UCLA Film & Television Archive holds a wide selection of motion picture and television titles made by and about African Americans. These films and programs span from the silent era to modern situation comedies and provide a unique opportunity to not only examine how the African American community has been represented in the commercial mainstream media, but also to explore the broad range of productions produced, created, and directed by African Americans.

SAMPLES FROM THE GENERAL COLLECTION

This handout only represents a small sample of the relevant material held by UCLA Film & Television Archive. For research, please consult our online catalog at http://cinema.library.ucla.edu and/or contact the ARCHIVE RESEARCH & STUDY CENTER at arsc@cinema.ucla.edu.

Film

The Exile (1931). Micheaux Film Corporation. Director, Writer, Oscar Micheaux. Study Copy: VA6564 M


Black Panther (1968). Newsreel. Study Copy: VA6623 M


She's Gotta Have It (1986). Forty Acres and a Mule Filmworks. Director, Writer, Spike Lee. Cast, Tracy Camilla Johns, Tommy Redmond Hicks, John Canada Terrell. Study Copy: VD568 M


Forms part of: Women of Vision: Eighteen Histories in Feminist Film and Video.

African American Film and Television


Television


Theater for a Story. The Sound of Miles Davis (1959-03-31). CBS. Producer, Robert Herridge. Featuring John Coltrane (tenor saxophone) and Julian Adderly (alto saxophone). Study Copy: VA14638 T


Like it is. Malcolm X at the Oxford Union (1964-12-03). WABC-TV, New York. Director, Frank Olivo. Producer, Host, Gil Noble. Study Copy: VA7929 T


Of Black America. Black History Lost, Stolen or Strayed (1968-07-02). CBS. With, Bill Cosby. Study Copy: VA381 T


Champlin on Film. Spike Lee (1989). Bravo. Host, Charles Champlin. Inventory Number: T07755

Champlin on Film. Morgan Freeman (1990). Bravo. Host, Charles Champlin. Inventory Number: T07714

John Singleton: Straight from the ‘Hood (1991-07-14). KTTV, Los Angeles. Producer, Director, Host, Robin Young. Inventory Number: T38725

African American Film and Television

Good Morning, America. Dorothy Dandridge – Excerpt (1997). ABC. Inventory Number: T68116


American Masters. Sidney Poitier: One Bright Light (2000-02-02). PBS. Director, Lee Grant. Study Copy: VA22374 T


Hearst Newsreels / Telenews / KTLA News (sample entries; many more relevant segments in collection)


Part of: Treasures from American Film Archives, program 4.


KTLA News. Angela Davis Rally at UCLA, Los Angeles, California (1971-01-26). Study Copy: VA12522 T

Related Programs


Greg Morris introduces film and television clips featuring African American actors.
African American Film and Television

Interview with Harry Belafonte focusing on civil rights, black images on television.

Actress Marla Gibbs, director Michael Schultz and writer-producer Stirling Silliphant are among those decrying the lack of creative jobs for blacks in the film and TV industries.

Documentary on the history of black performers in Hollywood.

Documentary investigating the representation of African Americans on television.

Two-part television special examining the contributions of African Americans in film.

Documentary celebration of the groundbreaking achievements of black performers and their contributions through nearly seven decades (1903-70) of Hollywood filmmaking.

Focuses on minstrel star Bert Williams, filmmaker Oscar Micheaux and early jazz.

I’ll Make Me a World. Part 3, Bright Like a Sun (1999-02-02). PBS. Director, Writer, Tracy Heather Strain. Narrator, Vanessa L. Williams. Inventory Number: T74364
Recalls artists of the 1930s through the ‘40s, including actor Paul Robeson and sculptor Augusta Savage.

It’s Black Entertainment (2000-02-13). Executive Producer, Director, Stan Lathan. Host, Vanessa Williams. Inventory Number: T81997
A tribute to the contributions of African American actors, musicians, and dancers in the film industry.

Explores the evolution of African Americans in comedic roles.

Retraces the on-going struggle, through first-hand accounts by performers and other notables, to gain dramatic television work, and ultimately, acceptance from the viewing public.

This special traces the early works of black performers in variety programs.

Pays homage to African American women filmmakers from the early part of the 20th century to today.
They came from Watts. They came from New York City. They came from throughout America or crossed an ocean from Africa. At a unique time and place in American history, a critical mass of filmmakers of African descent came to the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television to make movies and produced a rich, innovative, sustained, and intellectually rigorous body of work. The filmmakers of the L.A. Rebellion achieved this while realizing a new possibility for “Black” cinema, one that explored and related to the real lives of Black communities in the U.S. and worldwide. A significant portion of the work produced by this esteemed group of filmmakers, including UCLA student films, independent shorts, theatrically-released motion pictures and television projects—as well as select interviews—is available for onsite research viewing by appointment at the Archive Research and Study Center. For detailed information about the L.A. Rebellion, please go to: http://www.cinema.ucla.edu/la-rebellion

The Mayme A. Clayton Film Collection at UCLA

The Mayme A. Clayton Film Collection at UCLA consists of over 450 film holdings related to African American history and the portrayal of African Americans in film and television. Representations in the collection range from offensive Hollywood stereotypes to films produced, written and directed by black filmmakers. The Collection includes a significant number of 16mm prints of Blaxploitation films, educational films, T.V. movies and titles by key figures in film history, such as Oscar Micheaux and Spencer Williams. The Collection also includes musical shorts and Soundies featuring prominent artists, such as Dinah Washington and Cab Calloway. Additionally, the Collection includes submissions to the Black American Cinema Society's film festival, known as “Black Talkies on Parade,” which began in 1978. Many of these holdings can be made available for research by appointment via the Archive Research & Study Center on the UCLA campus.

The Mayme A. Clayton Library & Museum (MCLM) in Culver City, CA, represents one of the most significant document and memorabilia collections of African American history and culture. For more information, please visit their website at: www.claytonmuseum.org.

George P. Johnson Negro Film Collection, 1916-1977 - Department of Special Collections

The Department of Special Collections unit of the UCLA Libraries Collection holds the George P. Johnson Negro Film Collection, 1916-1977 that consists of materials related to early African American film companies, films, films with African American casts, and musicians, sports figures and entertainers. For more information, please contact the Department of Special Collections: (310) 825-4988

UCLA Center for African American Studies (CAAS) - Ralph J. Bunche Center

The Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies, founded in 1969 as the Center for African American Studies, was established as an Organized Research Unit at UCLA with the mission to develop and strengthen African American Studies through five primary organizational branches: research, academic programs, library and media center, special projects, and publications. For more information, please contact CAAS: (310) 825-7403 or visit the CAAS website: http://www.bunchecenter.ucla.edu
African American Film and Television

PRINT RESOURCES
(for more information consult the UCLA Arts Library)


