



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

Guide to the

Black film pressbook collection

ca. 1935-1974

Sc MG 527

Summary

Title: Black film pressbook collection

Date: ca. 1935-1974

Size: 0.25 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Some material purchased from George Theofiles's Miscellaneous Man, 1992, and Swann Galleries, 2000. Some material transferred from the Art and Artifacts Division, 1998.

Abstract: This collections consists of promotional literature for films with African American casts. Many of the films are from Norman Studios, which produced silent films featuring African American casts from 1919 to 1928. The rest of the films are mostly Hollywood productions, the majority of which are from the 1930s-1940s. The promotional material includes leaflets, advertisements, window cards, and other accessories for movie theaters. In addition, there are handbills for boxers Henry Armstrong and Joe Louis.

Preferred citation: [Item], Black film pressbook collection, Sc MG 527, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Separated Materials:

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs

Scope and Content Note

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Arrangement: Arranged into three series: (1) Norman Studios; (2) Hollywood films; and (3) Other.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American actors
African American actresses
African American boxers
African American entertainers
African Americans in motion pictures

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Promotional materials

Names

Boyd, Kathryn (Actress)
Horne, Lena
Peters, Brock
Robeson, Paul, 1898-1976
Herald Pictures
Norman Studios
Paramount Pictures, Inc.
Toddy Pictures Co.

Container List

Norman Pictures ca. 1919-1928

One of the most prominent studios creating films for Black audiences in the silent era, Norman's films featured all-Black casts with protagonists in positive roles.

Arranged alphabetically by film title.

- b. 1 *Black Gold*
With all-Black cast featuring Lawrence Criner, Kathryn Boyd, Steve Reynolds, and Alfred Norcom.
Includes two leaflets and large folio advertising accessories for movie theatres.
- b. 1 *The Crimson Skull*
Co-starring Anita Bush and Lawrence Chenault with an all-Black cast supported by Bill Pickett.
Includes one leaflet; 11 x 17" two-fold advertising window cards and other accessories for movie theaters; information about Anita Bush; and an article, "Introduction of Negro Drama in New York".
- b. 1 *The Flying Ace* 1926
Silent film with Kathryn Boyd, Lawrence Criner, and an all-Black cast.
Includes two leaflets and 11 x 17" two-fold advertising window cards.
- b. 1 *The Green-Eyed Monster*
Includes all-Black cast.
Includes one leaflet.
- b. 1 *Regeneration*
Romance featuring Stella Mayo with all-Black cast.
Includes one leaflet and one large folio.
- b. 1 Folio featuring four films
Includes two-page, 9 x 12" folio advertising *The Love Bug*, *Green-Eyed Monster*, *The Crimson Skull*, and *The Bull-Dogger* (with Bill Pickett).

Hollywood films 1935-1974

This series includes promotional material for films from Hollywood studios, such as Paramount Pictures, Toddy Pictures, and Herald Pictures. The films include all-Black casts or feature Black actors in leading roles.

Arranged alphabetically by film title.

- b. 1 "Amos 'n' Andy: Check and Double Check" ca. 1940s
RKO Radio Picture Super Production.
- b. 1 *Boy! What a Girl!* 1947
From Herald Pictures, with Tim Moore, Elwood Smith, and Duke Williams.
- b. 1 *The Bronze Venus* 1938
Also known as *The Duke Is Tops*; with with Lena Horne, Ralph Cooper, Laurence Criner. From Toddy Pictures.
- b. 1 *Hell's Alley* 1931
With all-Black cast including Alvin Childress, Fay Miller, and Thomas Moseley; from Brown America Studio's Inc.
Includes one advertising folio and a plot summary.
- b. 1 *Lost in the Stars* 1974
Starring Brock Peters, Raymond St. Jacques, Melba Moore, and Clifton Davis.
Includes press kit consisting of cast list and descriptions, synopsis, background notes, and biographical sketches of principal actors.

Hollywood films (cont.)

- b. 1 *Professor Creeps* 1942
With Mantan Moreland; from Toddy Pictures.
- b. 1 *Sanders of the River* 1935
Starring Paul Robeson and Nina Mae McKinney; produced by Alexander Korda and directed by Zoltan Korda.
- b. 1 *Together Brothers* 1974
A Sanford Howard Production from 20th Century-Fox; with Ahmad Nurradin, Anthony Wilson, and Nelson Sims.
Includes press kit.
- b. 1 *The Virginia Judge* 1935
With Stepin Fetchit; from Paramount Pictures.

Other ca. 1930s

This series includes promotional material, mostly handbills, for Henry Armstrong and Joe Louis boxing matches.

- b. 1 Henry Armstrong promotional handbill
- b. 1 Joe Louis handbills ca. 1935-1939
Includes ten handbills promoting fights on film between Louis and Primo Carnera, Tommy Farr, Jim Braddock, King Levinsky, Tony Galento, Bob Pastor, and Arturo Godoy. Also includes a promo for *Roar of the Crowd*.