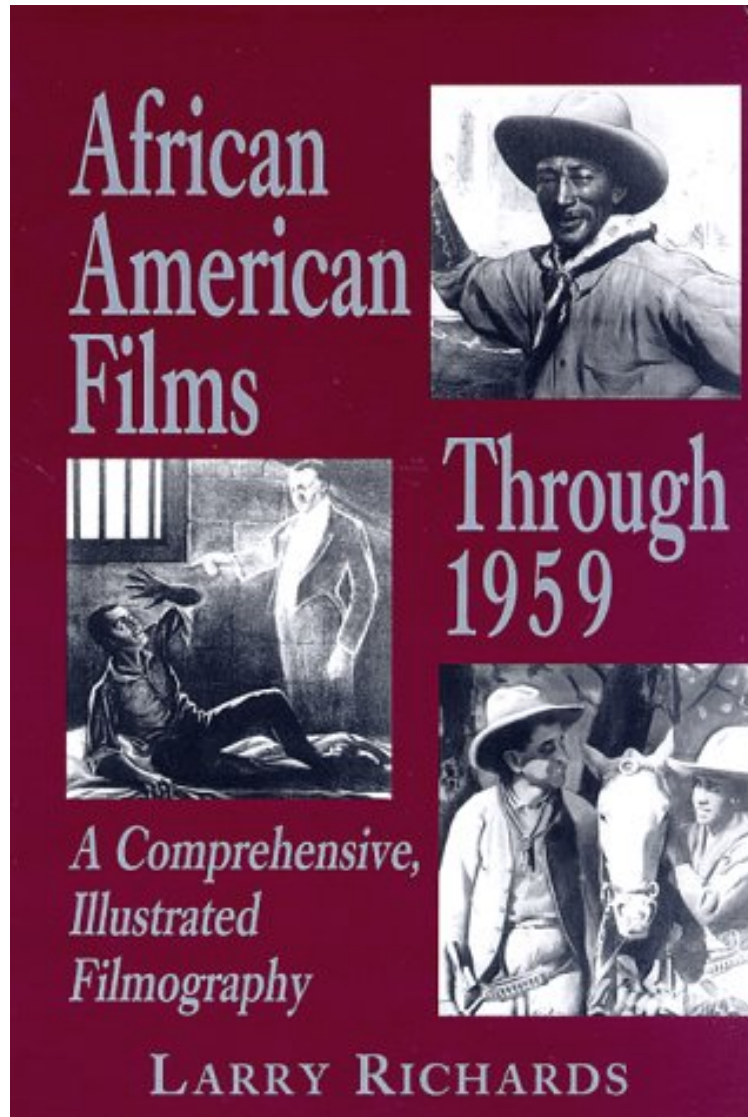


(Free) African American Films Through 1959: A Comprehensive, Illustrated Filmography

African American Films Through 1959: A Comprehensive, Illustrated Filmography

Larry Richards

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Larry Richards : African American Films Through 1959: A Comprehensive, Illustrated Filmography before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised African American Films Through 1959: A Comprehensive, Illustrated Filmography:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A great reference for those looking to research African-American films from ...By James D. SpinksFabulous book from the late Larry Richards. A great reference for those looking to

research African-American films from the early 20th century.

All films with a predominantly or entirely African American cast or that were about African Americans are detailed here. Each entry includes cast and credits, year of release, studio, distributor, type of film (e.g., feature, short or documentary and other production details. In most cases, a brief synopsis of the film or contemporary reviews of it follow. In the appendices, film credits for over 1,850 actors and actresses are provided, along with a listing of film companies and the 1,350 African American movies they released.

From Booklist This detailed and well-organized filmography has 1,324 entries spanning the years 1895 through 1959. In addition to feature films and short subjects, the book also lists soundies (a short music feature, much like the music video of today), trailers, and documentaries. Included are films produced in Hollywood as well as those produced by the U.S. government and by independents. The films that were chosen for inclusion have a predominantly or entirely African American cast or are about African Americans. Each entry includes all the information available for the designated title, including production date, producer and director, production company, distributor, cast, b/w or color, type (feature, short, etc.), sound or silent, genre (musical, drama, etc.), running time, plot synopsis, and review citations. Of course, not all the information is available for every title listed. Entries range from a few lines of technical data to a chapter-by-chapter synopsis of *Zircon*, a 1923 serial that was never released. Some entries treat films such as *Cabin in the Sky* and *Porgy and Bess*, which may be familiar, but most will be a revelation to the majority of readers. In addition to the film entries, the work includes five appendixes: actor credits, film companies, director credits, producer credits, and a film chronology. In Appendix A, encompassing actor credits, the film credits for more than 1,800 African American actors are listed, from the least known to established stars like Harry Belafonte and Sidney Poitier. Since the aim of this work is to include predominately African American[^]-cast films, not all of the films made by major African American stars are included. The book is well illustrated with film posters that provide additional coverage of the African American contribution to film. There is a comprehensive index. This is an excellent reference tool that belongs in college, university, and public libraries. It would be a good companion to *Frame by Frame* (Indiana Univ., 1979) and *Frame by Frame II* [RBB N 1 97], which list several thousand films made through 1994 in which African Americans made contributions behind as well as in front of the cameras. "Larry Richards...has researched and listed more than 1,300 films with African American casts or storylines. Recommended for all film collections" -- *Public Library Quarterly* "a veritable beacon...casts a light on a whole period of filmmaking that has been obscured in darkness for decades. ...a wonderful collection of films, reviews, and advertisements that rescues African-American cinema from neglect and obscurity. ...should be a fixture in everyone's reference collections" -- *Film History* "clearly a labor of love.... Its 1,324 entries include detailed credits and plot synopses.... Film posters as illustrations lend a unique and charming touch" -- *Choice* "comprehensive.... In this work's unique appendixes are film listings for nearly 3,000 actors, actresses, producers, directors and film companies" -- *BCALA Newsletter* "detailed and well-organized...well illustrated...an excellent reference tool that belongs in college, university, and public libraries" -- *Booklist/RBB* "detailed production information, lengthy commentary.... The extensive research that is provided on the talking shorts and features, which include 'Soundies' and documentaries, is nothing less than splendid. ...a major accomplishment.... The vital information found within its pages is a valuable contribution to film history in a handsome presentation" -- *The Silents Majority On-Line Journal* "excellent appendixes arrange the films chronologically and list credits for more than 1,800 actors, more than 200 film companies, and for producers and directors" -- *ARBA* "historically important and fascinating.... Anybody seriously wanting to know more about American racism and music should own a copy" -- *Psychotronic* "more than 1,300 films...most welcome" -- *Classic Images* "very thorough and precise...important for serious students of film history" -- *Rettig on Reference* About the Author Larry Richards is a librarian at the Free Library of Philadelphia.