

Boyz n the Hood

Director: John Singleton. USA. 1991. 112 min. (15)
Ice Cube, Cuba Gooding Jr, Morris Chestnut,
Laurence Fishburne, Angela Bassett



WFC celebrates Black History Month with the iconic debut of John Singleton, who died in April age 51. A 22-year old screenwriting graduate when he started making the film (the screenplay was based on his thesis) he was the first African-American filmmaker, and remains the youngest person ever, nominated for a Best Director Oscar. Singleton grew up in South Central LA, the setting of *Boyz* (its characters were inspired by his family and friends) and

he insisted on directing his own screenplay. He observed later *"I wasn't going to have someone from Idaho or Encino direct this movie"*, and that he'd been surprised a film made for a core Black audience had crossed over and achieved critical acclaim. Singleton made several more movies and produced previous WFC screening *Hustle & Flow*.

Boyz stars N.W.A. rapper Ice Cube in his movie debut - the role of Doughboy was written for him and his 'How to Survive in South Central' provides a visceral anthem. It also launched the careers of future Oscar winners Cuba Gooding Jr and Regina King, and Oscar nominee Angela Bassett.

Film journalist, programmer & video essayist Leigh Singer who has written about *Boyz* for 'Sight & Sound' magazine joins us for a post-screening Q&A.

"Not simply a brilliant directorial debut, but an American film of enormous importance." Roger Ebert

"An unforgettable cinematic moment ... the enduring role he played, simply by bringing the truth of his community to a wider world." Ann Hornaday, *Washington Post*

2 Oscar noms (Best Director & Original Screenplay); winner Best New Director NY Critics Circle & New Generation Award LA Critics Circle; preserved in National Film Registry.

Tear between the dotted lines below to show many stars you give the film, & hand in. Please write any comments on the back of this slip. You can also comment via social media (FB, Insta @wimbledonfilm, Twitter @wfc screenings); or by sending a review for our website blog to info@wimbledonfilmclub.com.

