

# Entertainment

## Spike Lee did 'do the right thing'

By DIAHANN NADEAU  
Herald Special

'Do the Right Thing, Spike Lee's much acclaimed film about race relations and the tensions that lead to race riots, is out on video. This is an unusual, interesting, and sometimes frightening movie; it is both funny and searingly serious, and certainly one of the most relevant films made in 1989.

Danny Aiello stars as Sal, the Italian-American owner of a pizzeria in the mostly black area of Bedford-Stuyvesant of New York City. He is helped by his two sons, Vito, a nice kid, and Pino, a rabid racist who wants to get out of the neighborhood. Sal has been there 25 years and has no desire to leave. He employs a black kid, Mookie (Spike Lee), to deliver pizzas.

It is the hottest day of the year in New York, and we follow the owners and customers of Sal's Pizzeria over a very dramatic 24-hour period. Tensions mount with the heat, and incident after incident causes the blacks to resent the whites, while the whites seem to go out of their way to insult the blacks. Although there is a great deal of humor, Lee is building the suspense, the anger, the hate - until a broken radio sets off a riot that leaves a black kid dead and Sal's Pizzeria looted and torched.

The presentation of this movie reflects Lee's position as a Hollywood outsider and political radical. He uses an observant DJ (at radio We Love) to pass comments on the events going on in the block. Rap music is used extensively, and sometimes the accents, native New York, are very difficult to follow. Mookie is both hero and villain, and only Ossie Davis' character, "The Mayor," is truly heroic. He is the one who says peo-

ple should "do the right thing," but no one listens to him. And in the end, all the wrong things have been done.

This is a unique film, disturbing and humorous, and deserves the praise it has received. But to most of the citizens of Halton, this will seem an exotic, terrible world, one we have difficulty believing really does exist. Unfortunately it does, and Lee brings it into our living rooms with tremendous force.

This video was supplied through the courtesy of Country Video.

## Hawkins backstage act is best

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the ladies, telling one woman that she was "enough to make a young man groan and cause an old man pain." "Why honey, I'll make love to you so many different ways, you're bound to like one of them." Drinks flowed as liberally as the flattery, and the dressing room seemed like the most exciting and interesting place in the world.

In truth though, Ronnie was anxious to go home to his wife Wanda, who'd just been through an operation. Although he still insists that "I'm doing things now Caligula would be ashamed of," Sunday night was not a Roman orgy. (Although some of his coterie might have wished for it.)

Asked if he had any plans to retire, he said "If I don't hit the big time in the next 20 or 30 years I'm going to quit." The "big time" has always just been out of reach for Hawkins, but that seems to suit

him. This way he can be himself, play his music, and not make the kind of compromises most people make to become stars. The one thing he does intend to quit is smoking, which he took up at the age of 42, when he was trying to eat less. However, he didn't lose the weight and instead ended up with a habit he considers foul. This doesn't sound like the Weight Watchers program!

Hawkins will be signing autographs at the RV show on Jan. 27, and will appear on the Variety Club Telethon on Feb. 4. He plays regularly at the Deer Park Inn in Stouffville, and has started to play cruise ships, which seems to suit him quite well. Hopefully the

Legend will return to Halton in the near future, and more people will get a chance to catch the original party animal, good time guy, and one of the very few genuine rock and rollers left.

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