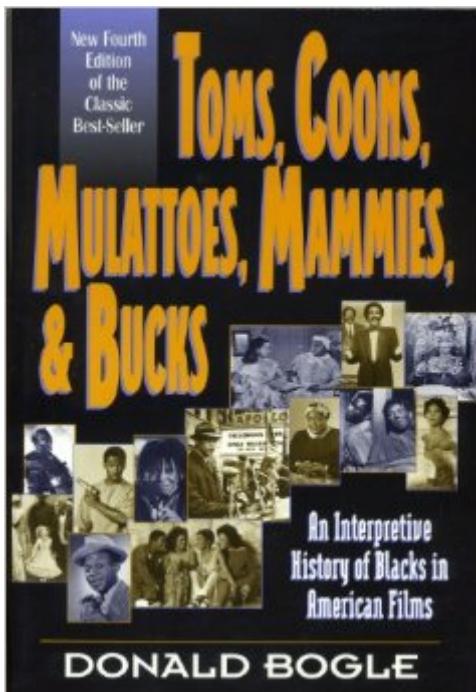


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# Toms, Coons, Mulattoes, Mammies, And Bucks: An Interpretive History Of Blacks In American Films, Fourth Edition



## **Synopsis**

Completely updated to include the entire twentieth century, this new fourth edition covers all the latest directors, stars, and films including *Summer of Sam*, *Jackie Brown*, *The Best Man*, and *The Hurricane*. From *The Birth of a Nation*--the groundbreaking work of independent filmmaker Oscar Micheaux--and *Gone with the Wind* to the latest work by Spike Lee, John Singleton, Denzel Washington, Halle Berry and Will Smith, Donald Bogle reveals the ways in which the depiction of blacks in American movies has changed--and the shocking ways in which it has remained the same.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This is perhaps the GREATEST book accounting the plight of Blacks in film. I read this book for a class titled "Blacks in the Electronic Media" during undergrad. After reading this book and watching television, I honestly felt as if I were let out of the "Matrix." To this day, I can not watch television and not be critical of what's being aired. These characters are very visible today at this very moment. If you want a deep experience and to fully understand what's on the television and the movie screen, BUY THIS BOOK!

Have you ever seen *Green Pastures*, or *Hallelujah*, or any of the other Studio made films of the Golden Age that feature all black casts? I have. Have you ever seen any of the Independent Films with all black casts made during the same period, but only seen in theatres catering to black

audiences? I have, sadly, not. This book opened my eyes. Forget the familiar actors of the 80's to the present day, even the great ones, this book will open your eyes to the rich heritage of black actors, and film, between 1955 and 1975, but more importantly it will reveal to you the complicated, yet glorious, world of these films, and actors, in the Golden Age of film. If you belong to Netflix, or some other similar service then search out the films, and actors mentioned here if they are available and rent their films. You will not be disappointed.

I've used this text a few times in the past in my African American Film class. It is simply the best text out there for this subject (up to the 80s). It is astonishingly well researched, and manages to have both a strong continuous argument and amazing details about heaps of films, and in depth analysis of individual careers. My students usually hate 'textbooks' but they truly loved this one. It is true that the text is a little old in the sense that he still uses a lot of defunct language (though in its historical context) and by the 80s he is pretty much done, so I needed new material for contemporary film. But if you love film you'll love this.

An unheralded feat chock full of carefully detailed research spanning more than 100 years of film making. This should be of great interest to Hollywood insiders and movie goers alike. To this end, Bogle did an outstanding job! However, I didn't necessarily agree with many of his subjective interpretations. Bogle seems to take issue with just about every movie that he chronicles as to how the directors or actors should have done something differently or better. Either they attempted to address too many issues or barely scratched the surface, weren't authentic enough or too heavy-handed to capture the audience, certain characters not fleshed out enough or inappropriately used. However, strictly as a source of historical information, Bogle's work is a major accomplishment.

I purchased this book for a friend because I borrowed hers, and then didn't want to give it back. There are so many people I didn't know about, or facts I'd never heard about. This would be a great gift for a person between ages 15-100's who love movies or looking for their history.

Whew! This is not a book to be read in one sitting. This is 433 pages chock-full of the history of Black actors/actresses in film. From the humble beginnings of actor James B. Lowe in Uncle Tom's Cabin to the current mass appeal of Samuel L. Jackson and Morgan Freeman, Bogle takes us on an wonderfully detailed journey that chronicles the contributions of Black actors/actresses in film. Of

course, Bogle's book includes those well-known films from the bygone era, but he also notes those little known films that featured Blacks playing roles that, in most instances, were the stereotypical tom and mammy, but allowed Blacks to at least get a foot in the door to make inroads to the current day Hollywood. After reading this, you'll likely want to hit up the nearest video store to pick-up some movies that you've never seen or seen before to determine whether you now view them in a different light.

Absolutely fantastic book about the history of black Hollywood. If you're a movie buff, you should really oick this book up, it really opens your eyes to America's movie industry which pre-Code era wasn't racist.

The insights of this book are amazing, and it will change how you view black cinema altogether by breaking down the main black archetypes found in black cinema and showing his these archetypes constantly reinvent themselves in disguised ways through the generations.

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