

# MOVIES THAT MATTER

## FC SCREENINGS BLOG

## THE BUTLER

Posted by Karen Severns , Thursday, February 06, 2014

### THE BUTLER

大統領の執事の涙

February 6, 2014

Q&A guest: Director Lee Daniels



The FCCJ is home to Japan's only ongoing (free!) film series with English subtitles and filmmaker Q&A sessions.



Lee Daniels

Lee Daniels' award-winning film uses the real-life story of a White House butler to trace the dramatic civil rights struggles that ultimately made it possible for an African American to rise to the highest position in America, with the election of Barack Obama in 2008. *The Butler* follows Cecil Gaines (Forest Whitaker) as he serves during seven presidential administrations between 1957 and 1986. At the White House, he becomes an eyewitness to history and the inner workings of the Oval Office as the civil rights movement unfolds. He is the perfect butler, but his commitment to his First Family fosters tensions at home, alienating his loving wife Gloria (Oprah Winfrey) and creating conflict with his son, who joins the Freedom Riders movement and endangers his father's position.

#### Butler QA

With an extraordinary lead performance by Oscar winner Whitaker and a star-laden ensemble cast, this epic drama guides us through political upheavals and the growth of a nation - but ultimately, it is a story about the resilience of one man, and the power of family.

Daniels, only the second African American to be nominated for an Academy Award for Directing (for 2009's *Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire*), was an enormously candid and charming Q&A guest, with much to say about growing up when there were still drinking fountains "For Coloreds Only," about the state of race relations in America, and about his reasons for making the unabashedly commercial *The Butler* -- much of his motivation had to do with being a father himself, and wanting his children to understand the giants whose shoulders they are standing upon.

— Photos by Koichi Mori except where noted.



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## Media Coverage

- Lee Daniels on Racism and THE BUTLER
  - The White House Was "A Plantation"
  - 「大統領の執事の涙」、低予算でもオスカー俳優勢ぞろい
  - 『大統領の執事の涙』を外国特派員協会で語る
  - 特派員協会会見レポート
  - 使用人だった父母やその前の代へのオマージュ
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