

Race Films and All-Black Cinema Casting

Race films, or race movies— a cinematic body of work catering to an all-black audience, or people of color; historically produced by an all-black cast or production . These films were made popular as early as 1905 to the mid-1950. During this time, over five hundred films were produced outside of large-standing, Hollywood studios and productions.

Mostly produced in the northern states, race films' target audiences were largely poor southerners and blacks to whom migrated north. Common stereotypes, micro-aggressions, and racial prejudices were not commonly seen in race films as they were used in white-produced productions. This kind of artistic expression included illuminating images of middle-class and hardly utilizing stock characters, providing a narrative and representation many blacks hardly witnessed on stage or on the “silver screen.”

Depictions of everyday life, examinations of gender and class intersections, and religious and philosophical interpretations were explored and celebrated. This avenue of the entertainment industry is the foundational influence of the Chitlin' Circuit, Blaxploitation films, black sit-coms, and television channels and networks, such as BET (Black Entertainment Television).

This movie listing provides cinematic movies the Auburn Avenue Research Library houses. Sources include call numbers, for patrons to easily inquire and obtain resources. Each movie's release date and duration time are included. AARL maintains non-circulating policies of its collection; however, patrons are able to utilize materials in-house.

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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)

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)

Dirty Gertie from Harlem U.S.A.(1946) (59:45)
Dark Manhattan (1937) (69:09)

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 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)

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)

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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)