

**VFS @ THE MUSEUM - TUESDAY JULY 5 @ 7PM**

## **“CROOKLYN”**

A Spike Lee Joint  
USA 1994 – 114 mins



Reviewed by Geovany Cousins-Jones – Ventura Film Society

In this semi-autobiographical look at life in Brooklyn during the 1970s, director Spike Lee takes us into the heart of a boisterous and complex African-American family. The Carmichaels live in a racially-mixed, working-class neighborhood. Their loving but careworn mother (Alfre Woodard) barely makes ends meet as a teacher. Her husband (Delroy Lindo) is an unemployed musician with dreams of playing his own music his own way. Their five children, four annoying brothers and one very independent sister, are the bedrock of their world and the bane of their existence. The kids grow up fast in the life-filled streets. They learn to deal with the death of a loved one and how their identities and principles are strengthened by their loss. Despite many challenges shared by all loving, complex families, the Carmichaels hang together in this touching, hilarious, and redemptive story of a family working hard to keep love and hope alive.