

Malik Sayeed

Director of Photography

Bio

Award-winning Cinematographer and accomplished director and stills photographer Malik Sayeed pushes the boundaries of the visual world with his nuanced work.

Sayeed began his career as a gaffer on *Malcolm X* but was quickly promoted to Cinematographer on Spike Lee's feature *Clockers*. With *Clockers*, Sayeed made history, becoming the youngest Black Cinematographer to shoot a feature film. His work on the film was featured on the cover of the September 1995 issue of *American Cinematographer*. Speaking to Sayeed's talent, Lee explains, "What I like most about Malik's style is that it's uncontaminated." The duo went on to collaborate on *Girl 6*, *He Got Game*, and *The Original Kings of Comedy*.

Most recently, Sayeed contributed to *Black is King*, Beyoncé's visual album inspired by *The Lion King* for Disney+. Earlier, he lensed Beyoncé's *Formation* music video, which won the 2016 Grand Prix prize at the inaugural Cannes Lions Entertainment for Music Awards and earned Sayeed a 2016 Camerimage nomination for Best Cinematography in a Music Video.

Additional narrative projects include the short *August 28: A Day In The Life Of A People* for director Ava DuVernay, which premiered at the grand opening for the Smithsonian's National Museum of African-American History and Culture. The short will remain there for ten years. Sayeed also wrote, co-directed and lensed the short *She Walked Calmly Disappearing into the Darkness*, part of the acclaimed Little Minx *Exquisite Corpse* series. The experimental short was the first short to open the Sundance Film Festival and served as inspiration for Barry Jenkins' Oscar-winning feature, *Moonlight*.

For documentaries, Sayeed shot *Dreams are Colder than Death* for director Arthur Jafa, which considers what it means to be Black fifty years after Martin Luther King's infamous March on Washington.

Commercially, Sayeed has worked with high-profile brands such as Apple, Lexus and Nike. He recently shot "The Look" for P&G, part of their Widen The Screen initiative to help increase and cultivate opportunities for Black creatives and deepen the nuance of the Black experiences portrayed on screen. Earlier this year, he won a D&AD Yellow Pencil, the highest award, for Cinematography on the Beats by Dre spot "You Love Me" for director Melina Matsoukas. In early 2017, he won his first Yellow Pencil for Cinematography and was nominated for an AICP award for his work on Nike's "Equality" spot.

Sayeed is represented globally by DDA.