

## White-Washing and Racial Censorship

White-washing— a casting practice of hiring and casting white actors and individuals for roles that are historically for, and scripted to represent, persons of color or non-white characters.

The film and entertainment industry is notable for practicing such exclusions which is a form of cultural censorship— the lack of authentic representation limits foundational knowledge of people of color. Seen in Stuart Burge's 1965 *Othello*, white actor Laurence Olivier wore blackface as the title character and as "The Moor." Black and yellow face, performed caricatures, white savior narratives in film and racial stereotypes are perpetuated by the practice of white-washing and racial censoring roles of blacks, and people of color. Yet, films with an all-black cast, or Race Films, directed audiences to a refined perspective of black life and are provided.

This listing of sources provides cinematic examples, perspectives from the production side of entertainment and works of fiction to highlight historical white-washing practices in cinema. Sources include call numbers, for patrons to easily inquire and obtain resources. Auburn Avenue Research Library maintains non-circulating policies of its collection; however, patrons are able to utilize materials in-house. Suggested search terms and keywords are provided to further guide patron's research amongst Auburn Avenue Research Library and the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library catalog and digital libraries.

**Forrest R. Evans**

**Librarian II, Reference and Research**

[Forrest.Evans@fultoncountyga.gov](mailto:Forrest.Evans@fultoncountyga.gov)

---

### Audio/Visual Collection:

#### **Blacking Up Hip-Hop's Remix of Race and Identity**

Author: Clift, Robert      Pub Date: 2010      Call #: DVD 782.421649 BLACKING

#### **White Scripts and Black Supermen Black Masculinities in Comic Books**

Author: Gayles, Jonathan      Pub Date: 2011      Call #: DVD 741.50973 WHITE

#### **Blaxploitation Cartoon Festival**

Author: Compilation Video      Call #: VHS 791.43 BLAXPLOITATION

#### **White Scripts and Black Superman Black Masculinities in Comic Books**

Author: Gayla, Jonathan      Pub Date: 2011      Call #: DVD 741.50973 WHITE

#### **In the Shadow of Hollywood: Race Movies, and the Birth of Black Cinema**

Author: Osborne, Brad      Pub Date: 2007      Call #: DVD 791.43 IN

#### **Movies of Color Black Southern Cinema**

Author: Thurman, Tom      Pub Date: 2002      Call #: DVD 791.43 MOVIES

## **Cinematic Features and Examples of White-Washing and Racial Censorship:**

### **Pinky**

**Author:** Crain, Jeanne

**Pub Date:** 1949

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** VHS 791.43 PINKY

### **The Birth of a Nation**

**Author:** Griffith, D. W.

**Pub Date:** 1915

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 840.9 HILL

### **Imitation of Life**

**Author:** Turner, Lana

**Pub Date:** 1992

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** DVD 791.43 BIRTH

## **Race Films at AARL:**

### **Oscar Hammerstein's Carmen Jones**

**Author:** Preminger, Otto      **Pub Date:** 1994

**Call #:** VHS 791.43

### **Race Films DVD Set**

**Author:** Compilation Set      **Pub Date:**

**Call #:** DVD 791.43 RACE

### **Disc. 1**

Beware (1946) (55:11)  
Big timers (1945) (35:47)  
The black king (1932) (68:52)  
Boardinghouse blues (1948) (97:25)  
The blood of Jesus (1941) (56:27)  
Boy! What a girl! (1947) (69:16)  
Broken strings (1940) (59:26)  
The bronze buckaroo (1939) (56:46)  
The devil's daughter (1939) (51:23)  
Dirty Gertie from Harlem U.S.A.(1946) (59:45)  
Dark Manhattan (1937) (69:09)

### **Disc. 2**

Double deal (1934) (58:23)  
The duke is tops (1938) (73:39)  
The Emperor Jones (1933) (72:42)  
Girl in room 20 (1946) (61:54)  
The girl from Chicago (1932) (70:26)  
Go down death (1944) (50:56)  
Borderline (1929) 62:31  
Body and soul (1925) (77:26)  
Mistaken identity (1941) (54:25)  
God's step children (1937) (70:29)

**Disc. 3**

Eleven P.M. (1928) (56:20)  
Gang war (1940) (63:15)  
Harlem is heaven (1932) (57:09)  
Keep punching (1939) (81:22)  
No time for romance (1948) (69:40)  
Harlem rides the range (1939) ( 56:05)  
Hi de ho (1947) (63:24)  
Murder in Harlem (1935) (95:39)  
Of one blood (1944) (61:07)  
The exile (1931) (75:04)

**Disc 5**

Two-gun man from Harlem (1938) (60:28)  
Lying lips (1939) (72:09)  
Miracle in Harlem (1948) (69:51)  
Moon over Harlem (1939) (68:44)  
The symbol of the unconquered (1920) (58:03)  
Underworld (1937) (63:09)  
Tall tan and terrific (1946) (42:29)  
Lucky ghost (1941) (60:46)  
Native son (1968) (87:46)  
Murder on Lenox Avenue (1941) (64:55)  
Murder with music (1941) (56:47)

**Disc. 7**

Sunday sinners (1940) (65:31)  
Spirit of youth (1937) (65:29)  
Ten minutes to live (1932) (58:57)  
The proud valley (1940) (76:35)  
Sepia Cinderella (1947) (67:17)  
Swing (1938) (68:21)  
Song of freedom (1936) (76:37)  
The magic garden (1952) (62:20)  
The mark of the hawk (1957) (80:51)  
The new girl (1959) (33:33)

**Disc 8.**

24 short race films (365:12)

**Disc 4**

The Jackie Robinson story (1950) (76:54)  
The Joe Louis story (1953) (85:57)  
Jerico (1937) (74:40)  
Louisiana (1934) (48:14)  
Juke joint (1947) (67:13)  
Lookout sister (1947) (62:48)  
Where's my man to-nite (1943) (78:04)  
Straight to heaven (1939) ( 51:58)  
Junction 88 (1947) (49:02)  
Midnight shadow (1939) (50:15)

**Disc 6**

The negro soldier (1943) (40:16)  
Way down south (1939) (61:20)  
Mystery in swing (1940) (65:06)  
Big Fella (1937) (70:40)  
Reet, petit, and gone (1947) (69:55)  
Paradise in Harlem (1939) (84:52)  
The scar of shame (1927) (75:05)  
Beale Street mama (1946) (57:20)  
Son of Ingagi (1940) (61:59)  
Veiled aristocrats (1932) (44:18)

**Books:**

**Watching While Black: Centering the Television of Black Audiences**

**Author:** Smith-Shomade, Beretta E.

**Pub Date:** 2012

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 791.450899 WATCHING

**Crime and Racial Constructions: Cultural Misinformation about African Americans in Media and Academia**

**Author:** Covington, Jeanette

**Pub Date:** 2010

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 791.43089 COVINGTON

**To be Suddenly White: Literary Realism and Racial Passing**

**Author:** Belluscio, Steven J.

**Pub Date:** 2006

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 791.450899 WATCHING

**Filming Difference: Actors, Directors, Producers, and Writers on Gender, Race, and Sexuality in Film**

**Author:** Bernardi, Daniel

**Pub Date:** 2009

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 791.436355 FILMING

**Fade to Black and White: Interracial Images in Popular Culture**

**Author:** Childs, Erica Chito

**Pub Date:** 2009

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 305.800973 CHILDS

**Black Children in Hollywood Cinema; Cast in Shadow**

**Author:** Olson, Debbie

**Pub Date:** 2017

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 791.43 OLSON

**Black Face, Maligned Race: The Representation of Blacks in English Drama from Shakespeare to Southerne**

**Author:** Berthelemy, Anthony Gerard

**Pub Date:** 1987

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** WR 822.3 BARTHELEMY

**Racial Geometries of the Black Atlantic, Asian Pacific and American Theatre**

**Author:** Steen, Shannon

**Pub Date:** 2010

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 792.089 STEEN

**The Problematic Tyler Perry**

**Author:** Adu-Opake, Kawaku

**Pub Date:** 2016

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 791.43028 PERRY

**Black City Cinema: African American Urban Experiences in Film**

**Author:** Massood, Paula J.

**Pub Date:** 2003

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 791.43 MASSOOD

**Why We Make Movies: Black Filmmakers Talk About the Magic of Cinema**

**Author:** Alexander, George

**Pub Date:** 2003

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 791.43 MASSOOD

**Post-soul Black Cinema: Discontinuities, Innovations and Breakpoints, 1970-1995**

**Author:** Grant, W.R.

**Pub Date:** 2004

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 791.43 GRANT

**Film Blackness: American Cinema and the Idea of Black Film**

**Author:** Gillespie, Michael Boyce

**Pub Date:** 2007

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 338.96 791.43 GILLESPIE

**Black Male Frames: African Americans in A Century of Hollywood Cinema, 1903-2003**

**Author:** Williams, Roland Leander

**Pub Date:** 2015

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 791.43 WILLIAMS

**Uplift Cinema: The Emergence of African American Film and the Possibility of Black Modernity**

**Author:** Field, Allyson Nadia

**Pub Date:** 2015

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 791.43652 FIELD

**Black Male Frames: African Americans in a Century of Hollywood Cinema, 1903-2003**

**Author:** Williams, Roland Leander

**Pub Date:** 2015

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 791.43 WILLIAMS

**Racial Imperatives: Discipline, Performativity, and Struggles Against Subjection**

**Author:** Ehlers, Nadine

**Pub Date:** 2012

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 810.93552 BELLUSCIO

**Whitewashing the South: White Memories of Segregation and Civil Rights**

**Author:** Lavelle, Kristen M.

**Pub Date:** 2012

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 305.800975 LAVELLE

**Black for a Day: White Fantasies of Race and Empathy**

**Author:** Gaines, Alisha

**Pub Date:** 2017

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 305.8 PERRY

**Washing the Negro White: The Evolution of Thinking of African Economic Development**

**Author:** Adu-Opake, Kawaku

**Pub Date:** 2007

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 338.96 ADU-OPAKO

**White Out: The Continuing Significance of Racism**

**Author:** Adu-Opake, Kawaku

**Pub Date:** 2007

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 338.96 ADU-OPAKO

**"White" washing American education : the new culture wars in ethnic studies**

**Author:** Sandoval, Denise M.

**Pub Date:** 2016

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 378.00973 WHITE V. 1

378.00973 WHITE V. 2

**Washing**

**Author:** Adu-Opake, Kawaku

**Pub Date:** 2007

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 338.96 ADU-OPAKO

**Racial Imperatives: Discipline, Performativity, and Struggles Against Subjection**

**Author:** Ehlers, Nadine

**Pub Date:** 2012

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 305.8 EHLERS

**Near Black : White-to-Black Passing in American Culture**

**Author:** Dreisinger, Baz

**Pub Date:** 2008

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 305.809 DREISINGER

**Racism without Racists: Color-blind Racism and the Persistence of Racial Inequality in America**

**Author:** Bonilla-Silva, Eduardo

**Pub Date:** 2014

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 305.8 BONILLA-SILVA

**Skin Deep: How Race and Complexion Matter in the "Color-blind" Era**

**Author:** Herring, Cedric

**Pub Date:** 2004

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 305.8 HERRING

**The Myth of Racial Color Blindness: Manifestations, Dynamics, and Impact**

**Author:** Neville, Helen A.

**Pub Date:** 2007

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 305.8 MYTH

**White Self-criticality Beyond Anti-racism: How Does It Feel to be A White Problem?**

**Author:** Yancy, George

**Pub Date:** 2015

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 305.8 WHITE

**Racechanges: White Skin, Black Face in American Culture**

**Author:** Gubar, Susan

**Pub Date:** 1997

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 305.8 GUBAR

**Color Monitors: The Black Face of Technology in America**

**Author:** Kevorkian, Martin

**Pub Date:** 2005

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 302.23 KEVORKIAN

**The Birth of the Banjo: Joel Walker Sweeney and Early Minstrelsy**

**Author:** Carlin, Bob

**Pub Date:** 2007

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** B SWEENEY

**Real Sister: Stereotypes, Respectability, and Black Women in Reality TV**

**Author:** Adu-Opake, Kawaku

**Pub Date:** 2007

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 338.96 ADU-OPAKO

**New Media in Black Women's Autobiography: Intrepid Embodiment and Narrative Innovation**

**Author:** Curtis, Tracy

**Pub Date:** 2015

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 810.9 CURTIS

**Quentin Tarantino's Django Unchained: The Continuation of Metacinema**

**Author:** Speck, Oliver C.

**Pub Date:** 2014

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 791.4372 QUENTIN

**Brainwashed: Challenging the Myth of Black Inferiority**

**Author:** Burrell, Tom

**Pub Date:** 2010

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 305.896 BURRELL

**White Scripts and Black Supermen Black Masculinities in Comic Books**

**Author:** Gayles, Jonathan

**Pub Date:** 2011

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** DVD 741.50973 WHITE

**Black like You: blackface, whiteface, insult & imitation in American popular culture**

**Author:** Strausbaugh, John

**Pub Date:** 2006

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 305.896 STRAUSBAUGH

**White on Black: Images of Africa and Blacks in Western Popular Culture**

**Author:** Nederveen Pieterse, Jan

**Pub Date:** 1992

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** WR 700 NEDERVEEN PIETERSE

**Perspectives of Black Popular Culture**

**Author:** Sahw, Harry B.

**Pub Date:** 1990

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 338.96 ADU-OPAKO

**Ethnic Notions: Black Images in the White Mind : An Exhibition of Afro-American Stereotype and Caricature from the Collection of Janette Faulkner : September 12- November 4, 1982**

**Author:** Faulkner, Janette

**Pub Date:** 1982

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 305.896 ETHNIC

**Black Films and Film-makers: A Comprehensive Anthology from Stereotype to Superhero**

**Author:** Patterson, Lindsay

**Pub Date:** 1975

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 791.43 PATTERSON

**Born to be Hurt: The Untold Story of Imitation of Life**

**Author:** Staggs, Sam

**Pub Date:** 2009

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 791.4372 STAGGS

**The Complexity and Progression of Black Representation in Film and Television**

**Author:** Moody, David L.

**Pub Date:** 2006

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 791.4372 STAGGS

**Black African Cinema**

**Author:**Diawara, Manthia

**Pub Date:** 1993

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 791.43 BLACK

**Electronic Materials and Mixed Media:**

**From Amos and Andy to Cosby and all the Way Back Again :A Textual Analysis of Predominantly Black Situation Comedies and the Presence of Traditional Stereotypes at the End of the Twentieth Century**

**Author:** Hollis, Cassandra Denise

**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 791.45617 HOLLIS



## Suggested Search Terms and Keywords:

- White-washing
- White-washing AND Passing
- Passing
- Colour-blind casting
- Racebending
- White savior narrative
- Straight washing
- White-washing AND Type-casting
- Blackface
- Yellow face
- Minstrel shows AND black stereotypes
- Black stereotypes AND film industry/Hollywood
- Minorities AND film AND White-washing

