

# Chadwick Boseman:

## Our Special Superhero on Earth

Words by  
**DOMINIQUE CARSON**

*Chadwick Boseman was more than just a great actor. He was a pillar of humility and righteousness; leaving behind a legacy that will impact generations to come.*



For 17 years actor, director, and producer Chadwick Boseman blessed our hearts, starring and co-starring in several movies and television shows. His love for the theater and storytelling began when he was a child. Boseman knew he wanted to be a theater director and playwright. The South Carolina native attended Howard University, earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts in directing in 2000. Under actress Phyllica Rashad's mentorship, he was accepted to the University of Oxford's summer theater program after Denzel Washington paid his summer tuition.

His road to stardom began when he portrayed iconic Black figures on screen. He put on his dancing shoes in the film *Get On Up*, depicting the quintessential legend James Brown. Boseman continued to show his diverse range as an actor when he starred in *Persons Unknown*, *42*, *21 Bridges*, and *Marshall*. But he will be forever known for his signature role as T'Challa in the 2018 Marvel superhero film, *Black Panther*.

In 2018, *Black Panther* was a cultural phenomenon, impacting audiences worldwide. Boseman was also the first African American actor to play a lead in the Marvel Cinematic Universe catalog. After the release, the movie received several nominations, including seven at the 91st Academy Awards, including Best Picture. The film received an Academy Award for Best Costume Design, Original Music Score, and Production Design. Boseman was also awarded for his work in the movie. He received an NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Actor in Motion Picture.

*Black Panther* was a commercial success, but viewers were impressed with Boseman's connection to the character. In the film, Boseman's character T'Challa returned to Africa to become the king of Wakanda, and his leadership and authority were

tested throughout the film. Yes, *Black Panther* is an action movie consisting of various superheroes, but Boseman still brought his character to life. Viewers recognized T'Challa's diligence, dedication, strength, and noble character, which influences black and brown kids to reshape their thinking about themselves and the African American culture. He was not reluctant about revealing his genuine emotions on screen. Boseman's artistic talents are also suited to his department. His colleagues and dear loved ones appreciated his charismatic attitude about life and demeanor.

**You have to cherish things in a different way when you know the clock is ticking, you are under pressure.**

**Chadwick Boseman.**

Even though Boseman was a courageous man on and off-screen, he endured an enormous amount of pain behind closed doors. In 2016 Boseman was diagnosed with stage III colon cancer and he suffered silently. Most people will give up when they hear this devastating news, but Boseman persevered. He still went back to work while completing treatment, performed stunts, went on tours to promote his latest projects, and did not show any signs of defeat. Boseman passed away on Friday, August 28, 2020, at the age of 43 after a four-year battle with the disease. It was quite a shock because the world did not know he was ill. It was a considerable loss, but Boseman's story reminded everyone that we need to remain resourceful during stressful times. Fans realize that if Chadwick Boseman can work every day when he is emotionally and physically drained

from the disease, then maybe we should re-evaluate our outlook on life and purpose on Earth. We can not buy time, so we have to make every moment count in life, and Chadwick Boseman's story shows how and why we can still push the envelope when you feel like all hope is lost. Boseman's final on-screen film, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, co-starring Academy Award-winning actress Viola Davis will premiere on Netflix on December 18, 2020.