

# Hidden Figures

A revolutionary movie about African-American women engineering for NASA.

by Bethany Billips



Looking for an empowering movie to see this weekend? *Hidden Figures* is a great one to see!

Based on a true story, 1960's Virginia was a segregated state making it very unusual for main characters, Katherine Johnson (Taraji P. Henson), Dorothy Vaughn (Octavia Spencer), and Mary Jackson (Janelle Monáe) to have stable jobs at NASA doing what they're good at, math and engineering.

Katherine Johnson, a child genius, was moved to high school in the sixth grade. She was outstanding at math and could work with numbers faster than anyone. While working with NASA, she worked with white computers and colored computers. All computers do

calculations by hand all day long. She gets promoted from being a colored computer, to being on the NASA team who would launch the first American into space. During this segregated period, people of different races worked separately in different buildings, but did the same work. Katherine was moved to a white working building, a big step in this segregated work place.

Her best friends and coworkers, Dorothy Vaughn and Mary Jackson, were also colored computers who were moved up to higher positions due to their hard work and dedication. Mary convinced a judge to let her be the first African-American woman to attend night classes at a local high school. Doing this allowed her to move up at NASA and become an engineer. Dorothy did all the work of a supervisor but did not receive the pay or

recognition of one. She learned about a new machine called an IBM and taught herself to work it, ensuring a job for her and her coworkers.

This movie shows incredible perseverance in a racist and sexist community. It has been nominated for 63 awards and has won 25. These awards include Oscars, Golden Globes, critics' awards, and more!

I thought this was a great movie! It was humorous but gave a strong message. There were very emotional scenes that made you realize how hard life was in the 1960's. All of the actors and actresses were powerful and fit their characters well. My favorite character was Katherine; she was strong-minded and spoke her opinion while being respectful, she was a loving mother, and had a humorous tone to her. It's definitely a must see!