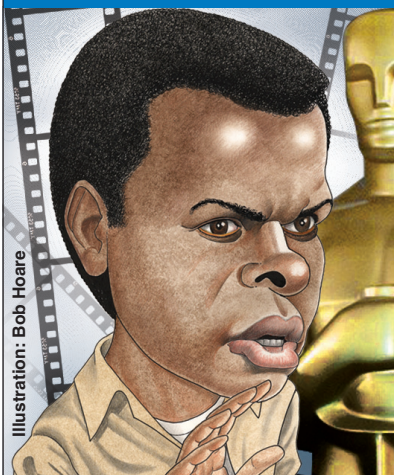


## Poitier turns 80

Illustration: Bob Hoare



### SIDNEY POITIER

- ▶ **1927:** Born at sea on February 20, to Bahamian parents travelling to Miami to sell farm produce. Premature baby Sidney was not expected to survive trip
- ▶ **1943:** Age 16, moves to Miami to live with older brother
- ▶ **1949:** Excellent reviews for leading role in *Lysistrata* on **Broadway** leads to movie debut in **Darryl F. Zanuck's No Way Out**
- ▶ **1963:** First male African-American actor to win **Academy Award** for Best Actor, for *Lilies of the Field*
- ▶ **1963:** Takes part in Civil Rights March to Washington, D.C. led by **Martin Luther King**
- ▶ **1980:** Directs comedy movie *Stir Crazy*, starring **Gene Wilder** and **Richard Pryor**
- ▶ **Honours include:** **Knight Commander of the British Empire** (1974), **Kennedy Center Honors** (1995), and **Honorary Oscar** for lifetime achievement (2002)