

# Amerika-Haus-**B**ibliothek Schülervortrag

## „On How to *Do the Right Thing*: African-American Film in the 20th Century“

Speaker: Dr. Kerstin Schmidt, Amerika-Institut, LMU München

This lecture is an introduction to African-American film in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. While the focus is placed on the so-called blaxploitation movies of the 1970s, I will also look at earlier films that critically deal with the situation of African-Americans in dominant U.S. society and present more recent work by contemporary African-American filmmakers. Among other topics, my discussion centers around issues of representation and ideology, public space and ghettoization, race/racism, Black feminism, and the African-American experience in American culture. Films to be covered range from blaxploitation movies such as *Shaft* (1971) and Melvin Van Peebles' *Sweet Sweetback Baadasssss Song* (1971) to more recent works by contemporary African-American directors, e.g. Julie Dash's *Daughters of the Dust* (1991) or John Singleton's *Boyz n the Hood* (1991). An emphasis is placed on the work of director, writer, and producer Spike Lee, e.g. *She's Gotta Have It* (1986), *Jungle Fever* (1991), *Malcolm X* (1992), and, particularly, *Do the Right Thing* (1989).

**Registration for students of the "Gymnasiale Oberstufe" and teachers:**

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