



Film Review

by Stephen Tate

BLACKkKLANSMAN

This story based on fact is set in the early 1970s when the struggle for civil rights raged in the USA. Ron Stallworth (played by John David Washington) is the first African-American detective appointed into the Colorado Springs Police Department. His arrival is greeted with scepticism and open hostility by the department's rank and file. Undaunted, he resolves to make a name for himself and a difference in his community by bravely setting out on a dangerous mission to infiltrate and expose the activities of the local Ku Klux Klan.

Posing as a racist extremist, Stallworth contacts the group by phone and soon finds himself invited into its inner circle. He even cultivates a relationship with the Klan's Grand Wizard, David Duke (played by Topher Grace), who praises Ron's commitment to the advancement of White America. As the undercover investigation grows more complex and dangerous it becomes a problem for him to physically meet the members and leaders of the group, exposing his colour and race.



His white colleague, Flip Zimmerman (Adam Driver), agrees to pose as Ron in face-to-face meetings with members of the hate group. Stallworth and Zimmerman team up to stop and to frustrate the organisation's intention to falsely anitise its violent rhetoric and appeal to the mainstream community, gaining acceptance and increased membership. The duo's activities lead to the exposure and stopping of a deadly plot by the group to attack Black Activists.

This is a humorous and engaging satire that exposes various aspects of racial hatred and how absurd, but dangerous, such beliefs are.

Universal Sony Pictures Home Entertainment Australia, [2018]

Directed by Spike Lee (R)

<http://www.focusfeatures.com/blackklansman>

