

From Struggle to Liberation: A Critical Analysis of the Film *The Color Purple*

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Background of research

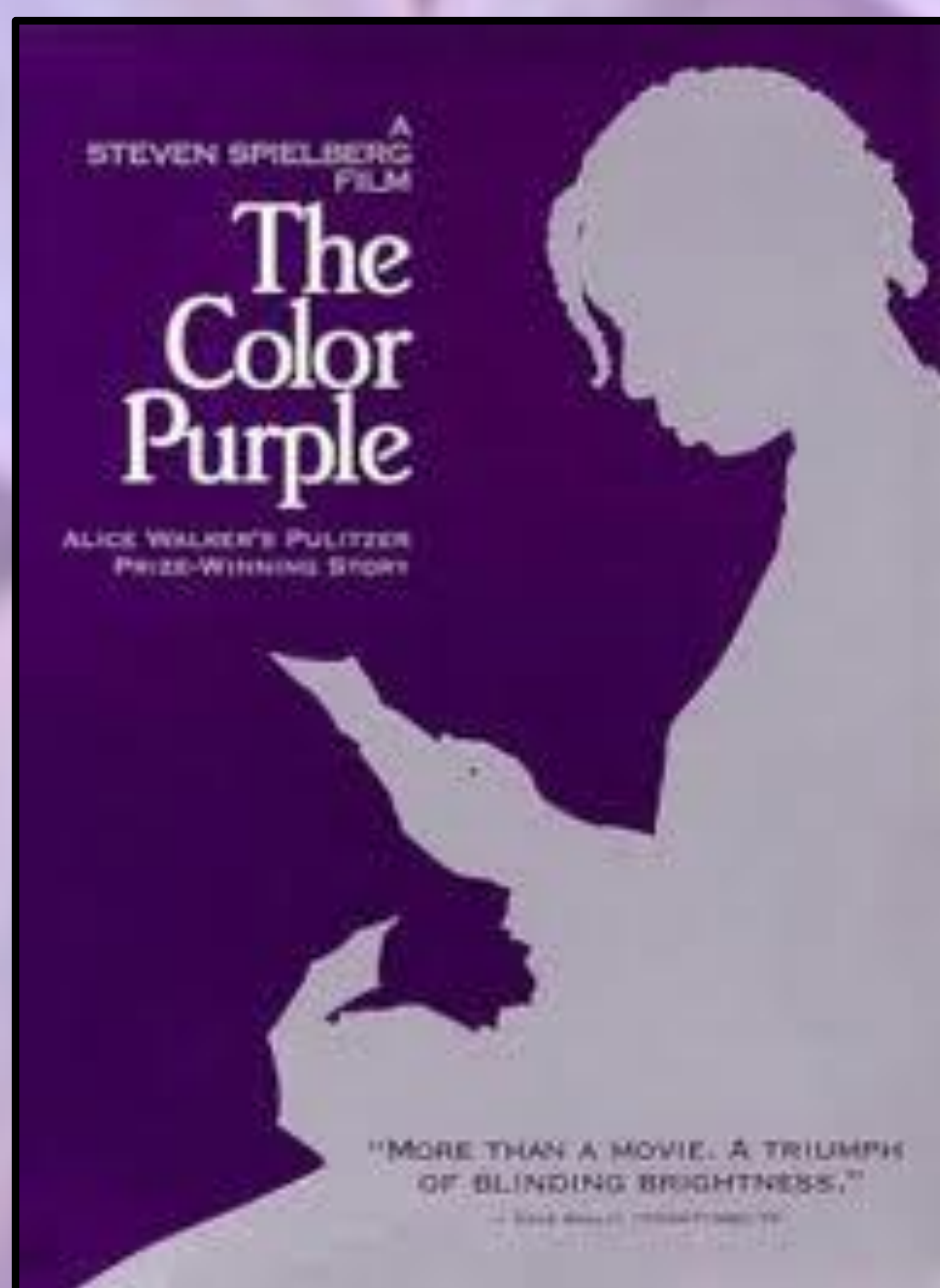
This research critiques and analyzes *The Color Purple* movie. *The Color Purple* movie released in 1985 is based on the 1982 novel written by author Alice Walker. The movie sheds light on the struggles that African American women faced during the 1930s .

Plot summary and method of analysis

- ◆ The movie plot is about the life of Celie Harris, who was a poor black girl married against her wish to an older black man. She was abused throughout her married life and she somehow finds a way to discover her own identity.
- ◆ The analysis of the movie is done from an intercultural perspective using concepts like ascribed vs avowed identity, racism, stereotypes, etc.



(Whoopi Goldberg plays the character of Celie)



Film analysis

- Women, in general, were socialized into the cultural norms of the times. There was very high power distance between men and women and black women were specifically mistreated not only by members of other races but also by men from their own race.
- Within the black culture, women like Celie fought for their avowed identities. The ascribed identities came with social expectations that were meant to give men more power.
- Through the means of popular culture, like this film, certain stereotypes about black women of that time was being represented.

Implications of the film

- The movie's representation and portrayal of the historical context from struggle to liberation, invites the movie's viewers to understand the issues from a gender and intercultural perspective.
- Although the movie was made in 1985, the relevance of the issues with regard to women's identities in the intercultural context are still applicable in today's society.

