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NEWS RELEASE

AWARD-WINNING FILM DIRECTOR SPIKE LEE CLOSES OUT UD'S DIVERSITY LECTURE SERIES FEB. 18 AT SCHUSTER CENTER

DAYTON, Ohio — Award-winning film director Spike Lee will explore "The World Through My Lens" in a **7:30 p.m. talk on Feb. 18** at the Schuster Center. The talk closes out the University of Dayton's 2007-2008 Diversity Lecture Series and is part of the Victoria Theatre Association's African-American Arts Festival.

The African-American Arts Festival continues throughout the month of February and includes the fourth annual *Visual Voices* art exhibit in the Wintergarden of the Schuster Center.

As a writer-director, actor, producer, author and philanthropist, Spike Lee has revolutionized the role of black talent in cinema. Widely regarded as today's premier African-American filmmaker, Lee is a forerunner in the do-it-yourself school of independent film.

Recent critical and box office successes have included such films as *The 25th Hour*, *The Original Kings of Comedy*, *Bamboozled* and *Summer of Sam*.

Lee's films *Girl 6*, *Get on The Bus*, *Do The Right Thing* and *Clockers* display his ability to showcase outspoken and provocative socio-political critiques that challenge cultural assumptions — not only about race but also class and gender identity.

Lee has received countless award nominations for his film work since the 1980s. His recent awards include a 2007 Emmy Award for Exceptional Merit in Nonfiction Filmmaking for his film *When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts* about the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. His 2006 film *Inside Man* garnered him a 2007 NAACP Image Award for directing and a 2006 Black Movie Award for directing. He was honored with the Innovator Award at the 2007 American Black Film Festival.

A question-and-answer session will follow Lee's talk.

Tickets for the general public start at \$15 and may be purchased at the Schuster Center box office or at 937-228-3630 or toll free 888-228-3630. Box office hours are Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Saturday, noon - 4 p.m., and two hours before each performance. Tickets also may

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be purchased online at www.ticketcenterstage.com.

Lee is part of an all-star line-up of acclaimed artists and journalists who have tackled "The Responsibility of Media in a Global Society" during the University of Dayton's 2007-2008 Diversity Lecture Series.

The University of Dayton's Diversity Lecture Series is part of a larger strategic plan to increase inclusion and diversity on campus and prepare students, faculty, staff and the Dayton community for success in a global society. Past speakers have included Andrew Young, Coretta Scott King, Clarence Page, Nikki Giovanni, Azar Nafisi, Johnnetta B. Cole, Juan Williams and Kirk Franklin.

The Diversity Lecture Series is co-sponsored by the offices of the president and provost, with the support of such community partners as The National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ); Dayton Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; United Way of the Greater Dayton Area; Victoria Theatre Association; Markey's Audio Visual; Ross Buick-GMC-Hummer; RTA; *Dayton Daily News*; WDTN-TV; and WDAO-1210 AM.