



Black Cinema in North America

This guide is designed to assist our patrons in understanding Black Cinema in North America by providing key resources to use as a starting point in their research. Use this information to refine your search, and contact library staff with any follow-up questions or for further research assistance.

Subject Headings

A subject heading can help you refine your search, making it easier to find exactly what you are looking for.

To find books on Black Cinema in North America that are available at the Film Reference Library, use the following subject headings:

Subject

AFRICAN AMERICAN MOTION PICTURE ACTORS AND ACTRESSES

AFRICAN AMERICAN MOTION PICTURE ACTORS AND ACTRESSES

AFRICAN AMERICAN MOTION PICTURE ACTORS AND ACTRESSES - BIBLIOGRAPHY

AFRICAN AMERICAN MOTION PICTURE ACTORS AND ACTRESSES - CALIFORNIA - LOS ANGELES

AFRICAN AMERICAN MOTION PICTURE ACTORS AND ACTRESSES - DICTIONARIES

AFRICAN AMERICAN MOTION PICTURE ACTORS AND ACTRESSES - INTERVIEWS

AFRICAN AMERICAN MOTION PICTURE PRODUCERS AND DIRECTORS

AFRICAN AMERICAN MOTION PICTURE PRODUCERS AND DIRECTORS - BIOGRAPHY

AFRICAN AMERICAN MOTION PICTURE PRODUCERS AND DIRECTORS - CALIFORNIA - LOS ANGELES

AFRICAN AMERICAN MOTION PICTURE PRODUCERS AND DIRECTORS - INTERVIEWS

AFRICAN AMERICAN MOTION PICTURE PRODUCERS AND DIRECTORS - UNITED STATES - BIOGRAPHY

AFRICAN AMERICAN MOTION PICTURE PRODUCERS AND DIRECTORS - UNITED STATES - ENCYCLOPEDIAS

AFRICAN AMERICAN MOTION PICTURE PRODUCERS AND DIRECTORS - UNITED STATES - HISTORY

AFRICAN AMERICAN MOTION PICTURE PRODUCERS AND DIRECTORS - UNITED STATES - INTERVIEWS

AFRICAN AMERICAN SCREENWRITERS - INTERVIEWS

AFRICAN AMERICAN SINGERS - UNITED STATES - BIOGRAPHY

AFRICAN AMERICAN THEATER

AFRICAN AMERICAN THEATER - CHRONOLOGY

AFRICAN AMERICAN THEATER - REVIEWS

AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN

AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN AUTHORS - 20TH CENTURY - BIOGRAPHY

Examples of subject headings related to Black Cinema in North America:

- [AFRICAN AMERICANS IN MOTION PICTURES](#)
- [AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY](#)
- [AFRICAN AMERICANS IN MOTION PICTURES - CANADA](#)
- [AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN MOTION PICTURE PRODUCERS AND DIRECTORS](#)
- [AFRICAN AMERICAN MOTION PICTURE ACTORS AND ACTRESSES](#)
- [RACE IN MOTION PICTURES](#)
- [AFRICAN AMERICANS - RACE IDENTITY](#)

****Note:** The Film Reference Library uses Library of Congress Subject terms, some of which may use nomenclature that is outdated.

Recommended Books

Books provide a comprehensive overview of a larger topic, making them an excellent resource to start your research with.

[*Black directors in Hollywood*](#) by Melvin Burke Donalson.
Publisher: University of Texas Press, 2003

[*Black on screen : images of black Canadians, 1950's-1990's*](#) by Studio D, The Women's Studio of the National Film Board.
Publisher: Studio D, The Women's Studio of the National Film Board, 1992

[*Cinemas of the black diaspora : diversity, dependence, and oppositionality*](#) by Michael T. Martin.
Publisher: Wayne State University, 1995

[*Contemporary black American cinema : race, gender and sexuality at the movies*](#) by Mia Mask.
Publisher: Routledge, 2012

[*Regeneration : Black Cinema 1898-1971*](#) edited by Doris Berger & Rhea L. Combs.
Publisher: Academy Museum of Motion Pictures & DelMonico Books, 2022

[*Oscar Micheaux & his circle : African-American filmmaking and race cinema of the silent era*](#) by Pearl Bowser, Jane Gaines, and Charles Musser.
Publisher: Indiana University Press, 2001

[*Separate cinema : the first 100 years of black poster art*](#) by John Kisch.
Publisher: Reel Art Press, 2014

[*Uplift cinema : the emergence of African American film and the possibility of black modernity*](#) by Allyson Nadia Field
Publisher: Duke University Press, 2015

[*White screens/black images : Hollywood from the dark side*](#) by James Snead, Colin MacCabe, and Cornel West.
Publisher: Routledge, 1992



FILM REFERENCE LIBRARY RESEARCH GUIDE:
Black Cinema in North America, 3

[*Why We Make Movies: Black Filmmakers Talk about the Magic of Cinema*](#) by George Alexander.
Publisher: Harlem Moon, Broadway Books, 2003

[*A Piece of the Action: Race and Labor in Post-Civil Rights Hollywood*](#) by Eithne Quinn.
Publisher: Columbia University Press, 2020

Articles

Articles are usually shorter in length and focus on a unique argument.

Note: All articles listed can be found from the Film Reference Library's print and/or electronic periodical collection. These articles are available open access where possible, and through JSTOR which offers independent researchers 100 free articles per month.

- [Cartier, Nina. \(2014\). "Black Women On-Screen as Future Texts: A New Look at Black Pop Culture Representations." *Cinema Journal*. vol. 53, no. 4, pp.150-157.](#)
- [Everett, Anna. \(2014\). "Black Film, New Media Industries, and BAMMs \(Black American Media Moguls\) in the Digital Media Ecology." *Cinema Journal* 53, no. 4, pp. 128-133.](#)
- [Francis, Terri. \(2014\). "Whose 'Black Film' Is This? The Pragmatics and Pathos of Black Film Scholarship." *Cinema Journal*, vol. 53, no. 4, pp. 146-150.](#)
- [Gates, Racquel. \(2013\). "Identity Crisis." *Cinema Journal*, vol. 52, no. 4, pp. 123-129.](#)
- [Baker, Courtney R.. \(2024\). "Reformulating Black Cinematic Labor." *liquid blackness*. vol. 8, no. 1, pp. 84-101.](#)
- [Symmons, Tom. \(2014\). "'The Birth of Black Consciousness on the Screen': The African American Historical Experience, Blaxploitation, and the Production and Reception of Sounder \(1972\)." *Historical Journal of Film, Radio and Television*. vol. 35, no. 2, pp. 277-299.](#)

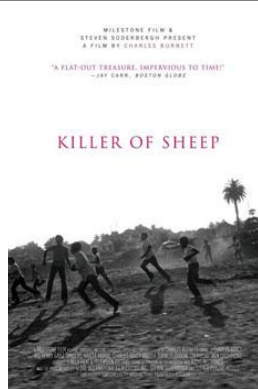
- [Lierow, Lars. \(2013\). "The "Black Man's Vision of the World": Rediscovering Black Arts Filmmaking and the Struggle for a Black Cinematic Aesthetic." *Black Camera*, vol. 4, no. 2, pp. 3-21.](#)
- [Stewart, Jacqueline. \(2011\). "Discovering Black Film History: Tracing the Tyler, Texas Black Film Collection." *Film History*, vol. 23, no. 2, pp. 147-173.](#)

Films

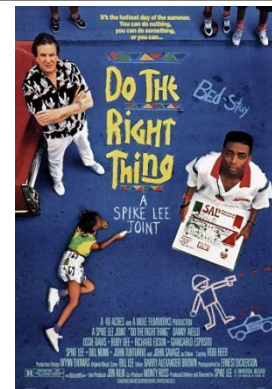
A collection of films from Canada and the United States, representing different forms and stages of Black Cinema in North America



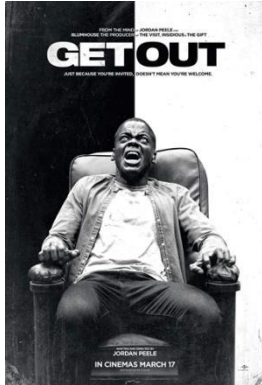
Black Mother Black Daughter
Black Mother Black Daughter
(1989),
dir. Sylvia Hamilton, Claire Prieto
[\[AV\]](#) [\[Film File\]](#)



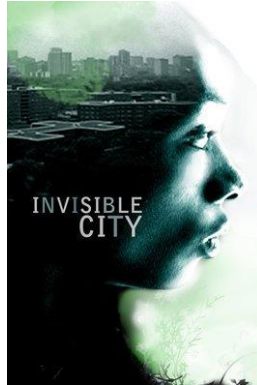
Killer of Sheep (1978),
dir. Charles Burnett
[\[AV\]](#) [\[Film File\]](#)



Do the Right Thing (1989),
dir. Spike Lee
[\[AV\]](#) [\[Film File\]](#)



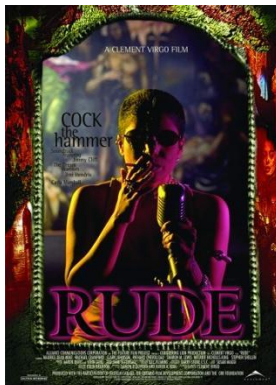
Get Out (2017),
dir. Jordan Peele
[\[AV\]](#) [\[Film File\]](#)



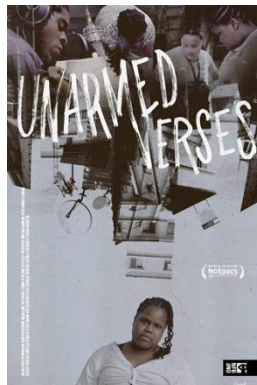
Invisible City (2009),
dir. Hubert Davis
[\[AV\]](#) [\[Film File\]](#)



Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song (1971),
dir. Melvin Van Peebles
[\[AV\]](#) [\[Film File\]](#)



Rude (1995),
dir. Clement Virgo
[\[AV\]](#) [\[Film File\]](#)



Unarmed Verses (2017),
dir. Charles Officer
[\[AV\]](#) [\[Film File\]](#)



Within Our Gates (1920),
dir. Oscar Micheaux
[\[AV\]](#) [\[Film File\]](#)



External Sources

Links to resources and institutions that have more information on the history and industry of Black Cinema in North America.

- [African American Film Critics Association](#)
- [Black Community: National Film Board of Canada](#)
- [Black Film Center/Archive](#)
- [Being Black in Canada](#)
- [Black Hollywood Education and Resource Center](#)
- [Black Women Film! Canada](#)
- [Film & Theatre: African Canadian Online \(York University\)](#)
- [Toronto Black Film Festival](#)
- [liquid blackness: journal of aesthetics and black studies](#) (Open Access)
- [BIPOC TV and Film Resources Page](#)
- [Black Film Archive](#)
- [NMAAHC Collection \(The Smithsonian\)](#)
- [Black Canadian Film](#)