, and *She's Gotta Have It*. The latter exposed Brooklyn's Black bohemia to the world and Lee had an appearance giving his philosophy on Nola Darling's autonomy.

His soundtracks helped tell the story of the visuals and were essential to the movement and understanding of the films. *Do The Right Thing* is the only movie where he did not appear. Spike Lee and his father had a disagreement and stopped working together but reconnected on a family level years later.

Spike Lee Presents Nate Parker's New Film American Skin



Nate Parker returns with a new movie about the question of justice when the issue is police brutality. *American Skin* was inspired by the 2014 death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mississippi who was fatally shot by police officer Darren Wilson. Parker traveled to Ferguson and saw the protests of groups who were furious with the police and those that supported their unchallenged authority. The tension between the two made Parker realize a disconnect in understanding the role of citizenship, law enforcement and the responsibility to preserve life in American society.Â

His character is an Iraqi war veteran who witnesses his son and only child get killed by the police and goes on a vigilante type mission for justice.Â Parker, Vanessa Bell Calloway, Milauna Jackson and Omari Hardwick are members of

the cast. *American Skin* follows Parker's 2016 directorial debut *The Birth Of A Nation* where he played the late slave rebellion leader Nat Turner.Â

American Skin will be available on January 15th as a VOD feature.Â Â