

40 ACRES AND A MULE - KEEPING IT CLOSE TO HOME

You may think New York's arts and entertainment community is perched exclusively in Manhattan. Not so fast. Right across the East River resides one of the hardest working men in show business.

It may be oblivious to the unaware traveling through Brooklyn's Fort Greene Historic District, but it's in a renovated firehouse near Fort Greene Park where the artful (Brooklyn) dodger, best known as Spike Lee, takes his ideas from conception to celluloid.

Hall of Fame

[Spike's Stars](#)

Jointography

[Spike's Flicks](#)



[Peep the 40 Acres Hallway \(3.8 MB QuickTime Movie\)](#)

Most people with even a passing interest in film know that 40 Acres and a Mule Filmworks is the House That Spike Built. But that's only a part of his reach. There's 40 Acres and a Mule Musicworks - hard at work down the street from his flagship concern. And as a show of props to the style-conscious (and a demonstration of astute marketing savvy), he opened "Spike's Joint" - for those seeking that 40 Acres and a Mule joint you can wear!

So how does Spike keep it all together? First off, a good night's sleep is a rare occurrence. He and his dedicated staff are known to stay up late hours working in the editing suites which take up several rooms in his three-story headquarters. The 40 Acres offices are adorned with framed movie posters - some of his own work (10 films in 10 years), some by other directors he admires. The imagery and colorful designs of the posters give the surroundings a more playful tone. But the lively decorum does not mask the commitment and focus Lee and his crew give to any 40 Acres endeavor.

They work intensely, juggling numerous projects at once: feature films, music videos, commercials and television specials. October 16 will mark the release of Spike Lee's latest labor of love, *Get on the Bus*. The film has even more significance when you consider its evolution. Several notable African-American men (Danny Glover, Wesley Snipes and Johnnie Cochran to name a few) raised the funds to finance the story of a busload of brothers en route to the Million Man March. Just in case you missed the obvious synergy, the release date of *Get On the Bus* is also the one-year anniversary of the historic gathering on Washington's Great Lawn.

And if his resume isn't long enough, Spike Lee can add one more achievement to the 40 Acres legacy: producer of a prime-time television series. ABC announced that Lee will develop a half-hour "dramedy" for the network, to be aired in the 1997 TV season.