



The Race Debate in America and Italy: Should We Do the Right Thing?

Ottorino Cappelli (June 13, 2008)

While Obama clinches the nomination, some Italian- Americans join in the Lee-Eastwood feud over racial prejudices in America. In Italy at the same time, the race issue surfaces in politics. How can we contribute?

In an op-ed just published on i-Italy, [Maria Laurino](#) [1] asks "Could a majority of Italian-Americans back the African-American presumptive Democratic nominee?"

Meanwhile [Bill Dal Cerro](#) [2], president of the [Italic Institute of America](#) [3], enters the Lee-Eastwood dispute over the portrayal of blacks in American cinema, by saying that "[Lee's] points about African-Americans are well taken, but, ironically, he does the same thing to Italians in his films."

At the same time, on the other side of the ocean, an [outburst of racism in Italy](#) [4] brings up the question: "Have Italians-in-Italy learned any lessons from the troubled story of their own migration?"

We are bound to see more of this over the next months, as a critically "colored" presidential election approaches in the U.S. and the race debate surfaces in Italian politics.

The result could be an old-fashioned, stereotyped, inter-ethnic polemic marred by reciprocal accusations; or it could be the occasion to push the debate about race and ethnicity in America and Italy to a new level. There is no better place than i-Italy to try and do the latter.

While we invite everybody to meet the challenge and do the right thing, here are a few reading suggestions from the net about the Lee-Eastwood dispute... and more.



Spike Lee Clint Eastwood Row - Top 7

1. The Hollywood Reporter: [Spike Lee Takes Hit Over Portrayal of Italians](#) [5] (June 11, 2008)
2. The New York Times: [Round 2 for Spike Lee vs. Clint Eastwood](#) [6] (June 9, 2008)
3. Chicago Tribune: [Spike Lee, Clint Eastwood](#) [7] (June 10, 2008)
4. Guardian.co.uk: ['We're not on a plantation, Clint.' Spike Lee Hits Back...](#) [8] (June 9, 2008)
5. Telegraph.co.uk: [Clint Eastwood and Spike Lee Row Over Black Soldiers](#) [9] (June 9, 2008)
6. New York Magazine: [Spike vs. Clint: Spike Strikes Back! Plus...](#) [10] (June 9, 2008)
7. Guardian.co.uk: [Dirty Harry Comes Clean](#) [11] (June 6, 2008)

Spike Lee Clint Eastwood Row News

- Topix.net: [Spike Lee Clint Eastwood Row](#) [12]
- Google News: [Spike Lee Clint Eastwood Row](#) [13]
- FOX News: [Spike Lee on Eastwood Flap: 'We're Not on a Plantation'](#) [14] (June 9, 2008)
- MSNBC: [Spike Lee: Clint 'Sounds Like an Angry Old Man'](#) [15] (June 9, 2008)
- E! Online: [Eastwood and Spike Go to War!](#) [16] (June 8, 2008)
- BBC News: [Eastwood Hits Back at Lee Claims](#) [17] (June 6, 2008)
- MTV Newsroom: [Spike Lee Isn't About To Make Clint Eastwood's Day](#) [18] (June 6, 2008)

Spike Lee Clint Eastwood Row Blogs and Commentaries

- Google Blog Search: [Spike Lee Clint Eastwood Row](#) [19]
- The Defiant One: [Race Matters in Filmmaking: Clint Eastwood vs Spike Lee](#) [20] (June 11, 2008)
- The Envelope (LAT): [Smackdown Pile On! Adam Beach to Spike Lee...](#) [21] (June 9, 2008)
- TMZ.com: [Spike to Clint: "We're Not on a Plantation!"](#) [23] (June 7, 2008)
- Political Punch: [Spike vs. Clint](#) [24] (June 6, 2008)

Links provided by [Mahalo.com](#) [25]

Source URL: <http://iitaly.org/magazine/focus/op-eds/article/race-debate-in-america-and-italy-should-we-do-right-thing>

Links

- [1] <http://www.i-italy.org/node/2496>
- [2] <http://www.stereotypethis.com/contact/index.php>
- [3] <http://italic.org/>
- [4] <http://www.i-italy.org/node/1939>
- [5] http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/hr/content_display/news/e3i4fac3531390a953c31467d91c4fe3d92
- [6] http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/09/movies/09arts-ROUND2FORSPI_BRF.html?ref=arts
- [7] <http://www.chicagotribune.com/entertainment/chi-clint-eastwood-spike-lee-080610-ht,0,736043.story>

- The Huffington Post: [Clint Vs. Spike Undercard for McCain Vs. Obama](#) [22] (June 9, 2008)



- [8] <http://film.guardian.co.uk/news/story/0,,2284542,00.html>
- [9] <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/celebritynews/2098097/Clint-Eastwood-and-Spike-Lee-row-over-black-soldiers.html>
- [10] http://nymag.com/daily/entertainment/2008/06/spike_vs_clint_spike_strikes_b.html
- [11] <http://film.guardian.co.uk/interview/interviewpages/0,,2283921,00.html>
- [12] <http://www.topix.com/search/article?q=Spike+Lee+Clint+Eastwood+Row>
- [13] <http://news.google.com/news?hl=en&ned=us&q=Spike+Lee+Clint+Eastwood+Row>
- [14] <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,364488,00.html>
- [15] <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25063058/>
- [16] http://www.eonline.com/uberblog/b141659_eastwood_spike_go_war.html
- [17] <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/entertainment/7439371.stm>
- [18] <http://newsroom.mtv.com/2008/06/06/spike-lee-isnt-about-to-make-clint-eastwoods-day/>
- [19] <http://blogsearch.google.com/blogsearch?hl=en&q=Spike+Lee+Clint+Eastwood+Row>
- [20] <http://keithchircop.blogspot.com/2008/06/race-matters-in-filmmaking-clint.html>
- [21] http://goldderby.latimes.com/awards_goldderby/2008/06/_spike_lee_news.html
- [22] http://www.huffingtonpost.com/trey-ellis/clint-vs-spike-undercard_b_106066.html
- [23] <http://www.tmz.com/2008/06/07/spike-to-clint-were-not-on-a-plantation/>
- [24] <http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalpunch/2008/06/spike-vs-clint.html>
- [25] http://www.mahalo.com/Main_Page