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## Ruth E. Carter helps Hollywood highlight our history like no one else

Check out our exclusive *interview with the history-making costume designer*  
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February 19, 2021



<https://theGrio.com/2021/02/19/ruth-e-carter-exclusive-interview/>

## Ruth E. Carter on Costume Designing for 'Coming 2 America'

In the third episode of theGrio's 'How Hollywood Highlights our History', theGrio's entertainment directo...



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**Ruth E. Carter** is an American costume designer, an artist, and a trailblazer whose work has helped Hollywood highlight our history for more than three decades.

Throughout her career, she has profoundly influenced how we see ourselves, capturing entire eras, immortalizing moments in time, and truly defining what we look like onscreen.

This week, she made history again when it was announced that she would be the first Black costume designer to be honored with a star on the **Hollywood Walk of Fame**.



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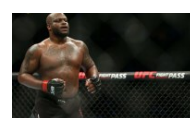
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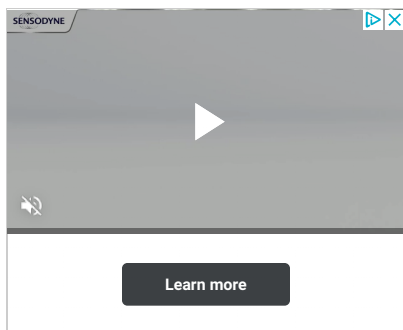


PASADENA, CALIFORNIA – FEBRUARY 01: Ruth E. Carter attends the 51st NAACP Image Awards – Nominees Luncheon on February 01, 2020 in Pasadena, California. (Photo by Rodin Eckenroth/Getty Images)

**Read More: Ruth E. Carter becomes the first Black woman to win Oscar for Best Costume Design** (<https://thegrio.com/2019/02/24/ruth-e-carter-becomes-the-first-black-woman-to-win-oscar-for-best-costume-design/>)

Born April 10, 1960, in Springfield, Massachusetts, Ruth E. Carter graduated from Hampton University before working at the Santa Fe Opera, later moving to Los Angeles in 1986, where she worked at Los Angeles Theater Center. There, she met **Spike Lee**, who hired her to work on his second film, *School Daze*, in 1988.

Carter worked with the award-winning director on his other titles like *Do The Right Thing*, *Jungle Fever*, and *Mo' Betta Blues* before going to work on some of the most iconic films of our time.



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She transformed **Denzel Washington** into **Malcolm X** in 1992 and took us back to the sixties to help **Angela Bassett** pull off her transformation into **Tina Turner** in the 1993 film, *What's Love Got To Do With It*. She turned **David Oleyowo** into **Martin Luther King Jr.** in **Ava DuVernay's** *Selma* and helped **Chadwick Boseman** become **Thurgood Marshall** in 2017's *Marshall*.

Her work on *Malcolm X* earned her an Oscar nomination for Best Costume Design, making her the first Black woman ever to be nominated in that category. She earned another nomination in 1997 for Steven Spielberg's harrowing depiction of the slave trade, *Amistad*.

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Then, in 2018, Carter took us all on a journey we never imagined, tracing our roots back to the motherland and stretching our imaginations farther than they had ever been to the wondrous world of Wakanda, with her Oscar-winning work on *Black Panther*.



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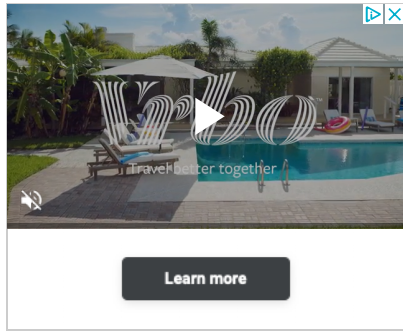


HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA – FEBRUARY 24: Ruth E. Carter, winner of Best Costume Design for “Black Panther,” poses in the press room during the 91st Annual Academy Awards at Hollywood and Highland on February 24, 2019 in Hollywood, California. (Photo by Frazer Harrison/Getty Images)

**[Read More: ‘Black Panther’ sequel to explore ‘mythology, inspiration’ of Wakanda, won’t recast Chadwick Boseman \(https://thegrio.com/2021/01/12/black-panther-sequel-focus-mythology-inspiration-wakanda/\)](https://thegrio.com/2021/01/12/black-panther-sequel-focus-mythology-inspiration-wakanda/)**

With that game-changing project, she made history again as the first Black woman to win the Academy Awards for Best Costume Design and brought home the first-ever Oscar win for a Marvel film.

Next, she’s taking us back to Zamunda in the highly-anticipated sequel, *Coming 2 America*.



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When we think of the most important, the most impactful, and the most resonant films of our time, they all have one thing in common—they have all been blessed by the unrivaled talents of Ruth E. Carter, who tells our stories through fashion like no one else.

“When I first came into the industry, I looked for someone like me. I actually wanted a mentor to show me what Hollywood was like. And there were very few people working in costume design,” she told *theGrio*. “But I couldn’t find a person of color as a designer and so I felt like those were my shoes I would fill. I wanted to gather as much information about the Hollywood system as I could.”

Check out our exclusive interview with the legendary artist above.

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### Boosie defends Lori Harvey comments: 'You want your daughter to f\*ck seven, eight' men

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