

Hidden Figures

By Theodore Melfi



Hidden Figures joins a select circle of moving and empowering films about mathematicians and theoretical physicists — *A Beautiful Mind*, *Proof*, *The Theory of Everything*, and *The Man Who Knew Infinity*. The names of Gus Grissom and John Glenn are familiar ones to those who know the history of the 20th century space race against Russia. The Russians were the first to have a capsule orbit the Earth and to send a man into orbit; fearful of Cold War weapons, the Americans were determined to catch up.

Few Americans know that among all the white men who became the face of the *National Aeronautics and Space Administration* (NASA) were three black women who played a huge role in the early days of the space program. Margot Lee Shetterly tells their inspiring story in *Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race*. In this film, we watch the three women face and overcome racist and sexist prejudice in Virginia, a state that in the early 1960s was still segregated with "colored-only" bathrooms and drinking fountains.

Watch it here