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Black Femininity and Masculinity and its Relation to Sexuality in Spike Lee's "She's Gotta Have It"

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Thesis Statement: Spike Lee in the 1986 film “She’s Gotta Have It”, uses the intersectionality of race and sexuality to critics the stereotypical roles of femininity and masculinity.

Gender

- Nola’s traditional relationships of male and female however trying to explore through Opal, “What’s it like to make love to another women, I’m curious” (18:30)
- The men’s uncomfortability around Nola’s potential relationship with Opal, “It was bad enough about Nola and all her male friend but there was one particular female after her and that was a bit much” (Lee, 16:00)
- **Femininity/ Feminism** – Nola’s ability to express herself through her art and choice of partner.
- **Masculinity** – The men’s desire to show control at Thanksgiving dinner to show dominance over each other and over Nola.



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She’s Gotta Have It by Spike Lee (1986)



- **Financial Control** – Greer’s Childs desire to control Nola financially and physically by making comments about her independence as a negative.
- **Emotional Control**– The desire of the men to manipulate Nola and Nola’s desire to manipulate men creates conflict with the way we view their character.
- **Physical Control** – The desire of the men to assert that their physical dominance is enough over Nola and Nola’s desire to stay polyamorous with other lovers.

Sexuality

- Each mans desire to dominate each other by their means of control.
- “Here I am trying to dog you the best I can and what bothers me is that I enjoyed it” (1:10)
- Nola’s multiple partners seen as a negative in her lovers eyes however it is seen other people have multiple.
- Nola’s complicated indistinction between sexual needs and actual love.

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