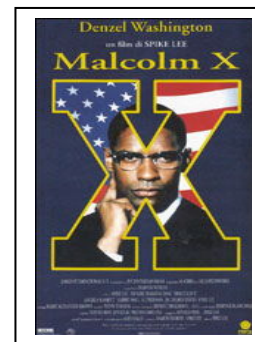


▣ **ABOUT THE MOVIE** ▣ (subtitled and reduced version, 112 min.)



TITLE	Malcom X
DIRECTOR	Spike Lee
YEAR AND COUNTRY	1992 USA
GENRE	Drama, Biography
ACTORS	Denzel Washington, Spike Lee, Angela Bassett, Albert Hall

PLOT

This film basically traces the life and times of Malcolm X (Malcolm Little), an angry Afro-American. Malcom's anger largely comes from his experience with the Ku Klux Klan during his childhood: his father was murdered by them. As a young man Malcom was a smart, focused student; however, when his favorite teacher told him that his dream of becoming a lawyer was unrealistic for a "nigger", Malcolm lost interest in school. He dropped out, spent some time in Boston, Massachusetts working various odd jobs, and then went to Harlem, New York where he began committing petty crimes and became involved with coordinating various narcotics, prostitution and gambling rings. Eventually he moved back to Boston where he was arrested and convicted of burglary charges in 1946.

He used this 7 year prison sentence to further his education and it was during this period that he became acquainted with the Nation of Islam and the teachings of Elijah Muhammad.

After leaving prison, Malcolm was appointed a minister and national spokesman for the Nation of Islam. He was a very popular, controversial spokesperson and very faithful to his belief in the Nation of Islam and in the person of Elijah Muhammad, which later led to conflict, great disappointment, and eventually his assassination by the Nation of Islam.

LANGUAGE

In the first half of the film a lot of non-standard English is spoken: a variety of English known as African American Vernacular English (AAVE); sometimes called Black English or Ebonics. Most of the nonstandard English used in this film is quite understandable given the diffusion of these varieties of English in the mass media.

In the second half of the film, when Malcolm X becomes a minister for the Nation of Islam, the language becomes more formal and standard.

VOCABULARY

Are you fixing to get your hair fried?: Are you going to get your curly hair straightened through artificial means?	Nigger: derogatory term for black person
Did you con me?: Did you cheat me?	Punk: badly behaved young man
Do you dig?: Do you understand?	The jig is up: The trick or plan has been discovered and is in the open.
Hustler: to sell or obtain by energetic and sometimes deceitful activity.	To frisk someone: to search for hidden weapons on the body of another person
I don't put out: I don't engage freely in sex.	To see the handwriting on the wall: to be able to foresee a future event
Is she hooking?: Is she a prostitute?	Wire your car: to put a detonator and explosives in an automobile (a bomb)
Like clockwork: punctual	You reap what you sow: You get what you deserve.