

A Raisin in the Sun: 1961 Film

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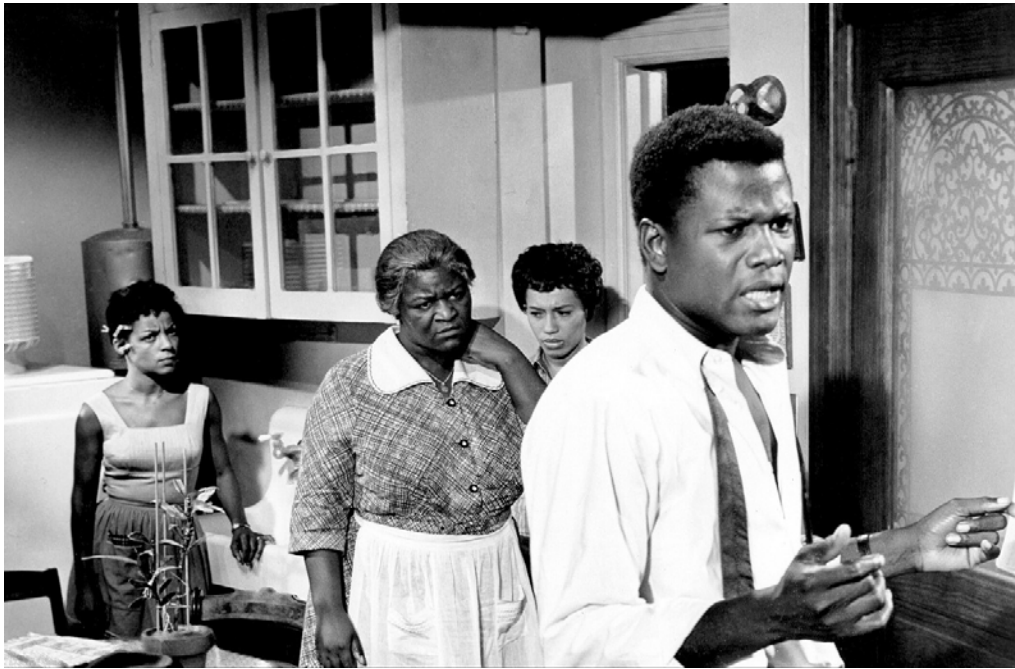


Image: Movie still from *A Raisin in the Sun*, accessed from IMDB

With the 1961 film release of *A Raisin in the Sun* directed by Daniel Petrie, Lorraine Hansberry's powerful work was able to reach an even larger audience than before. The original play which followed the Younger family and the racism and hardships that they faced in Chicago was adapted for the screen just two years after the initial Broadway theatrical release. Hansberry also wrote the screenplay for the film. To even add more to the impact that the play provided, the film also cast some of the original cast from the Broadway play. The advantage to converting the story from a live show to a produced film is the accessibility that it gave and the broader audience that could now interact and engage with the story. With Columbia Pictures handling the distribution of the film it was views in theaters from the East to West coast instead of solely on the East coast. It exposed many to a story that they might not have been familiar with. In terms of the fiction of the story and the harsh realities it addressed that even happened to Hansberry herself. From her childhood in Chicago where her and her family moved into a predominantly white neighborhood, only to be met with violence and a forceful eviction. With the 1961 release this film premiered about midway through the civil rights movements, allowing many to see why such a movement was necessary.

Sources

"*A Raisin in the Sun*." (1961) - *Turner Classic Movies*, Turner Classic Movies, 1 Jan. 1961, www.tcm.com/tcmdb/title/87646/a-raisin-in-the-sun.

"Traces of Autobiography in *A Raisin in the Sun*." *The Criterion Collection*, www.criterion.com/current/posts/5959-traces-of-autobiography-in-a-raisin-in-the-sun.

