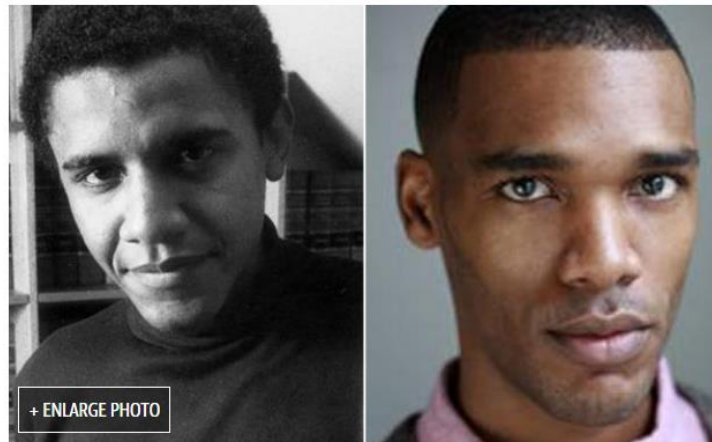


MOVIES

Snowden actor cast as young Barack Obama

BY JEFF LABRECQUE · @JEFFLABRECQUE

Parker Sawyers, who had small roles in *Zero Dark Thirty* and *Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit* and recently completed Oliver Stone's *Snowden*, will portray Barack Obama in *Southside With You*, inspired by the story of the president's first date with Michelle Robinson, who would go on to become his wife. Tika Sumpter (*Get on Up*) had previously been announced as Michelle.



(Lane Turner/The Boston Globe via Getty Images, Handout)

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The year was 1989, and 27-year-old Harvard law student Barack Obama was back in Chicago working as a summer associate for the Sidley Austin law firm. His office advisor was Michelle, who initially rebuffed his invitations to go out on a date. She finally relented, and on a summer afternoon and evening, they visited the Art Institute of Chicago, saw Spike Lee's *Do the Right Thing*, and kissed for the first time outside of an ice cream parlor.

Richard Tanne wrote the screenplay and will make his directorial debut. Shooting begins in Chicago in August.