

# Black Panther is not your average superhero movie

Blockbuster gives inspiration to African American culture

by Millie Winter

The movie "Black Panther" successfully celebrates black culture through the representation of African American actors and actresses playing powerful roles.

Wakanda, the sci-fi society where most of the movie takes place, portrays different aspects of an African society. Different traditions, celebrations, and clothing are all portrayed to form a culture of power, strength, and intelligence.

In the eyes of the rest of the world, it is a third world country. In actuality, it is far more advanced both socially and technically than anywhere on earth.

The white characters in this movie are portrayed as either villains or outsiders who are just sidekicks. All roles of power belong to African Americans, especially the roles of women in the film.

The film takes on non-traditional roles of women in film. Their strength is used as defense to their society and culture. In Wakanda, there is no difference between male power and female power. The Black Panther himself is constantly being guided by a group of warrior women to ensure



Lupita Nyong'o, Chadwick Boseman, and Danai Gurira shine as the newest icons to join Marvel family | Disney

his safety.

Shuri, the Black Panther's sister, is in charge of all the technological advances. Commonly, this role is played by men, but Letitia Wright uses her intelligence to show the strength of women.

From its portrayal in the movie, there is no poverty and only peaceful tribes in Wakanda. While watching, I saw that the society was able to work every situation out by coming together as one. When making T'Challa the official king of Wakanda, all the different tribes

came together and their voices were equally important.

The film brings about different forms of power through the icon of the Black Panther. To really be successful as the king of Wakanda, you need to understand the society as a whole and how it functions as one.

T'Challa, the original Black Panther, is able to use his power to represent his culture proudly and save those in need.

Wakanda has a primary focus on doing what is best and having a leader/king who supports the needs

of all in the society. Killmonger, the other Black Panther who overtook T'Challa, is an example of corrupt power. His inability to reach out and understand the needs of everyone in his society showed that he was not fit to lead them.

Another powerful statement came from Killmonger no longer being the Black Panther. While watching, I was able to see the society of Wakanda go through struggles to discover what was best for the society as a whole. This message strongly supported the culture of Wakanda.

But it is not only the men who are doing the saving. Nakia, another powerful figure to the society, is on a mission to protect African women from being kidnapped from warlords. African Americans are portrayed as the solutions to the problems instead of the villains or the bad guys.

There are many times during the movie where the Black Panther looks to the women for guidance, and they recognize that they know more than themselves in certain situations.

The confidence the female characters bring to the film shows the power behind their culture. Their confidence is because of the success of their culture. The equal rights given to women allows for Wakanda to grow with intelligence and strength.

The usual "James Bond" type character is a white male, but "Black Panther" creates a similar powerful character as an African American.

T'Challa, the original black panther, starts by protecting the legacy of Africans in Wakanda. But, after being challenged he is insightful enough to see the truth that he needs to re-establish a balance in the world.

The film portrays powerful and successful images of African Americans. It is an image that society needs to see. I thought it was a beautiful way to represent the strength behind the culture while providing a thoughtful plot as well.

## Oscars honor universal language of film



Frances McDormand unites female actresses in her 'Best Actress' speech | AP Clooney.

The 90th anniversary a mix of politics and theatrics

by Eli Lieberman

The 90th anniversary of the Academy Awards continued its legacy of strong political movements, but had a more positive approach and attitude towards them than in previous years.

From the start, Jimmy Kimmel addressed the issue of sexual harassment and assault that Hollywood has not taken seriously.

Jokingly Kimmel noted how well respected "Oscar" was, motioning towards the life size trophy on stage. Kimmel pointed out how he kept his hands where everyone could see them, and more importantly, his lack of male genitalia.

Throughout the night, the diversity of Hollywood was celebrated, instead of the usual anger at the lack of representation. That is not to say that many groups don't have a right to be angry, but at some point it is nice to look at the progress that has been made, and the great pioneers in the movie industry.

Both the stage and the audience seemed to lack the household names we're used to such as Ben Affleck, Leonardo DiCaprio and George

Instead, the headlines were filled with stories like Frances McDormand's powerful acceptance speech for her leading actress role as Mildred Hayes in "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri."

McDormand set down her Oscar and requested all the women nominated for an award to get up out of their seats. As they rose, some more reluctantly than others, they received an ovation from the crowd.

"We all have stories we need to tell and projects we need financed," McDormand said, sparking an even larger round of applause.

She finished her speech with a phrase unfamiliar to most watching at home. "I have two words for you: inclusion rider," she said.

For those who did not immediately ask Siri, "What's an inclusion rider?," I can help you out. An inclusion rider is a clause that an actor can put in their contract before signing, ensuring that a certain level of diversity is met for both the cast and the behind the scenes workers.

The premise of the clause is to make the cast reflect the reality of the demographics of the world. In practice an inclusion rider would create an accurate depiction of the amount of women, LGBT, racial minorities, religious minorities, and other groups often overlooked.

This level representation seemed

to be met, if not exceeded, by the choice of presenters and performers.

Exciting renditions of nominated songs were given by a racially diverse group of singers. R&B singer Andra Day shared the stage with Chicago rapper, Common, for a performance of the "Stand Up For Something" from the film "Marshall," which was especially meaningful this night.

Keala Settle, known for her impressive Broadway career, sang "This is Me" from "The Greatest Showman," and Mary J. Blige performed the soulful "Mighty River" written for the movie "Mudbound."

Arguably the best song of the night was the emotional "Remember Me," from Pixar's "Coco," by multiple artists of Latin decent.

"Coco" also took home the award for best animated film. Unlike the majority of Pixar films that aim to be as universal as possible and have no determinable setting, "Coco" drew crowds by going the opposite direction.

The movie is filled with the culture of Mexico and is undeniably different from its competition. It's authenticity and representation of faces not usually depicted in popular animated films is what led to its success.

Taking another step forward for groups typically underrepresented in Hollywood, Daniella Vega became the first openly trans actress to present an award. Her movie, "A Fantastic Woman," also won the award for best foreign film.

Jordan Peele, known for his comedy sketch group "Key and Peele," won best director for his horror-thriller "Get Out," which was not only a pop culture phenomena but also a movie about racism, capturing the nation's attention.

Not in conjunction with the rest of the night's tone, women nominees still fared poorly in categories with both genders. The female dominated film "Lady Bird" did not win any of the five categories it was nominated for, despite holding a perfect 100% rating in Rotten Tomatoes.

## DECA: Strictly business



Anna Shah, Olivia Sergot, and Emma Pofcher having fun at state | Bollweg

Students reflect on club after impressive state performance

by Layla Saqibuddin

On the weekend of Feb. 24, 40 of New Trier's DECA team members competed at the State Career Development Conference in Rosemont, IL.

Sophomore Anna Shah took first place in Apparel & Accessories. Seniors Alex Boudos and Quinn Sheehan won first place in Sports & Entertainment Marketing. Shah, junior Beth Canel, and senior Lisa Gong won second place in Community Service Project. Junior Ethan Rosen won second place in Entrepreneurship Innovation Plan.

There are four different types of competitions at conferences: role plays, virtual games, written project, and video projects.

New Trier DECA does various activities, from hosting guest speakers to preparing for competitions and playing games. This year, club members had the opportunity to speak with the vice president of Marketing of NBC Sports.

Bob Bollweg, a faculty sponsor for DECA, commended the over one hundred student members. Specifically, the students on the leadership council set agendas for meetings and work with other members. "Our leadership council has done a really good job of welcoming students. Gabe Wineman, who is president, deserves

recognition."

Bollweg, who has sponsored the club for eight years, has led many students to feel the same passion for DECA and business.

Beyond business, students have the opportunity to hone other skills through DECA. "I love competing and I am interested in the business experience. But people don't just participate in DECA for business.

This club gives you vital public-speaking skills and helps you prepare for interviews in the real world," said Shah.

"I love the exchange of ideas as my friends and I discuss how we approached different problems. The creative aspect is so cool and I feel so passionate and excited when I get to explain my ideas," said Shah.

"In DECA, I learned how to work in a timed situation. This helps in the future because when people start interviewing you are ready to answer on the spot," said junior John Keenan.

"I have [learned] [everything from] eye contact [to] good handshake. You start to feel more confident," said junior Will Richards.

Many more male students than female students participate in DECA. "Our club is disproportionately male, which is the case for the business field in general. When female students medal, we are able to face adversity and inspire females interested in business," said Canel.

Ultimately, said Canel, "DECA is not just a club, but a community. I have gained long lasting friendships and knowledge from my fellow DECA members."