

Throughout the years, there has been an increase in black cultural representation. Shows like *Blackish* and *Empire* have flooded the entertainment industry as well as artists in the music industry such as Beyoncé, SZA and Michael Jackson. The film "Black Panther" is another example of black representation in the movie industry.

"Right now we are practically experiencing a black film renaissance in filmmaking and it's exciting to be growing up in times like these," junior Yasmin Lee said. "The movie made black people feel connected to a modernized Africa that doesn't undermine the communities in Africa."

To help further dissect the movie, Tre'vell Anderson, a film reporter for the Los Angeles Times and black queer activist, who is a Northeast graduate and former writer for *The Cavalier*, adds his perspective.

"I was really struck by how the film isn't just a superhero movie. This film in particular has a summative story there, that allows audiences, particularly black people upon the African diaspora to really engage with the content with deep conversations about the things that are presented," Anderson said.

"Black Panther," has invoked an array of emotions out of its audiences.

"Embracing the cultures of Africa has been added to my bucket list," senior Tianna Johnson said.

Some believe that "Black Panther" hit some of the current issues in our society.

"I, as a black person, I love seeing this type of representation on screen, particularly of black women," Anderson said. "They're strong, they stand on their own, they're not necessarily waiting on a man to make the decision for them."

Johnson commented on the effect it had on her personally. "It made me wonder what could be done to change the current tension-packed, cornucopia of paranoia we call society," she said.

"Black Panther" also had a positive influence that can impact children in a different light.

"I wanted my daughter to see strong, black female characters in positions of power, where they are looked at as equals, not supporters," African American History teacher Brandon Harrison said.

"Black Panther's" representation of women not only affected his family, but helped his daughter in her journey with self identity.

"It definitely has given my daughter a sense of pride," Harrison said. "She can be whatever she wants to be, and she doesn't necessarily have to be a Disney princess in a dress."

"Black Panther," not only showing a change demographically, but shows a change in the style of classic Marvel films.

"I feel like 'Black Panther' was a lot more touching," senior Sydney Tisdale said. "You had family involved, you had really close friends involved, unlike the other movies."

For some, like Harrison, "Black Panther" represented a lot more.

"I felt like the movie itself told a very complete story of what's it like to be not just black in America, but black globally," Harrison said.

People who have seen the movie were affected by different scenes.

"My favorite moment was when the lead guy [T'Challa] had a chance to transport to the spirit world," Lee said. "I feel as though this was important to the black community, in a way, because there's that lingering stereotype about black people not having a father."

Johnson adds her perspective on how one of the character, Shuri, impressed her.

"T'Challa's younger sister, Shuri, shows off her inventions because in a universe with magic, gods, infinity stones, and geniuses like Tony Stark, she uses science to prove that she is just as, or even more valuable, as a revolutionary technological asset," Johnson said.

Harrison explains his favorite scene and how it can impact youth.

"Black Panther travels to the afterlife or to this other dimension with his ancestors and he's talking with his father and his father tells him to 'stand up, you're a king' and that resonated with me," Harrison said. "I

think that message again is one of the many hidden messages that is quick, but there is a lot of nuances to it with black, particularly African American, children need to know that they are kings and queens and they need to stand up and be more prideful with themselves and be more prideful about where they come from and who they come from.”

Lee addresses the frenzy around “Black Panther.”

“Don’t read anything or watch anything about the movie,” Lee said. “Just go in with an open mind, that is free of any hype about the movie. The second you read into the hype, you’re going to set unreal expectations.”

Anderson provides advice to any first time viewers looking to see “Black Panther,”

“Be open, be open to what you will see. Be open to the message and the conversations that the film is putting out there,” Anderson said. “Some of you are natural pessimists, you hear all the hype around Black Panther and you’re like, ‘Oh it can’t be that good.’ So you go in with your arms folded wanting it to be bad, looking for faults in the film. Then on the other hand, we have people who feel as if we are putting too much pressure on the representation. There’s people who say, ‘I don’t want to see this film, because it has all these black people in it.’ I want everybody, no matter where you fall on the spectrum to just be open, because there’s stuff there for black people, there’s all kinds of stuff there for white people and everybody in between. If you’re open you’ll really enjoy what you see on the screen.”