

## Feature Films Directed by African American Women

### Historical Timeline of Feature Films Directed by African American Women

[1922-1961](#) | [1981-82](#) | [1989](#) | [1990](#) | [1991](#) | [1992](#) | [1993](#) | [1994](#) | [1995](#) | [1996](#)  
[1997](#) | [1998](#) | [1999](#) | [2000](#) | [2001](#) | [2002](#) | [2003](#) | [2004](#) | [2005](#) | [2006](#) | [2007](#)

NOTE: Films marked with\* were directed in America by women of African descent.

Timeline Compiled by Yvonne Welbon

1922-1961

1922

A Woman's Error - Directed by Tressie Souders

Considered the first film to be directed by a black woman in the United States.

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1923

Flames of Wrath - Directed by Maria P. Williams

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1981-1982

1981

Othello - Directed by Liz White

The film was shot between 1962 and 1966, but it wasn't completed and screened until 1980.

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1981

Will - Directed by Jessie Maple

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1982

Losing Ground - Directed by Kathleen Collins Prettyman

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1989

Twice as Nice - Directed by Jessie Maple

The first African American woman to direct two feature films.

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Leola: Love Your Mama - Directed by Ruby Oliver

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From Rags to Reality - Directed by Joy Shannon/Joy S'hani Ache

The first feature by an African American woman to receive a home video release. The name of the film was changed to Uptown Angel for the video release.

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A Dry White Season - Directed by Euzhan Palcy

The French director from Martinique became the first women of African descent to direct a feature film produced by a major Hollywood studio.

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1990

Trouble I've Seen - Directed by Heather Foxworth, M.D.

The Three Mustakels - Directed by Romell Foster-Owens

1991

Daughters of the Dust - Directed by Julie Dash

The first feature directed by an African American woman to receive national theatrical distribution.

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1992

Alma's Rainbow - Directed by Ayoka Chenzira

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Kiss Grandmama Goodbye - Directed by Debra Robinson

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1993

Just Another Girl on the IRT - Directed by Leslie Harris

Distributed by Miramax it is the first feature by an African American woman to be distributed by a major theatrical distributor.

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The Gifted - Directed by Audrey Lewis

The first sci-fi feature by an African American woman.

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1994

I Like It Like That - Directed by Darnell Martin

The first African American woman to direct a feature film produced by a major Hollywood studio.

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1995

Out of Sync - Directed by Debbie Allen

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Naked Acts - Directed by Bridgett Davis

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The Promised Land - Directed by Monika Harris

Medipaid Queens - Directed by Karen Stone, M.D.

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1996

Girlfriends - Directed by Marlies Carruth

The Watermelon Woman - Directed by Cheryl Dunye

The first feature film directed by an "out" African American lesbian about African American lesbians.

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1997



Eve's Bayou - Directed by Kasi Lemmons

The top grossing independent film of 1997.

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Black & White & Red All Over

Directed by DeMane Davis (and Khari Streeter)

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1998

Down in the Delta - Directed by Maya Angelou

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Let's Talk About Sex - Directed by Troy Beyer

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Nandi - Directed by Peggy Hayes

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State of Mind - Directed by Yvette Plummer

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Ride - Directed by Millicent Shelton

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Drylongso (Ordinary) - Directed by Cauleen Smith

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Mixing Nia - Directed by Alison Swan

The Bermuda native's first feature, is shot in New York city.

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1999

Compensation - Directed by Zeinabu irene Davis

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Del Otro Lado (The Other Side) - Directed by C.A. Griffith

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2000

Gotta Git My Hair Did - Directed by Coquie Hughes

[www.acoquiehughesfilm.com](http://www.acoquiehughesfilm.com)

Love and Basketball - Directed by Gina Prince-Bythewood

The top grossing film directed by an African American woman director. (\$25 million).

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2001

30 Years to Life - Directed by Vanessa Middleton

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All About You - Directed by Christine Swanson

All that Jazzin - Directed by Joy S'hani Ache

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The Caveman's Valentine - Directed by Kasi Lemmons

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Hell's Most Wanted - Directed by Coquie Hughes

[www.acoquiehughesfilm.com](http://www.acoquiehughesfilm.com)

Lift - Directed by DeMane Davis (and Khari Streeter)

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Prison Song - Directed by Darnell Martin

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The Right Girl - Directed by Theresa Brown

Stranger Inside - Directed by Cheryl Dunye

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Sweetiecakes - Directed by Geretta/Geretta

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2002

Civil Brand - Directed by Neema Barnette

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Kali's Vibe - Directed by Shari Carpenter

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If I Wuz Yo Gyrl - Directed by Coquie Hughes



First African American woman to direct three independent feature films.

2003

Love Don't Cost A Thing - Directed by Troy Beyer

My Baby's Daddy - Directed by Cheryl Dunye

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2004

Black Aura on an Angel - Directed by Faith Trimel

Daughters of the Concrete - Directed by Coquie Hughes

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2005

D.E.B.S. - Directed by Angela Robinson

Herbie Fully Loaded - Directed by Angela Robinson

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2006

Phat Girlz - Directed by Nnegest Likke

Reunion - Directed by Shelia Norman

Something New - Directed by Sanaa Hamri

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2007

Clarksdale - Directed by Christine Swanson

If I'd Known I was a Genius - Directed by Dominique Wirschafter

Talk to Me - Directed by Kasi Lemmons

The Inevitable Undoing of Jay Brooks - Directed by Jennifer Sharp

Whitepaddy - Directed by Geretta/Geretta

Within - Directed by Hanellee Culpepper

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Filmography links and data courtesy of The Internet Movie Database  
The author regrets any omissions or errors.

Please send corrections and updates to: [info@sistersincinema.com](mailto:info@sistersincinema.com)

Also see the African American Lesbian Produced Film, Video, and Multimedia Listing,  
compiled alphabetically by title by Yvonne Welbon

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