

Sidney Poitier

Sir Sidney Poitier, KBE^[2] (/ˈpwɑːtiɪr/; born February 20, 1927) is a Bahamian-American actor and film director. He received two nominations for the Academy Award for Best Actor, winning one, by which he became the first black actor to win the Award. He was also nominated six times for both the Golden Globe for Best Actor and the British Academy of Film and Television Arts Award (BAFTA) for Best Foreign Actor, winning each once. From 1997 to 2007, he served as the Bahamian Ambassador to Japan.^[3]

Poiter's family lived in the Bahamas but he was born in Miami while they were visiting, thereby acquiring American citizenship. He grew up in the Bahamas before moving to New York when he was 16. He joined the North American Negro Theatre eventually landing his first film role in 1950 with his role as an incorrigible high school student in *Blackboard Jungle* (1955) giving him his breakthrough.

In 1958 Poitier starred with Tony Curtis in the critically acclaimed *The Defiant Ones* as chained-together convicts who escape and must cooperate. Both actors received nominations for the Academy Award for Best Actor, with Poitier's being the first ever for a black actor, as well as nominations for the BAFTAs, which Poitier won. In 1964 he won the Academy Award for Best Actor and the Golden Globe Award for Best Actor^{[4][a]} for his role in *Lilies of the Field* (1963) in which he played a handyman who stays with and helps a group of German-speaking nuns build a chapel.^[5] Poitier also received critical acclaim for *A Raisin in the Sun* (1961) and *A Patch of Blue* (1965).

He continued to break ground in three successful 1967 films, each dealing with issues of race and race relations: *To Sir, with Love*; *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, and *In the Heat of the Night*, making him the top box-office star of that year.^[6] He received nominations for the Golden Globes and BAFTAs for the latter film, but not for the Oscars, likely due to vote splitting between his roles. After twice reprising his Virgil Tibbs character from *In the Heat of the Night* and acting in a variety of other films, including the thriller *The Wilby Conspiracy* (1975), with Michael Caine, Poiter turned to acting/directing with the action-comedies *Uptown Saturday Night* (1974), *Let's Do It Again* (1975), and *A Piece of the Action* (1978), all co-starring Bill Cosby. During a decade away from acting he directed the successful *Stir Crazy* (1980) starring Richard Pryor and Gene Wilder, among other films. He returned to acting in the late 1980s and early 1990s in a few thrillers and television roles.

Poitier was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 1974.^[7] In 2009 Poitier was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the United States' highest civilian honor.^[8] In 2016, he was awarded the BAFTA Fellowship for outstanding lifetime achievement in film.^[7] In 1999, the American Film Institute ranked

Sir
Sidney Poitier
KBE



Poitier in 1968

Born February 20, 1927
Miami, Florida, U.S.

Citizenship Bahamas
 United States

Occupation Actor • director • author • diplomat

Years active 1946–present

Spouse(s) Juanita Hardy (m. 1950–1965)
Joanna Shimkus (m. 1976)

Partner(s) Diahann Carroll (1959-1968)

Children 6, including Sydney Tamiia Poitier

Military career

Allegiance United States

Service/branch United States Army

Years of service 1943–1944

Poitier 22nd on their list of Greatest Male Stars of classic Hollywood cinema. In 2002 Poitier was chosen to receive an Academy Honorary Award, in recognition of his "remarkable accomplishments as an artist and as a human being".^[9]

Rank	Enlisted
Bahamian Ambassador to Japan	
	<div>In office</div> 1997 – 2007 ^[1]

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Early life

Sidney Poitier was the youngest of seven surviving children,^[10] born to Evelyn (née Outten) and Reginald James Poitier,^[11] Bahamian farmers who owned a farm on Cat Island. The family would travel to Miami to sell tomatoes and other produce. Reginald also worked as a cab driver in Nassau, Bahamas.^[12] Poitier was born in Miami while his parents were visiting. His birth was two months premature and he was not expected to survive, but his parents remained in Miami for three months to nurse him to health.^[13] Poitier grew up in the Bahamas, then a British Crown colony. Because of his birth in the United States, he automatically received American citizenship.^[13]

Poitier's uncle believed that the Poitier ancestors on his father's side had migrated from Haiti,^[14] and were probably among the runaway slaves who established maroon communities throughout the Bahamas, including Cat Island. He noted that Poitier is a French name, and that there were no white Poitiers from the Bahamas.^[15] However, there had been a white Poitier on Cat Island; the name came from planter Charles Leonard Poitier of English heritage who had immigrated from Jamaica in the early 1800s. In 1834, his wife's estate on Cat Island had 86 slaves—39 men and 47 women. The slaves kept the name Poitier, a name that had been introduced into England during the Norman conquest in the 11th century.^[16]

Poitier lived with his family on Cat Island until he was 10, when they moved to Nassau. There he was exposed to the modern world, where he saw his first automobile, first experienced electricity, plumbing, refrigeration, and motion pictures.^{[17][18]} He was raised a Roman Catholic^[19] but later became an agnostic^[20] with views closer to deism.^[21]

At age 15, he was sent to Miami to live with his brother's large family. At 16, he moved to New York City and held a string of jobs as a dishwasher. A waiter sat with him every night for several weeks helping him learn to read the newspaper.^[22] In November 1943, he lied about his age and enlisted in the Army during World War II. He was assigned to a Veteran's Administration hospital in Northport, New York, and was trained to work with psychiatric patients. Poitier became upset with how the hospital treated its patients and faked mental illness to obtain a discharge. Poitier confessed to a psychiatrist that he was faking, but the doctor was sympathetic and granted his discharge under Section 8 of Army regulations in December 1944..^[23]

After leaving the Army he worked as a dishwasher until a successful audition landed him a spot with the American Negro Theater.^{[24][25]}

Hollywood

Acting

Poitier joined the North American Negro Theater, but was rejected by audiences. Contrary to what was expected of black actors at the time, Poitier's tone deafness made him unable to sing.^[26] Determined to refine his acting skills and rid himself of his noticeable Bahamian accent, he spent the next six months dedicating himself to achieving theatrical success. On his second attempt at the theater, he was noticed and given a leading role in the Broadway production Lysistrata, for which, though it ran a failing four days, he received an invitation to understudy for Anna Lucasta.^[27] By the end of 1949, he had to choose between leading roles on stage and an offer to work for Darryl F. Zanuck in the film No Way Out (1950). His performance in No Way Out, as a doctor treating a Caucasian bigot (played by Richard Widmark), was noticed and led to more roles, each considerably more interesting and more prominent than those most African-American actors of the time were offered. In 1951, he traveled to South Africa with the African-American actor Canada Lee to star in the film version of Cry, the Beloved Country.^[28] Poitier's breakout role was as Gregory W. Miller, a member of an incorrigible high-school class in Blackboard Jungle (1955).^[29]

In 1958 he starred alongside Tony Curtis in director Stanley Kramer's The Defiant Ones. Poitier and Curtis play prisoners chained-together who escape custody when the truck transporting them crashes and to avoid re-capture they must work cooperatively despite their mutual dislike. The film was a critical and commercial success with the performances of both Poitier and Curtis being praised.^{[30][31]} The film landed eight Academy Award nominations including Best Picture and Best Actor nominations for both stars, making Poitier the first black male actor to be nominated for a competitive Academy Award as best actor. Both actors received the same nomination at the Golden Globes, but likely due to vote splitting between the two of them, neither won either award. Poitier did win the British Academy of Film and Television Arts Award for Best Foreign Actor and the Berlin Film Festival's Silver Bear Award.

He was also the first black actor to win the Academy Award for Best Actor (for Lilies of the Field in 1963). (James Baskett was the first African-American male to receive an Oscar, an Honorary Academy Award for his performance as Uncle Remus in the Walt Disney production of Song of the South in 1948, while Hattie McDaniel predated them both, winning as Best Supporting Actress for her role in 1939's Gone with the Wind, making her the first black person to be nominated for and receive an Oscar). His satisfaction at this honor was undermined by his concerns that this award was more of the industry congratulating itself for



A scene from the play *A Raisin in the Sun*. From left: Louis Gossett Jr. as George Murchison, Ruby Dee as Ruth Younger and Poitier as Walter Younger.

having him as a token and it would inhibit him from asking for more substantive considerations afterward.^[32] Poitier worked relatively little over the following year; he remained the only major actor of African descent and the roles offered were predominantly typecast as a soft-spoken appeaser.^[33]

He acted in the first production of *A Raisin in the Sun* on Broadway in 1959, and later starred in the film version released in 1961. He also gave memorable performances in *The Bedford Incident* (1965), and *A Patch of Blue* (1965) co-starring Elizabeth Hartman and Shelley Winters. In 1967, he was the most successful draw at the box office, the commercial peak of his career, with three popular films, *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*; *To Sir, with Love* and *In the Heat of the Night*. The last film featured his most successful character, Virgil Tibbs, a Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, detective whose subsequent career was the subject of two sequels: *They Call Me MISTER Tibbs!* (1970) and *The Organization* (1971). Many of the films in which Poitier starred during the 1960s would later be cited as social thrillers by both filmmakers and critics.^{[34][35][36][37]}

Poitier began to be criticized for being typecast as over-idealized African-American characters who were not permitted to have any sexuality or personality faults, such as his character in *Guess Who's Coming To Dinner*. Poitier was aware of this pattern himself, but was conflicted on the matter. He wanted more varied roles; but he also felt obliged to set an example with his characters, by challenging old stereotypes as he was the only major actor of African descent being cast in leading roles in the American film industry, at that time. For instance, in 1966, he turned down an opportunity to play the lead in an NBC television production of *Othello* with that spirit in mind.^[38]



Poitier (left) at the 1963 March on Washington, alongside actors Harry Belafonte and Charlton Heston

In 2002, Poitier received the 2001 Honorary Academy Award for his overall contribution to American cinema. With the death of Ernest Borgnine, in 2012, he became the oldest living man to have won the Academy Award for Best Actor.^[39] On March 2, 2014, Poitier appeared with Angelina Jolie at the 86th Academy Awards, to present the Best Director Award. He was given a standing ovation. Jolie thanked him for all his Hollywood contributions, stating "we are in your debt". Poitier gave a brief acceptance speech, telling his peers to "keep up the wonderful work" to warm applause.

Directing

Poitier directed several films, the most successful being the Richard Pryor-Gene Wilder comedy *Stir Crazy*, which for many years was the highest-grossing film directed by a person of African descent.^[40] His feature film directorial debut was the Western, *Buck and the Preacher*, in which Poitier also starred, alongside Harry Belafonte. Poitier replaced the original director, Joseph Sargent. The trio of Poitier, Cosby, and Belafonte reunited, with Poitier again directing, in *Uptown Saturday Night*. He directed Cosby in *Let's Do It Again*, *A Piece of the Action*, and *Ghost Dad*. Poitier directed the first popular dance battle movie, *Fast Forward*, in 1985.

Recording

Poitier recorded an album with the composer Fred Katz called *Poitier Meets Plato*, in which Poitier recites passages from Plato's writings.^[41]

Business

From 1995 to 2003, Poitier served as a member of the board of directors of The Walt Disney Company.^[42]

Diplomatic service

In April 1997, Poitier was appointed ambassador of the Bahamas to Japan, a position he held until 2007. From 2002 to 2007, he was concurrently the ambassador of the Bahamas to UNESCO.^[3]

Personal life

Poitier was first married to Juanita Hardy from April 29, 1950, until 1965. They raised their family in Stuyvesant, New York in a house on the Hudson River.^[43] In 1959, Poitier began a nine-year affair with actress Diahann Carroll.^[44] He has been married to Joanna Shimkus, a Canadian former actress, since January 23, 1976. He has four daughters with his first wife and two with his second: Beverly (who was once married to Ghanaian American Electrical engineer William Jacob Quao Mould),^{[45][46]} Pamela,^[47] Sherri,^[48] Gina,^[49] Anika,^[50] and Sydney Tamiia.^[51]

In addition to his six daughters, Poitier has eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.^[52]

When Hurricane Dorian hit the Bahamas in September 2019, Poitier's family had 23 missing relatives.^[53]

Honors and awards

- 1958: British Academy Film Award for Best Actor in a Leading Role for *The Defiant Ones*
- 1958: Silver Bear for Best Actor (Berlin Film Festival) for *The Defiant Ones*^[54]
- 1963: Golden Globe Award for Best Actor in a Motion Picture Drama for *Lilies of the Field*
- 1963: Silver Bear for Best Actor (Berlin Film Festival) for *Lilies of the Field*^[55]
- 1964: Academy Award (Oscar) for Best Actor in a Leading Role for *Lilies of the Field*
- 1974: Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire (KBE)
- 1982: Golden Globe Cecil B. DeMille Award^[56]
- 1992: AFI Life Achievement Award
- 1995: Kennedy Center Honors
- 1997: Appointed non-resident Bahamian Ambassador to Japan
- 1999: SAG Life Achievement Award
- 2000: NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Actor in a Television Movie, Mini-Series or Dramatic Special for *The Simple Life of Noah Dearborn*
- 2001: NAACP Image Award – Hall of Fame Award
- 2001 Grammy Award for Best Spoken Word Album – Rick Harris, John Runnette (producers) and Sidney Poitier for *The Measure of a Man*
- 2002: Honorary Oscar – "For his extraordinary performances and unique presence on the screen and for representing the industry with dignity, style and intelligence"
- 2009: Presidential Medal of Freedom^[57]
- 2011: Film Society of Lincoln Center Gala Tribute^[58] honoring his life and careers



Poitier at a book signing



Sidney Poitier's house



Poitier receives the Presidential Medal of Freedom from U.S. President Barack Obama in August 2009.

- 2016: [BAFTA Fellowship](#)

Filmography

Actor

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1947	<u><i>Sepia Cinderella</i></u>	Extra	Uncredited
1949	<u><i>From Whence Cometh My Help</i></u>	Himself	Documentary
1950	<u><i>No Way Out</i></u>	Dr. Luther Brooks	
1951	<u><i>Cry, the Beloved Country</i></u>	Reverend Msimangu	
1952	<u><i>Red Ball Express</i></u>	Cpl. Andrew Robertson	
1954	<u><i>Go, Man, Go!</i></u>	Inman Jackson	
1955	<u><i>Blackboard Jungle</i></u>	Gregory W. Miller	
1956	<u><i>Good-bye, My Lady</i></u>	Gates Watson	
1957	<u><i>Edge of the City</i></u>	Tommy Tyler	Nominated – <u>BAFTA Award for Best Actor in a Leading Role</u>
1957	<u><i>Something of Value</i></u>	Kimani Wa Karanja	
1957	<u><i>Band of Angels</i></u>	Rau-Ru Ponce de Leon	
1957	<u><i>The Mark of the Hawk</i></u>	Obam	
1958	<u><i>Virgin Island</i></u>	Marcus	
1958	<u><i>The Defiant Ones</i></u>	Noah Cullen	<u>BAFTA Award for Best Actor in a Leading Role</u> <u>Silver Bear for Best Actor</u> ^[54] Nominated – <u>Academy Award for Best Actor</u> Nominated – <u>Golden Globe Award for Best Actor – Motion Picture Drama</u> Nominated – <u>Laurel Award for Top Male Dramatic Performance</u>
1959	<u><i>Porgy and Bess</i></u>	Porgy	Nominated – <u>Golden Globe Award for Best Actor – Motion Picture Musical or Comedy</u>
1960	<u><i>All the Young Men</i></u>	Sgt. Eddie Towler	
1961	<u><i>A Raisin in the Sun</i></u>	Walter Lee Younger	Nominated – <u>BAFTA Award for Best Actor in a Leading Role</u> Nominated – <u>Golden Globe Award for Best Actor – Motion Picture Drama</u>
1961	<u><i>Paris Blues</i></u>	Eddie Cook	
1962	<u><i>Pressure Point</i></u>	Doctor (Chief Psychiatrist)	
1963	<u><i>The Long Ships</i></u>	Aly Mansuh	
1963	<u><i>Lilies of the Field</i></u>	Homer Smith	<u>Academy Award for Best Actor</u> <u>Golden Globe Award for Best Actor – Motion Picture Drama</u> <u>Silver Bear for Best Actor</u> ^[55] Nominated – <u>BAFTA Award for Best Actor in a Leading Role</u> Nominated – <u>Laurel Award for Top Male Dramatic Performance</u> Nominated – <u>New York Film Critics Circle Award for Best Actor</u>
1965	<u><i>The Bedford Incident</i></u>	Ben Munceford	
1965	<u><i>The Greatest Story Ever Told</i></u>	<u>Simon of Cyrene</u>	

1965	<u><i>A Patch of Blue</i></u>	Gordon Ralfe	Nominated—BAFTA Award for Best Actor in a Leading Role Nominated—Golden Globe Award for Best Actor – Motion Picture Drama Nominated – Laurel Award for Top Male Dramatic Performance
1965	<u><i>The Slender Thread</i></u>	Alan Newell	
1966	<u><i>Duel at Diablo</i></u>	Toller (contract horse dealer)	Nominated—Laurel Award for Top Male Action Performance
1967	<u><i>To Sir, with Love</i></u>	Mark Thackeray	
1967	<u><i>In the Heat of the Night</i></u>	<u>Det. Virgil Tibbs</u>	Nominated—BAFTA Award for Best Actor in a Leading Role Nominated – Golden Globe Award for Best Actor – Motion Picture Drama Nominated – Laurel Award for Top Male Dramatic Performance
1967	<u><i>Guess Who's Coming to Dinner</i></u>	Dr. John Wade Prentice	Fotogramas de Plata Award for Best Foreign Performer
1968	<u><i>For Love of Ivy</i></u>	Jack Parks	Prize San Sebastián for Best Actor
1969	<u><i>The Lost Man</i></u>	Jason Higgs	
1970	<u><i>King: A Filmed Record... Montgomery to Memphis</i></u>	Narrator	Documentary
1970	<u><i>They Call Me Mister Tibbs!</i></u>	Lt. Virgil Tibbs	
1971	<u><i>Brother John</i></u>	John Kane	
1971	<u><i>The Organization</i></u>	Lt. Virgil Tibbs	
1972	<u><i>Buck and the Preacher</i></u>	Buck	
1973	<u><i>A Warm December</i></u>	Matt Younger	
1974	<u><i>Uptown Saturday Night</i></u>	Steve Jackson	
1975	<u><i>The Wilby Conspiracy</i></u>	Shack Twala	
1975	<u><i>Let's Do it Again</i></u>	Clyde Williams	NAACP Image Award for Best Director
1977	<u><i>A Piece of the Action</i></u>	Manny Durrell	
1979	<u><i>Paul Robeson: Tribute to an Artist</i></u>	Narrator	Short subject
1988	<u><i>Shoot to Kill</i></u>	Warren Stantin	
1988	<u><i>Little Nikita</i></u>	Roy Parmenter	
1992	<u><i>Sneakers</i></u>	Donald Crease	Nominated—NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Actor in a Motion Picture
1994	<u><i>A Century of Cinema</i></u>	Himself	Documentary
1996	<u><i>Wild Bill: Hollywood Maverick</i></u>	Himself	Documentary
1996	<u><i>To Sir, with Love II</i></u>	Mark Thackeray	
1997	<u><i>The Jackal</i></u>	FBI Deputy Director Carter Preston	Blockbuster Entertainment Award for Favorite Supporting Actor – Suspense
2001	<u><i>Ralph Bunche: An American Odyssey</i></u>	Narrator	Documentary
2004	<u><i>Tell Them Who You Are</i></u>	Himself	Documentary

2008	<u>Mr. Warmth: The Don Rickles Project</u>	Himself	Documentary
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Director

Year	Title
1972	<u>Buck and the Preacher</u>
1973	<u>A Warm December</u>
1974	<u>Uptown Saturday Night</u>
1975	<u>Let's Do it Again</u>
1977	<u>A Piece of the Action</u>
1980	<u>Stir Crazy</u>
1982	<u>Hanky Panky</u>
1985	<u>Fast Forward</u>
1990	<u>Ghost Dad</u>

Television

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1962	<u><i>The Jack Paar Tonight Show</i></u>	Himself	1 episode
1969	<u><i>The Mike Douglas Show</i></u>	Himself	1 episode
1972	<u><i>The Dick Cavett Show</i></u>	Himself	1 episode
1972	<u><i>The New Bill Cosby Show</i></u>	Himself	1 episode
1975	<u><i>The Merv Griffin Show</i></u>	Himself	1 episode
1979	<u><i>The Mike Douglas Show</i></u>	Himself	1 episode
1991	<u><i>Separate but Equal</i></u>	Thurgood Marshall	Nominated— <u>Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actor – Miniseries or a Movie</u> Nominated— <u>Golden Globe Award for Best Actor – Miniseries or Television Film</u>
1995	<u><i>Children of the Dust</i></u>	Gypsy Smith	Nominated— <u>NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Actor in a Television Movie, Mini-Series or Dramatic Special</u>
1996	<u><i>To Sir, with Love II</i></u>	Mark Thackeray	
1997	<u><i>Mandela and de Klerk</i></u>	Nelson Mandela	Nominated— <u>CableACE Award for Best Actor in a Movie or Miniseries</u> Nominated— <u>NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Actor in a Television Movie, Mini-Series or Dramatic Special</u> Nominated— <u>Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actor – Miniseries or a Movie</u> Nominated— <u>Satellite Award for Best Actor – Miniseries or Television Film</u> Nominated— <u>Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Miniseries or Television Movie</u>
1998	<u><i>David and Lisa</i></u>	Dr. Jack Miller	
1999	<u><i>The Simple Life of Noah Dearborn</i></u>	Noah Dearborn	NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Actor in a Television Movie, Mini-Series or Dramatic Special Nominated— <u>Black Reel Award for Best Actor: T.V. Movie/Cable</u>
1999	<i>Free of Eden</i>	Will Cleamons	
2000-2007	<u><i>The Oprah Winfrey Show</i></u>	Himself	5 episodes
2001	<i>The Last Brickmaker in America</i>	Henry Cobb	
2008	<u><i>Larry King Live</i></u>	Himself	1 episode

Works about Poitier

Autobiographies

Poitier has written three autobiographical books:

- *This Life* (1980)

- *The Measure of a Man: A Spiritual Autobiography* (2000)
- *Life Beyond Measure – Letters to my Great-Granddaughter* (2008, an [Oprah's Book Club](#) selection).

Poitier is also the subject of the biography *Sidney Poitier: Man, Actor, Icon* (2004) by historian Aram Goudsouzian.^[59]

Poitier wrote the novel *Montaro Caine*, released in May 2013.

Films about Poitier

- *Sidney Poitier, an Outsider in Hollywood* (*Sidney Poitier, an outsider à Hollywood*). Documentary film by Catherine Arnaud. Arte, France, 2008, 70 minutes.
- *Sidney Poitier: One Bright Light*. American Masters, PBS. USA, 2000. 60 minutes.^[60]

See also

- [David Hampton](#), an impostor who posed as Poitier's son "David" in 1983, which inspired a play and a film, *Six Degrees of Separation*
- [John Stewart \(comics\)](#), a superhero whose design was based on Poitier
- [List of earliest surviving Academy Award winners](#)

References

Informational notes

- a. [James Baskett](#) won an [Honorary Academy Award](#) for *Song of the South* (1946); it was not competitive.

Citations

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2. Because Poitier is a citizen of The Bahamas, a **Commonwealth realm**, this is a substantive (as opposed to honorary) knighthood, which entitles him to the style "Sir". However, Poitier employs the title only in connection with his former official ambassadorial duties.
3. "Sir Sidney Poitier, best known Bahamian, honored" (<http://www.tourismtoday.com/home/sir-sidney-poitier-best-known-bahamian-honored>). Retrieved 21 February 2015.
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8. "Sidney Poitier, Sen. Ted Kennedy Among 16 Who Receive Medal of Freedom" (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/08/12/AR2009081203383.html>). Washingtonpost.com. September 13, 2009. Retrieved August 10, 2014.
9. "*Sidney Poitier awards: Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences awards database*" (https://web.archive.org/web/20120114044424/http://awardsdatabase.oscars.org/ampas_awards/DisplayMain.jsp?curTime=1200268027690). Awardsdatabase.oscars.org. January 29, 2010. Archived from [the original](http://awardsdatabase.oscars.org/ampas_awards/DisplayMain.jsp?curTime=1200268027690) (http://awardsdatabase.oscars.org/ampas_awards/DisplayMain.jsp?curTime=1200268027690) on January 14, 2012. Retrieved August 10, 2014.

10. Poitier, Sidney (1980). *This Life*. US, Canada: Knopf (US), Random House (Canada). pp. 2, 5. "At this point [his father, Reginald Poitier] still had four boys and two girls (quite a few to make it through)... (2); When Reginald and Evelyn Poitier returned to Cat Island from Miami, carrying me – the new baby they now called "Sidney" – they were greeted by their six children ... my older brother Cyril, fifteen; Ruby, thirteen; Verdon (Teddy) [female], eleven; Reginald, eight; Carl, five; and Cedric, three. (5)"
11. "Sidney Poitier Film Reference biography" (<http://www.filmreference.com/film/42/Sidney-Poitier.html>). Filmreference.com. Retrieved August 10, 2014.
12. Davis Smiley interviews Sidney Poitier (<https://www.pbs.org/kcet/tavissmiley/archive/200806/20080609.html>) Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20090316054952/http://www.pbs.org/kcet/tavissmiley/archive/200806/20080609.html>) March 16, 2009, at the [Wayback Machine](#)
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External links

- Official publisher web page (https://web.archive.org/web/20070929083724/http://www.harpercollins.com/authors/13974/Sidney_Poitier/index.aspx?WT.mc_id=WIKI_AUTH_POIT_041307)
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 - Sidney Poitier films ranked from worst to best (<http://www.anorakzone.com/poitierrank1.html>)
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