



## SYNOPSIS

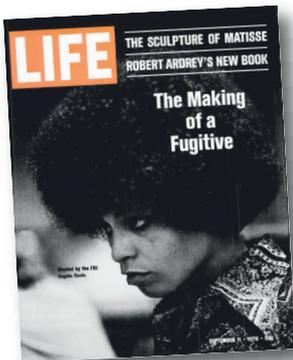
Few American lives encapsulate the tumult and triumph of the civil rights movement as much as that of author, educator and activist Angela Davis. A professor at UCLA, an open member of the Communist Party and an associate of the Black Panthers, Davis possessed an incendiary cocktail of attributes that made her the establishment's worst nightmare: not only was she educated, fiercely intelligent and fearlessly outspoken, she was also a socialist, an African-American and a woman.

to encapsulate incarner / educator professeur / activist militant / UCLA= University of California, Los Angeles / open ouvert, déclaré, affiché / nightmare cauchemar / educated instruit, ayant suivi des études supérieures / fiercely redoutablement / fearlessly sans crainte, vaillamment, fearlessly outspoken à l'irréductible franc-parler.



▲ Angela Davis. (DR)

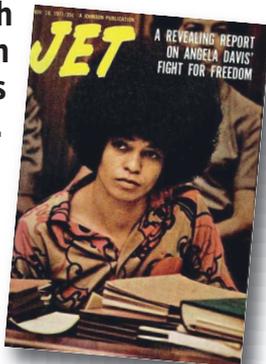
## THE BIRTH OF AN ACTIVIST



**B**orn on January 26, 1944, in Birmingham, Alabama, into a relatively well off Black family, Angela Davis learned about racial prejudice from her experiences of discrimination growing up in a neighborhood where the KKK carried out so many bombings

it became known as "dynamite hill". As a teenager, Davis organized interracial study groups, which were broken up by the police. On September 16, 1963, a church bombing in Birmingham killed four girls who Davis knew from her childhood. This had a very significant impact on Davis and she felt it was the product of a racist, violent society and not just the act of a few angry individuals.

well off aisé / prejudice préjugé(s) / neighborhood (US)= neighbourhood (GB) quartier / KKK= Ku Klux Klan organisation suprématiste blanche fondée en 1865 / to carry out commettre, perpétrer / bombing attentat à la bombe / hill colline / childhood enfance / angry en colère.



## A COMMUNIST



(COURTESY OF FANIA DAVIS)

joined it in July 1968. In 1979, she visited the Soviet Union and was awarded the Lenin Peace Prize. She was also made an honorary professor at Moscow State University. In 1980 and 1984, Davis ran as the Vice-Presidential candidate for the Communist Party. She eventually left the party in 1991 to help found the Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism.

to address s'attaquer à, s'occuper de / struggle lutte / to award décerner / to run, ran, run se présenter (à des élections) / eventually finalement.

## THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY

**ALTHOUGH ANGELA DAVIS** has been associated with the Black Panther Party she quickly distanced herself from it, preferring to become a member of the Che-Lumumba club. The Black Panther Party was an African-American revolutionary socialist organization active in the United States from 1966 until 1982. The Black Panther Party's most widely known programs were its armed citizens' patrols to evaluate behavior of police officers and its Free Breakfast for Children program. However, their criminality and their confrontational, militant, and violent tactics against police often overshadowed the group's political goals.

most widely known (le) plus connu / behavior (US)= behaviour (GB) comportement / to overshadow éclipser / goal but, objectif.

## A "TERRORIST"

### WANTED BY THE FBI

INTERSTATE FLIGHT - MURDER, KIDNAPING  
ANGELA YVONNE DAVIS

Photograph taken 1969

Photograph taken 1970



**DESCRIPTION**

Age: 26, born January 26, 1944 Birmingham, Alabama

(COURTESY OF ANGELA DAVIS)

In 1969, Angela Davis came to national attention after being removed from her teaching position in the Philosophy Department at UCLA as a result of her social activism and her membership in the Communist Party, USA. Former California Governor Ronald Reagan once vowed that Angela Davis would never again teach in the University of California system (history proved him wrong). When she was charged with "aggravated kidnapping and first degree murder in the death of Judge Harold Haley" and fled before her arrest, FBI Director Edgar Hoover named Angela Davis the third woman and the 309th person to appear on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted Fugitive List. When she was caught, President Richard M. Nixon congratulated the FBI on its "capture of the dangerous terrorist, Angela Davis".

to remove someone from a position révoquer quelqu'un / UCLA= University of California, Los Angeles / former ancien, ex- / to vow jurer, s'engager à ce que / to charge accuser / first degree murder meurtre avec préméditation / to flee, fled, fled s'enfuir.

## ANGELA DAVIS, AN ICON



When she was in jail, and at the time of her trial, supporters all around the world mobilized for her release. She became an international icon of social revolution and progressive politics. Those advocates included Nina Simone, who visited Davis in prison; Aretha Franklin, who offered to pay her bond; John Lennon and Yoko Ono, who wrote a song (*Angela*) in her honor; and the countless men, women and children of all ages and races who organized a movement demanding her release. The Rolling Stones song *Sweet Black Angel*, on their album *Exile on Main Street* (1972), is dedicated to Davis and is one of the band's only overtly political releases. In France, at the time, Jean Genet and Jean-Paul Sartre took her defense, and singers like, for example, Pierre Perret and Yannick Noah sang about her.



in jail en prison / trial procès / release libération / advocate défenseur, soutien / bond caution / countless innombrable / to dedicate to consacrer à / overtly ouvertement / release ici chanson.

## CHRONOLOGY

### CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

- 1954** Brown v. Board of Education
- 1955-1956** Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott
- 1961** Freedom Rides
- 1963** March on Washington
- 1964** Martin Luther King awarded Nobel Peace Prize
- 1964** Cassius Clay (a.k.a Muhammad Ali) crowned World Champion
- 1965** Selma and the Voting Rights Act
- 1965** Malcolm X is murdered
- 1968** Martin Luther King is assassinated

Brown v. Board of Education arrêt de la Cour Suprême rendu le 17 mai 1954, déclarant la ségrégation raciale inconstitutionnelle dans les écoles publiques / to award décerner / to crown couronner, sacrer / Selma petite ville de l'Alabama, point de départ de la grande marche pour les droits civiques et qui fut le théâtre d'affrontements sanglants entre militants et forces de police ("Bloody Sunday") / Voting Rights Act loi autorisant les Noirs à voter, sans restrictions, signée par le président Lyndon B. Johnson / Malcolm X (1925-1965) prêcheur musulman afro-américain, militant des droits civiques.

### PRESIDENTS

- 1933-1945 Franklin D. Roosevelt
- 1945-1953 Harry S. Truman
- 1953-1961 Dwight D. Eisenhower
- 1961-1963 John F. Kennedy
- 1963-1969 Lyndon B. Johnson
- 1969-1974 Richard M. Nixon
- 1974-1977 Gerald R. Ford
- 1977-1981 Jimmy Carter
- 1981-1989 Ronald Reagan
- 1989-1993 George H. W. Bush
- 1993-2001 Bill Clinton
- 2001-2009 George W. Bush
- 2009-Present Barack H. Obama

### ANGELA DAVIS

- 1944** Angela Davis is born in Birmingham, Alabama.
- Fall 1961** Davis attends Brandeis University. She is one of three black students in her freshman class.
- August, 1970** Angela Davis is accused of several crimes, including murder, for her alleged part in the Soledad brothers' abduction and murder of Judge Harold Haley in Marin County, California. She is placed on the FBI's Most Wanted List as she flees the State.
- October 13, 1970** FBI agents find her at the Howard Johnson Motor Lodge in New York City.
- June 4, 1972** The all-white jury of Davis' case delivers a "not guilty" verdict and Angela Davis is released from jail after two years of incarceration.
- Today** Angela Davis continues to tour the world to protest oppression.

to attend fréquenter / freshman (US) étudiant de 1ère année universitaire / alleged prétendu, présumé / part rôle / abduction enlèvement / to flee, fled, fled fuir / guilty coupable / to release from jail libérer de prison.



## “She’s become symbolic for strength and power, for women, for black people”

**LE POUVOIR AU PEUPLE.** Si, tant aux Etats-Unis qu’à l’étranger, Angela Davis est devenue un symbole, peu se souviennent des événements l’ayant propulsée sur le devant de la scène médiatique. Nous sommes allés à la rencontre de Shola Lynch, une ancienne athlète devenue réalisatrice de documentaires, qui nous révèle ici les raisons de sa démarche...

VOCABLE

BY RONAN LANCELOT

RENCONTRE AVEC

SHOLA LYNCH

Réalisatrice



(SANDI SISSEL)

“She’s become symbolic for strength and power, for women, for black people”  
“Elle est devenue le symbole de la résistance et du pouvoir, des femmes, des Noirs”

filmmaker cinéaste / to dig, dug, dug creuser, fouiller / deep profond, ici profondément / strength force, résistance.

**2. to fit in(to)** entrer, trouver sa place dans, ici s’inscrire dans / **across the board** à tous les niveaux / **college-educated** ayant suivi des études supérieures/universitaires / **Students for Democratic Society** organisation étudiante radicale qui joua un rôle majeur dans le mouvement de contestation étudiante des années 1960 (particulièrement contre “l’impérialisme” et la guerre du Vietnam) / **to faction off** faire dissidence (ici pour créer une autre organisation, un autre mouvement), ici **the factioning off into...** la scission, la dissolution pour créer... / **Weather Underground Organization** collectif américain de la gauche radicale fondé en 1969 et partisan de l’action directe (classé à l’époque comme organisation terroriste par le FBI) / **Black Liberation Army** groupe (clandestin) engagé dans la lutte armée, se définissant comme anti-capitaliste, anti-impérialiste, anti-raciste et anti-sexiste / **around the corner** ici proche.

**3. academic** universitaire / **activist** militant / **to lecture** donner une conférence / **issue** question, problème, sujet / **comfortable** ici facile / **close to** près de / **to talk someone into doing something** persuader quelqu’un de faire quelque chose / **to make, made, made someone uncomfortable** mettre quelqu’un mal à l’aise, embarrasser quelqu’un.

**VOCABLE:** When did you first hear about Angela Davis?

**SHOLA LYNCH:** She’s somebody I’ve known about for a very long time. You see her image on t-shirts here in the US, and I always associated her with the Black Panther Party, the Afro, Black Power etc. But I realised later, when I became a documentary filmmaker, that I didn’t really know the story or why her image was so important to so many different people. You dig deeper and you find out what the story is behind it, so that she’s become symbolic for strength and power, for women, for black people.

**2. VO:** How does she fit in the history of the US?

**SL:** She fits into her age group. If you think about what’s happening in the United States across the board at that time, all kids, college-educated kids, they’re out in the streets protesting against the war in Vietnam; there’s the Students for Democratic Society, there is the factioning off into the Weather Underground Organization; and there’s the Black Panthers and they’re factioning off into the Black Liberation Army... The young people really believed that a revolution was around the corner. For many people it was political.

**3. VO:** Was it difficult to get in contact with her?

**SL:** Angela Davis is still an academic and an activist, and she’s a public intellectual, so she’s continually living and working in the press. She has been teaching and on the road



Director, Shola Lynch and Angela Davis. (SANDI SISSEL)

lecturing about various issues around prisons, around justice, around the economy, for the last 40 years, and to go back was not the most comfortable thing for her, so it took, you know, close to 8/10 months to talk her into it. The thing I like about her is that, even back in the ‘70s, she was asking questions that make me personally, and also other people, uncomfortable. We need people in our society to ask those questions. Hey, she doesn’t want to talk about prison reform, she wants to talk about prison abolition, you know, and she will take you out there and make you uncomfortable, and there is a role in our society for people who will stand up and ask those questions. ●

**Vocable** [www.vocable.fr](http://www.vocable.fr)

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