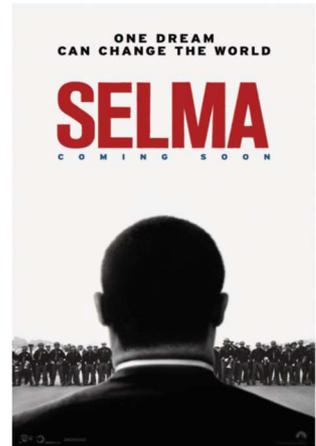


# Selma

**Director: Ava DuVernay**  
**2014 (122')**



Selma, Alabama, 1965. Black Americans continue the struggle for equal rights and in doing so are subject to the hatred and violence of the the white police police force and institutions. In DuVernays film we follow the historic protest march from Selma to Montgomery, led by Martin Luther King, ending in triumph for the demonstrators.

*Intelligently written, vividly shot, tightly edited, sharply acted, the film represents a rare example of craftsmanship working to produce a deeply moving piece of history.* The Hollywood Reporter

*Selma is one of the best American films of the year - and indeed perhaps the best - precisely because it does not simply show what Dr. King did for America in his day; it also wonders explicitly what we have left undone for America in ours.* The Wrap

## **Vocabulary and expressions:**

**Living high on the hog:** Enjoying all the good things in life.

**The brothers back home:** The fellow black American men in our hometown.

**To start a fuss:** To create a disturbance.

**A gal:** A girl or young woman.

*One of his gals is starting a fuss.*

**Trinkets:** Small decorative objects or pieces of jewellery.

**Unencumbered:** Without restraints or barriers.

*To demand the right to vote unencumbered.*

**A staging ground:** A place where something is tried out for the first time.

*It turned out to be an ideal staging ground.*

**To have other fish to fry:** To have other more important things to do.

*Right now Johnson has other fish to fry.*

**To be bugged:** To be under electronic surveillance.

*This cell is probably bugged.*

**To make the wrong call:** To make the wrong decision.

*He made the wrong goddamn call!*

*In early 1965, Martin Luther King Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) made Selma, Alabama, the focus of its efforts to register black voters in the South. When protesters attempted to march from Selma to the state capital of Montgomery they were met with violent resistance by state and local authorities. As the world watched, the protesters finally achieved their goal, walking around the clock for three days to reach Montgomery. The historic march, and King's participation in it, greatly helped raise awareness of the difficulty faced by black voters in the South, and the need for a Voting Rights Act, passed later that year. Nearly 50,000 supporters – black and white – met the marchers in Montgomery, where they gathered in front of the state capitol to hear King and other speakers address the crowd. "No tide of racism can stop us," King proclaimed from the building's steps, as viewers from around the world watched the historic moment on television. History Today*

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