

# For many, Black Panther movie isn't just a movie; it's a symbol of change



This image released by Disney and Marvel Studios' shows Chadwick Boseman in a scene from "Black Panther," in theaters on Feb. 16, 2018. (Marvel Studios/Disney via AP)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Marvel's earth. In the new movie, T'Challa, the Black Panther's real name, must battle long-time adversaries with the aide of his all-female bodyguards and a CIA agent to maintain control of his country and prevent a world war.

Directed by Ryan Coogler, it also has an all-star cast including Angela Bassett, Lupita Nyong'o, Michael B. Jordan, Forest Whitaker, Danai Gurira, Sterling K. Brown and more.

For many people, the Black Panther movie isn't just a movie; it's a symbol of change.

Groups like MALIK Fraternity Inc., the first collegiate fraternity founded on the concept of African fraternalism, in Charlotte, North Carolina and the Intentional Community Building Collective and Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle in Baltimore, are assembling discussion panels on the movie's themes.

"Black Panther' is just going to be really special. ... I don't plug into film anticipation. But I can feel it. A lot of my friends have asked me to go to the premiere! Everyone in my network is excited about it, and you can feel it when they're not," said Daniel Kaluuya, the "Get Out" star who also is featured in "Black Panther," told The Associated Press recently.

The Internet explodes each time a new trailer,

poster or piece of artwork debuts from the movie, sparking hashtags like #BlackPantherSoLit and #WelcometoWakanda. Twitter declared that Black Panther was one of the most tweeted-about movies of 2017, and the only movie on the list that hadn't premiered yet.

"Do we really have to wait until February!" lamented Elwood L. Robinson, chancellor of Winston-Salem State University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, on Twitter while sporting a Black Panther t-shirt.

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Created by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby, the minds behind Spider-Man, the Fantastic Four and other Marvel comics, the Black Panther holds a unique position in comic book history. While not the first black comic book hero — the first Black character to headline his own comic book was Dell Comics' Western hero and gun-fighter Lobo in 1965 — the Black Panther is considered the first Black superhero, introduced as a supporting character in Fantastic Four in 1966 and later featured

in his own book.

There has been a renaissance with black superheroes on television as well. "Black Lightning" debuts on the CW on January 16 featuring an educator who gains electrical powers and becomes a superhero. "Luke Cage," a television show about a former convict with superhuman strength and unbreakable skin, debuted on Netflix in 2016 and will begin a second season later in the year.

Cage debuted in a self-titled comic book "Luke Cage, Hero for Hire" in 1972 with an exaggerated Afro and a catchphrase "Sweet Christmas!" He was followed by Black Lightning in a DC comic book in 1977.

There have been other Black superhero movies — Wesley Snipes starred as the vampire slayer Blade in one of the first Marvel movies, and Robert Townsend starred in a comedic parody of superheroes in "Meteor Man" — but their movies did not bring out the enthusiasm that Black Panther is seeing.

"What is significant now, however, is that this age of convergence of film franchises with social media, a Black superhero movie with an almost all-Black cast conveys power, that we have arrived. It's evolution," said Christopher Chambers, a Georgetown University media studies professor.



This image released by Disney and Marvel Studios' shows Lupita Nyong'o, from left, Chadwick Boseman and Danai Gurira in a scene from "Black Panther," in theaters on Feb. 16, 2018. (Matt Kennedy/Marvel Studios/Disney via AP)

## Ava DuVernay, 'Get Out' to be Specially Honored at Producers Guild Awards

by: The Associated Press



LEFT - Ava DuVernay arrives at the 15th annual Hammer Museum Gala in the Garden in Los Angeles. (Photo by Jordan Strauss/Invision/AP, File). RIGHT - Image released by Universal Pictures shows Daniel Kaluuya in a scene from, "Get Out." The Producers Guild of America says it has chosen the horror film and producer-screenwriter-director Ava DuVernay for special honors. "Get Out," co-produced by Jordan Peele, was picked for the guild's Stanley Kramer Award. It's also among 11 nominees for the top film category. The guild will hold its annual ceremony Jan. 20, 2018, in Los Angeles. (Universal Pictures via AP)

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — The horror film "Get Out" and industry multitasker Ava DuVernay will receive special honors at the Producers Guild of America awards, the group announced Friday.

The movie co-produced by Jordan Peele is also among 11 film nominees. It was picked for the guild's Stanley Kramer Award. DuVernay, a producer, director and screenwriter, will receive the Visionary Award, according to a guild statement.

Other nominees for the top film producer category: "The Big Sick"; "Call Me by Your Name"; "Dunkirk"; "I, Tonya"; "Lady Bird"; "Molly's Game"; "The Post"; "The Shape of Water"; "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri"; and "Wonder Woman."

Nominees for dramatic TV series are "Big Little Lies," Season 1; "The Crown," Season 2; "Game of Thrones," Season 7; "The Handmaid's Tale," Season 1; and "Stranger Things," Season 2.

Animated film nominees are: "The Boss Baby"; "Coco"; "Despicable Me 3"; "Ferdinand"; and "The Lego Batman Movie."

In the TV comedy series category, nominees are: "Curb Your Enthusiasm," Season 9; "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel," Season 1; "Master of None," Season 2; "Silicon Valley," Season 4; and "Veep," Season 6.

The awards ceremony will be held Jan. 20 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.

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