



The New York Public Library  
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,  
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

**Black films collection**

1915-1984 [bulk 1967-1977]

Sc MG 285

**Summary**

**Title:** Black films collection

**Date:** 1915-1984 [bulk 1967-1977]

**Size:** 2.96 linear feet (10 boxes)

**Source:** Purchased from George Minkoff, 1987.

**Revision History:** Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

**Abstract:** The Black films collection documents the marketing of African Americans in American motion pictures. It consists of scripts, press sheets, press kits, movie stills, and posters.

**Preferred citation:** [Item], Black films collection, Sc MG 285, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Accessioned by Sule Greg Wilson, June 1987.

**Separated Materials:**

Transferred to the Art and Artifacts Division: lobby cards and posters.

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs.

**Related Materials:**

Also found in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division of the Schomburg Center of Research in Black Culture:

African Americans in film collection, Sc MG 690

Black film pressbook collection, Sc MG 527

## Creator History

The Black films collection documents the marketing of African Americans in American motion pictures. The film careers of Sidney Poitier, Dorothy Dandridge, Harry Belafonte, Pam Grier, Brock Peters, and Jim Brown are well represented. Production companies in the collection include Warner Brothers, Avco Embassy Pictures Corp., United Artists, American International Pictures, Columbia Pictures, Paramount, New World Pictures, National General, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, New Line Cinema, and Twentieth Century-Fox. The bulk of the collection is from the "blaxploitation" era of the 1970s.

## Scope and Content Note

The Black films collection consists of scripts, press sheets, press kits, movie stills, and posters. The scope of the collection extends from the first African American talkie, *Hallelujah*, to stills from movies of the early 1980s. A few of the many films for which there is information are *Birth of a Nation*, *Coffy*, *Cotton Comes to Harlem*, *The Great White Hope*, *Superfly*, and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. There are twenty-eight scripts, including *Black Samson*, *I Passed for White*, *The Jesse Owens Story*, *The Klansman*, and *Roots*. The press kits include a synopsis of the film (not for publication), articles and ads for local newspapers, biographies of the performers, photographic stills for display, and promotional materials. Some of the images in the kits were obviously doctored to suit the sensibilities of white audiences, while some ads have directions specifying "for Black audiences only".

**Arrangement:** Arranged into two series: I. Scripts and II. Press kits.

## Key Terms

### Subjects

Advertising in motion pictures  
African American motion picture actors and actresses  
African Americans in motion pictures  
African Americans in the motion picture industry

### Names

Belafonte, Harry, 1927-  
Brown, Jim, 1936-  
Dandridge, Dorothy, 1922-1965  
Grier, Pam, 1949-  
Peters, Brock  
Poitier, Sidney  
Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer  
Paramount Pictures, Inc.  
Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corporation  
Warner Bros. Pictures (1969- )

## Container List

### Scripts 1939-1984

Arranged alphabetically by title.

*The Bingo Long Traveling All-Stars and Motor Kings*, by Hal Barwood and Matthew Robbins

Adapted from the novel by William Brasher.

- b. 1 f. 1 First draft 1974
- b. 1 f. 2 1975
- b. 1 f. 3 *Black Belt Jones*, screenplay by Oscar Williams 1973  
From an original story by Alex Rose and Fred Weintraub.
- b. 1 f. 4 *Black Eye*, by Mark Haggard and Jim Martin ca. 1974
- b. 1 f. 5 *Black Samson*, screenplay by Warren Hamilton, Jr 1973  
Story by Daniel B. Cady.
- b. 1 f. 6 *Cleopatra Jones*, by Max Julien and Bill Tennant (first draft) ca. 1973
- b. 1 f. 7 *Drum*, screenplay by Norman Wexler (revised final script) 1975  
Based on the novel by Kyle Onstott.
- b. 2 f. 1 *The Grasshopper*, by Jerry Belson and Garry Marshall (final draft) 1969
- b. 2 f. 2 *The Greatest*, by Ring Lardner, Jr 1976
- b. 2 f. 3 *Hallelujah* 1939  
First black talkie (1929) film directed by King Vidor.  
Includes dialogue cutting continuity (re-release).
- b. 2 f. 4 *Halls of Anger*, by John Shaner and Al Ramrus 1969
- b. 2 f. 5 *The Harlem Globetrotters on Gilligan's Island*, by Sherwood Schwartz, Al Schartz, David Harmon, and Gordon Mitchell ca. 1981  
Includes manuscript with notes.
- b. 2 f. 6 *I Passed for White*, screenplay by Fred Wilcox ca. 1960  
Based on the novel by Mary Hastings Bradley.
- b. 3 f. 1 *The Jesse Owens Story*, by Harold Gast (final draft) 1984
- b. 3 f. 2 *Joanna*, by Michael Sarne (revised shooting script) 1967
- b. 3 f. 3 *The Klansman*, screenplay by Samuel Fuller ca. 1974  
Based on the novel by William Bradford Huie.
- b. 3 f. 4 *The Last Detail*, by Robert Towne (revised first draft) ca. 1973
- b. 3 f. 5 *Let's Do It Again*, by Richard Wesley (final draft) 1975  
Story idea by Sidney Poitier.
- b. 3 f. 6 *100 Rifles*, by Tom Gries and Clair Huffaker 1968
- b. 4 f. 1 *Ragtime*, screenplay by Michael Weller (third draft) 1980  
Based on the novel by Frank Elli.
- b. 4 f. 2 *Riot*, screenplay by James Poe (final draft) 1968
- b. 5 f. 1 *Roots*, show #1 by William Blinn ca. 1977  
Based on the novel by Alex Haley.
- b. 5 f. 2 *Scream, Blacula, Scream*, by Raymond Koenig, Joan Torres, Leon Capetanos, and Maurice Jules (revised) 1973  
Revision by Maurice Jules and Bob Kelljan.
- b. 5 f. 3 *Skin Game*, by Peter Stone (revised first draft) ca. 1971

Scripts (cont.)

- b. 5 f. 4 *Sparkle*, by Joel Schumacher (final draft) 1975
- b. 5 f. 5 *Trouble Man*, by John D. F. Black 1971
- b. 5 f. 6 *Truck Turner*, by Oscar Williams (revised draft) 1973
- b. 5 f. 7 *Up Tight*, screenplay by David Manber ca. 1968  
Based on the novel, *The Crimshaw Memorandum*, by Lionel White.

Press kits 1915-1980

The majority of the material in this series consists of press sheets, press books, and/or press kits, materials generated by film studios and distributors to market their movies to theaters.

Arranged alphabetically by title.

- b. 6 f. 1 *Ace High with Brock Peters* 1968
- b. 6 f. 2 *Across 110th Street with Yaphet Kotto* 1972
- b. 6 f. 3 *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* 1938
- b. 6 f. 4 *An Affair of the Skin with Diana Sands* 1963
- b. 6 f. 5 *Africa Ablaze (or Something of Value) with Sidney Poitier* 1957
- b. 6 f. 6 *A.K.A. Cassius Clay with Muhammad Ali* 1970
- b. 6 f. 7 *All the Fine Young Cannibals with Pearl Bailey* 1960
- b. 6 f. 8 *Amazing Grace with Moms Mabley* 1974
- b. 6 f. 9 *The Angel Levine with Harry Belafonte and Gloria Foster* 1970
- b. 6 f. 10 *Beyond the Valley of the Dolls with Marcia McBroom and Lavelle Roby* 1970
- b. 6 f. 11 *The Big Bird Cage with Pam Grier* 1972
- b. 6 f. 12 *The Big Broadcast of 1936* 1935
- b. 6 f. 13 *The Big Doll House with Pam Grier* 1971
- b. 6 f. 14 *The Birth of a Nation* 1915
- b. 6 f. 15 *Black Belt Jones with Jim "Dragon" Kelly and Gloria Hendry* 1974
- b. 6 f. 16 *Black Caesar with Fred Williamson* 1973
- b. 6 f. 17 *Black Eye with Fred Williamson* 1973-1974
- b. 6 f. 18 *Black Girl with Brock Peters and Claudia McNeil* 1972
- b. 6 f. 19 *The Black Godfather with Rod Perry* 1974
- b. 6 f. 20 *Black Gunn with Jim Brown* 1972
- b. 6 f. 21 *Black Jack with George Stanford Brown* 1973
- b. 6 f. 22 *Black Jesus with Woody Strode* 1968
- b. 6 f. 23 *Black Mama, White Mama with Pam Grier* 1973
- b. 6 f. 24 *The Black Moses of Soul with Isaac Hayes* 1973
- b. 6 f. 25 *Black Rodeo with Archie Wycoff and Muhammad Ali* 1972
- b. 6 f. 26 *Black Samson with Rockne Tarkington* 1974
- b. 6 f. 27 *The Black Six with "Mean" Joe Green* 1973
- b. 6 f. 28 *Blacksnake! with Thomas Baptiste* 1973
- b. 6 f. 29 *Book of Numbers with Raymond St. Jacques* 1973
- b. 6 f. 30 *Boot Hill with Woody Strode* 1969
- b. 6 f. 31 *Brian's Song with Billy Dee Williams* 1972
- b. 6 f. 32 *Brother John with Sidney Poitier* 1971

Press kits (cont.)

- b. 6 f. 33 *Brothers with Bernie Casey* 1977
- b. 6 f. 34 *Brubaker with Yaphet Kotto* 1980
- b. 6 f. 35 *Buck and the Preacher with Sidney Poitier and Harry Belafonte* 1972
- b. 6 f. 36 *Burn! with Evaristo Márquez* 1969
- b. 6 f. 37 *The Bus Is Coming with Mike B. Sims* 1971
- b. 6 f. 38 *Change of Mind with Raymond St. Jacques* 1969
- b. 6 f. 39 *Charley-One-Eye with Richard Roundtree* 1972
- b. 6 f. 40 *Claudine with James Earl Jones* 1973
- b. 6 f. 41 *Clay Pigeon with Ivan Dixon and Marlene Clark* 1971
- b. 6 f. 42 *Cleopatra Jones with Tamara Dobson* 1973
- b. 6 f. 43 *Cleopatra Jones and the Casino of Gold with Tamara Dobson* 1975
- b. 6 f. 44 *Coffy with Pam Grier* 1973
- b. 6 f. 45 *Come Back Charleston Blue with Godfrey Cambridge* 1972
- b. 6 f. 46 *Cool Breeze with Thalmus Rasulala and Judy Pace* 1972
- b. 6 f. 47 *Cotton Comes to Harlem with Godfrey Cambridge (1970) and They Call Me Mister Tibbs with Sidney Poitier (1971)* 1970-1971
- b. 6 f. 48 *Crazy Joe with Fred Williamson* 1974
- b. 6 f. 49 *Dark of the Sun with Jim Brown* 1968
- b. 6 f. 50 *The Defiant Ones with Sidney Poitier* 1958
- b. 6 f. 51 *Duel at Diablo with Sidney Poitier* 1966
- b. 6 f. 52 *Dutchman with Al Freeman, Jr* 1966
- b. 7 f. 1 *Edge of the City with Sidney Poitier and Ruby Dee* 1957
- b. 7 f. 2 *The Education of Sonny Carson with Rony Clanton* 1974
- b. 7 f. 3 *El Condor with Jim Brown* 1970
- b. 7 f. 4 *Embassy with Richard Roundtree* 1970
- b. 7 f. 5 *The Final Comedown with Billy Dee Williams* 1972
- b. 7 f. 6 *Five on the Black Hand Side with Clarice Taylor and Godfrey Cambridge* 1973
- b. 7 f. 7 *For Love of Ivy with Sidney Poitier and Abbey Lincoln* 1968
- b. 7 f. 8 *Fox Style with Chuck Daniel* 1973
- b. 7 f. 9 *Foxy Brown with Pam Grier* 1974
- b. 7 f. 10 *Georgia, Georgia with Diana Sands* 1972
- b. 7 f. 11 *Gordon's War with Paul Winfield* 1973
- b. 7 f. 12 *The Grasshopper with Jim Brown* 1970
- b. 7 f. 13 *The Great White Hope with James Earl Jones* 1970
- b. 7 f. 14 *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner with Sidney Poitier* 1968
- b. 7 f. 15 *Guns at Batasi with Earl Cameron* 1964
- b. 7 f. 16 *Halls of Anger with Calvin Lockhart* 1970
- b. 7 f. 17 *Hammer with Fred Williamson* 1972
- b. 7 f. 18 *Hangup with William Elliott* 1974
- b. 7 f. 19 *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter with Cicely Tyson* 1968
- b. 7 f. 20 *Hickey and Boggs with Bill Cosby* 1972

Press kits (cont.)

- b. 7 f. 21 *Hit with Billy Dee Williams* 1973
- b. 7 f. 22 *Hit Man with Bernie Casey and Pamela Grier* 1972
- b. 7 f. 23 *Honky with Brenda Sykes* 1971
- b. 7 f. 24 *Huckleberry Finn with Paul Winfield* 1974
- b. 7 f. 25 *I Crossed the Color Line with Richard Gilden* 1966
- b. 7 f. 26 *I Escaped from Devil's Island with Jim Brown* 1973
- b. 7 f. 27 *Imitation of Life with Louise Beavers* 1934
- b. 7 f. 28 *Imitation of Life (1959) and Flower Drum Song (1961), both with Juanita Moore* 1959-1961
- b. 7 f. 29 *The Incident with Ruby Dee and Brock Peters* 1967
- b. 7 f. 30 *Island in the Sun with Dorothy Dandridge and Harry Belafonte* 1957
- b. 7 f. 31 *Jimi Plays Berkeley with Jimi Hendrix* 1973
- b. 7 f. 32 *Johnny Cool with Sammy Davis, Jr* 1963
- b. 7 f. 33 *Kenner with Jim Brown* 1969
- b. 7 f. 34 *The L-Shaped Room with Brock Peters* 1962
- b. 7 f. 35 *Lady Sings the Blues with Diana Ross* 1972
- b. 7 f. 36 *The Landlord with Diana Sands* 1970
- b. 8 f. 1 *Last of the Mobile Hot Shots with Robert Hooks* 1970
- b. 8 f. 2 *The Learning Tree with Kyle Johnson* 1969
- b. 8 f. 3 *Let the Good Times Roll with Chuck Berry* 1973
- b. 8 f. 4 *The Liberation of L. B. Jones with Roscoe Lee Brown and Lola Falana* 1970
- b. 8 f. 5 *Lilies of the Field with Sidney Poitier* 1963
- b. 8 f. 6 *The Long Ships with Sidney Poitier* 1964
- b. 8 f. 7 *The Lost Man with Sidney Poitier* 1969
- b. 8 f. 8 *The Mack with Max Julien and Richard Pryor* 1973
- b. 8 f. 9 *Malaga! with Dorothy Dandridge* 1962
- b. 8 f. 10 *Malcolm X* 1972
- b. 8 f. 11 *The Man with James Earl Jones* 1971
- b. 8 f. 12 *A Man Called Adam with Sammy Davis, Jr* 1966
- b. 8 f. 13 *Mandingo with Ken Norton* 1975
- b. 8 f. 14 *The Mark of the Hawk with Sidney Poitier* 1958
- b. 8 f. 15 *The McMasters with Brock Peters* 1970
- b. 8 f. 16 *Mean Mother with Clifton Brown* 1973
- b. 8 f. 17 *Melinda with Calvin Lockhart and Rosalind Cash* 1972
- b. 8 f. 18 *Monterey Pop with Otis Redding and Jimi Hendrix* 1968
- b. 8 f. 19 *Moonfire with Sonny Liston* 1970
- b. 8 f. 20 *The Naked Prey with Ken Gampu* 1964
- b. 8 f. 21 *Newman's Law with Roger Robinson* 1974
- b. 8 f. 22 *One More Time with Sammy Davis, Jr* 1970
- b. 8 f. 23 *1000 Convicts and a Woman with Harry Baird* 1971
- b. 8 f. 24 *The Organization with Sidney Poitier* 1971

Press kits (cont.)

- b. 8 f. 25 *Paris Blues with Sidney Poitier* 1961
- b. 8 f. 26 *The Pawnbrokers with Brock Peters* 1964
- b. 8 f. 27 *A Piece of the Action with Sidney Poitier and Bill Cosby* 1977
- b. 8 f. 28 *Popcorn with Otis Redding and Jimi Hendrix* 1969
- b. 8 f. 29 *Pressure Point with Sidney Poitier* 1962
- b. 8 f. 30 *Quadroon with Kathrine McKee* 1971
- b. 8 f. 31 *Rainbow Bridge with Jimi Hendrix* 1972
- b. 8 f. 32 *A Raisin in the Sun with Sidney Poitier* 1968
- b. 8 f. 33 *The Revengers with Woody Strode* 1972
- b. 9 f. 1 *Riot with Jim Brown* 1968
- b. 9 f. 2 *Robin and the 7 Hoods with Sammy Davis, Jr* 1964
- b. 9 f. 3 *Sapphire with Earl Cameron and Gordon Heath* 1960
- b. 9 f. 4 *Savage! with James Iglehart* 1973
- b. 9 f. 5 *Savage Sisters with Gloria Hendry* 1974
- b. 9 f. 6 *Save the Children* 1973
- b. 9 f. 7 *The Scalphunters with Ossie Davis* 1968
- b. 9 f. 8 *Scream Blacula Scream with William Marshall and Pam Grier* 1973
- b. 9 f. 9 *Sergeants 3 with Sammy Davis, Jr* 1962
- b. 9 f. 10 *Shaft, Shaft in Africa, and Shaft's Big Score with Richard Roundtree* 1971-1973
- b. 9 f. 11 *Shock Corridor with Hari Rhodes* 1963
- b. 9 f. 12 *Show Boat with William Warfield* 1951
- b. 9 f. 13 *Silver Streak with Richard Pryor* 1976
- b. 9 f. 14 *Skin Game with Louis Gossett, Jr* 1971
- b. 9 f. 15 *The Slams with Jim Brown and Judy Pace* 1973
- b. 9 f. 16 *Slaughter's Big Ripoff with Jim Brown* 1973
- b. 9 f. 17 *Slaves with Dionne Warwick and Ossie Davis* 1969
- b. 9 f. 18 *The Slender Thread with Sidney Poitier* 1965
- b. 9 f. 19 *The Soul of Nigger Charley with Fred Williamson* 1973
- b. 9 f. 20 *Soul Soldier (or The Red, White, and Black) with Rafer Johnson* 1970
- b. 9 f. 21 *Soul to Soul with Ike and Tina Turner* 1971
- b. 9 f. 22 *Sounder with Cicely Tyson* 1972
- b. 9 f. 23 *The Split with Jim Brown and Diahann Carroll* 1968
- b. 9 f. 24 *Sugar Hill with Marki Bey* 1974
- b. 9 f. 25 *Super Fly and Super Fly T.N.T. with Ron O'Neal* 1972-1973
- b. 9 f. 26 *Sweet Jesus Preacher Man with Roger E. Mosley* 1973
- b. 9 f. 27 *Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song with Melvin Van Peebles* 1971
- b. 9 f. 28 *Terminal Island with Don Marshall* 1973
- b. 9 f. 29 *That Man Bolt with Fred Williamson* 1973
- b. 10 f. 1 *They Call Me Mister Tibbs! with Sidney Poitier* 1970
- b. 10 f. 2 *The Thing with Two Heads with Rosey Grier* 1972
- b. 10 f. 3 *Thomasine and Bushrod with Max Julien and Vonetta McGee* 1974

Press kits (cont.)

- b. 10 f. 4 *Three the Hard Way with Jim Brown and Fred Williamson* 1974
- b. 10 f. 5 *Tick...Tick...Tick... with Jim Brown* 1970
- b. 10 f. 6 *To Kill a Mockingbird with Brock Peters* 1962
- b. 10 f. 7 *To Sir, with Love with Sidney Poitier* 1967
- b. 10 f. 8 *Together Brothers with Ahmad Nurradin and Anthony Wilson* 1974
- b. 10 f. 9 *Tokoloshe with Saul Pelle* 1965
- b. 10 f. 10 *Top of the Heap with Christopher St. John and Paula Kelly* 1972
- b. 10 f. 11 *Trick Baby with Mel Stewart* 1972
- b. 10 f. 12 *Trouble Man with Robert Hooks* 1972
- b. 10 f. 13 *Truck Turner with Isaac Hayes and Yaphet Kotto* 1974
- b. 10 f. 14 *Two Gentlemen Sharing with Hal Frederick* 1969
- b. 10 f. 15 *Uncle Tom's Cabin with John Kitzmiller* 1977
- b. 10 f. 16 *Up Tight with Raymond St. Jacques and Ruby Dee* 1968
- b. 10 f. 17 *Uptown Saturday Night with Sidney Poitier and Bill Cosby* 1974
- b. 10 f. 18 *A Warm December with Sidney Poitier and Esther Anderson* 1973
- b. 10 f. 19 *Wattstax with Isaac Hayes* 1973
- b. 10 f. 20 *When the Boys Meet the Girls with Louis Armstrong* 1965
- b. 10 f. 21 *Which Way Is Up? with Richard Pryor* 1977
- b. 10 f. 22 *Willie Dynamite with Roscoe Orman* 1973
- b. 10 f. 23 *The World, the Flesh, and the Devil with Harry Belafonte* 1959
- b. 10 f. 24 *Zulu* 1964