[Martin Luther King Jr.](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0654648/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): Those who have gone before us say "no more"! No more!

[church congregation repeats in unison]

[Martin Luther King Jr.](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0654648/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): NO MORE!

[church congregation again repeats him]

[Martin Luther King Jr.](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0654648/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): That means protest! That means march! That means disturb the peace! That means jail! That means risk! That is hard!

[church congregation applauds]

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[Martin Luther King Jr.](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0654648/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): [somberly yet passionately speaking to church congregation at a funeral]

Who murdered Jimmie Lee Jackson?

Every white lawman who abuses the law to terrorize.

Every white politician who feeds on prejudice and hatred.

Every white preacher who preaches the bible and stays silent before his white congregation.

Who murdered Jimmie Lee Jackson?

Every Negro man and woman who stands by without joining this fight as their brothers and sisters are brutalized, humiliated, and ripped from this Earth.

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Top of Form

Bottom of Form

[Lee Daniels](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0200005) was originally set to direct. The cast for his film included [Hugh Jackman](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0413168) as Sheriff Jim Clark, [Liam Neeson](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000553) portraying Lyndon Johnson, [Robert De Niro](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000134) attached to star as segregationist governor [George Wallace](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0908650), [Cedric the Entertainer](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0147825) as minister and activist [Ralph Abernathy](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0008659) while [Lenny Kravitz](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0005107) was also on board as activist [Andrew Young](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0949258). [David Oyelowo](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0654648) was attached to star as [Martin Luther King](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0455052) Jr. and was the only actor the previous selections that [Ava DuVernay](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1148550) kept in the film when she took over as director.

[Tim Roth](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000619) who plays Alabama Governor George Wallace grew up during the Civil Rights Era and said he remembers George Wallace, being "amazed at what was coming out of his mouth" and thought of him as a "monster".

During their White House meeting, President Johnson implores Alabama Governor [George Wallace](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0908650) to consider his future legacy, saying, "George, you and I shouldn't be thinking about 1965; we should be thinking about 1985." Johnson adds that by then, he and Wallace will both be dead and gone. Although Johnson did die in 1973, in 1985, [George Wallace](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0908650) was not only still alive but two years into his fourth and final term as Alabama's governor.

During their White House meeting, President Johnson pleads with Alabama Governor George Wallace to consider his future legacy, saying, "George, you and I shouldn't be thinking about 1965; we should be thinking about 1985." In 1985, George Wallace received an honorary degree from Tuskegee University, the historically black university, made famous by George Washington Carver. This was after he had renounced his position on segregation and had made a record number of black appointments to State positions during his final term as governor.

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**Fueled by a gripping performance from Oyelowo.**

20 January 2015 | by [drawlife](http://www.imdb.com/user/ur14294603/?ref_=tt_urv) (United States)

Film critic Richard Roeper said it best. Selma is a film that provides a history lesson, but doesn't feel like a history lecture. Not one bit.

I foresee a bright future for the director Ava DuVernay and actor David Oyelowo. For DuVernay's second or third effort, it's quite an achievement what she manages to do with this film. For nearly fifteen years she's been working in studio marketing and publicity and her film speaks for itself. She directs the film with flare and keeps the film emotionally grounded. Even though at times you think you know whats coming, DuVernay keeps us at bay and also provides us with some neat surprises. Also give Paul Webb some credit with his sharp screenplay.

David Oyelowo truly embodies MLK. More often than not Selma tends to focus on something not many people tend to expect in a movie about MLK. The script showcases his doubts and insecurities. Oyelowo comes through with a deeply felt and compelling performance. He also nails Dr. King's speech patterns, voice, even his posture and shows that Dr. King has his flaws, but is a compassionate person. I find it hard that anyone will be able to take their eyes off him. What a performance. Shame that it was overlooked by the Academy.

Everyone in the cast brings their "A-game." I liked Carmen Ejogo as Coretta Scott King, but I wanted just a little more of her character, but she makes up the most of what she has. Oprah Winfrey is solid as Annie Lee Cooper. She has a very substantial role and has a nice subplot. Other particular standouts are Tom Wilkinson as President Lyndon B. Johnson, Tim Roth as George Wallace.

Selma takes itself very seriously, there isn't much humor to be found, and any break from documenting its events are often downbeat character moments. However DuVernay's talent is in full blaze. This film is very heavy, but it always grabs your attention, often in the hands of Oyelowo's performance. The March 7th, "Bloody Sunday" sequence is brutal to watch, but DuVernay and cinematographer Bradford Young achieve and deliver quite an intense and impactful set piece. Literally, it hits you in the gut as we watch history forged in flesh and blood.

I am still shocked that this film received so little recognition by the Academy. Oyelowo and DuVernay should have been nominated at the very least. I believe you can blame that to Paramount Pictures as I heard that they did not deliver the screeners on time for the Academy voters. It's a pity.

By the time we arrive at the film's postscript, revealing the fates of several people chronicled by Selma, it's almost impossible not to be moved by their courage and sacrifice. Selma to me, is not just a biopic, but rather a film that celebrates a community action through the eyes of Martin Luther King Jr. This movie sadly, could not be more relevant right now.

9.3/10