White-Washing and Racial Censorship

White-washing—a casting practice of hiring and casting white actors and individuals for roles that are historically for, and scripted to represent, persons of color or non-white characters.

The film and entertainment industry is notable for practicing such exclusions which is a form of cultural censorship—the lack of authentic representation limits foundational knowledge of people of color. Seen in Stuart Burge’s 1965 *Othello*, white actor Laurence Olivier wore blackface as the title character and as “The Moor.” Black and yellow face, performed caricatures, white savior narratives in film and racial stereotypes are perpetuated by the practice of white-washing and racial censoring roles of blacks, and people of color. Yet, films with an all-black cast, or Race Films, directed audiences to a refined perspective of black life and are provided.

This listing of sources provides cinematic examples, perspectives from the production side of entertainment and works of fiction to highlight historical white-washing practices in cinema. Sources include call numbers, for patrons to easily inquire and obtain resources. Auburn Avenue Research Library maintains non-circulating policies of its collection; however, patrons are able to utilize materials in-house. Suggested search terms and keywords are provided to further guide patron’s research amongst Auburn Avenue Research Library and the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library catalog and digital libraries.

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Audio/Visual Collection:

**Blacking Up Hip-Hop's Remix of Race and Identity**  
Author: Clift, Robert  
Pub Date: 2010  
Call #: DVD 782.421649 BLACKING

**White Scripts and Black Supermen Black Masculinities in Comic Books**  
Author: Gayles, Jonathan  
Pub Date: 2011  
Call #: DVD 741.50973 WHITE

**Blaxploitation Cartoon Festival**  
Author: Compilation Video  
Call #: VHS 791.43 BLAXPLOITATION

**White Scripts and Black Superman Black Masculinities in Comic Books**  
Author: Gayla, Jonathan  
Pub Date: 2011  
Call #: DVD 741.50973 WHITE

**In the Shadow of Hollywood: Race Movies, and the Birth of Black Cinema**  
Author: Osborne, Brad  
Pub Date: 2007  
Call #: DVD 791.43 IN

**Movies of Color Black Southern Cinema**  
Author: Thurman, Tom  
Pub Date: 2002  
Call #: DVD 791.43 MOVIES
Cinematic Features and Examples of White-Washing and Racial Censorship:

**Pinky**
*Author:* Crain, Jeanne  
*Pub Date:* 1949
*Auburn Avenue Research Library:* VHS 791.43 PINKY

**The Birth of a Nation**
*Author:* Griffith, D. W.  
*Pub Date:* 1915
*Auburn Avenue Research Library:* 840.9 HILL

**Imitation of Life**
*Author:* Turner, Lana  
*Pub Date:* 1992
*Auburn Avenue Research Library:* DVD 791.43 BIRTH

**Race Films at AARL:**

**Oscar Hammerstein's Carmen Jones**
*Author:* Preminger, Otto  
*Pub Date:* 1994  
*Call #:* VHS 791.43

**Race Films DVD Set**
*Author:* Compilation Set  
*Pub Date:*  
*Call #:* DVD 791.43 RACE

**Disc. 1**
- Beware (1946) (55:11)
- Big timers (1945) (35:47)
- The black king (1932) (68:52)
- Boardinghouse blues (1948) (97:25)
- The blood of Jesus (1941) (56:27)
- Boy! What a girl! (1947) (69:16)
- Broken strings (1940) (59:26)
- The bronze buckaroo (1939) (56:46)
- The devil's daughter (1939) (51:23)
- Dirty Gertie from Harlem U.S.A.(1946) (59:45)
- Dark Manhattan (1937) (69:09)

**Disc. 2**
- Double deal (1934) (58:23)
- The duke is tops (1938) (73:39)
- The Emperor Jones (1933) (72:42)
- Girl in room 20 (1946) (61:54)
- The girl from Chicago (1932) (70:26)
- Go down death (1944) (50:56)
- Borderline (1929) 62:31
- Body and soul (1925) (77:26)
- Mistaken identity (1941) (54:25)
- God's step children (1937) (70:29)
Disc. 3
Eleven P.M. (1928) (56:20)
Gang war (1940) (63:15)
Harlem is heaven (1932) (57:09)
Keep punching (1939) (81:22)
No time for romance (1948) (69:40)
Harlem rides the range (1939) (56:05)
Hi de ho (1947) (63:24)
Murder in Harlem (1935) (95:39)
Of one blood (1944) (61:07)
The exile (1931) (75:04)

Disc 4
The Jackie Robinson story (1950) (76:54)
The Joe Louis story (1953) (85:57)
Jerico (1937) (74:40)
Louisiana (1934) (48:14)
Juke joint (1947) (67:13)
Lookout sister (1947) (62:48)
Where's my man to-nite (1943) (78:04)
Straight to heaven (1939) (51:58)
Junction 88 (1947) (49:02)
Midnight shadow (1939) (50:15)

Disc 5
Two-gun man from Harlem (1938) (60:28)
Lying lips (1939) (72:09)
Miracle in Harlem (1948) (69:51)
Moon over Harlem (1939) (68:44)
The symbol of the unconquered (1920) (58:03)
Underworld (1937) (63:09)
Tall tan and terrific (1946) (42:29)
Lucky ghost (1941) (60:46)
Native son (1968) (87:46)
Murder on Lenox Avenue (1941) (64:55)
Murder with music (1941) (56:47)

Disc 6
The negro soldier (1943) (40:16)
Way down south (1939) (61:20)
Miracle in swing (1940) (65:06)
Big Fella (1937) (70:40)
Reet, petit, and gone (1947) (69:55)
Paradise in Harlem (1939) (84:52)
The scar of shame (1927) (75:05)
Beale Street mama (1946) (57:20)
Son of Ingagi (1940) (61:59)
Veiled aristocrats (1932) (44:18)

Disc 7
Sunday sinners (1940) (65:31)
Spirit of youth (1937) (65:29)
Ten minutes to live (1932) (58:57)
The proud valley (1940) (76:35)
Sepia Cinderella (1947) (67:17)
Swing (1938) (68:21)
Song of freedom (1936) (76:37)
The magic garden (1952) (62:20)
The mark of the hawk (1957) (80:51)
The new girl (1959) (33:33)

Disc 8.
24 short race films (365:12)
Books:

Watching While Black: Centering the Television of Black Audiences
Author: Smith-Shomade, Beretta E. Pub Date: 2012
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 791.450899 WATCHING

Crime and Racial Constructions: Cultural Misinformation about African Americans in Media and Academia
Author: Covington, Jeanette Pub Date: 2010
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 791.43089 COVINGTON

To be Suddenly White: Literary Realism and Racial Passing
Author: Belluscio, Steven J. Pub Date: 2006
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 791.450899 WATCHING

Filming Difference: Actors, Directors, Producers, and Writers on Gender, Race, and Sexuality in Film
Author: Bernardi, Daniel Pub Date: 2009
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 791.436355 FILMING

Fade to Black and White: Interracial Images in Popular Culture
Author: Childs, Erica Chito Pub Date: 2009
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 305.800973 CHILDS

Black Children in Hollywood Cinema; Cast in Shadow
Author: Olson, Debbie Pub Date: 2017
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 791.43 OLSON

Black Face, Maligned Race: The Representation of Blacks in English Drama from Shakespeare to Southerne
Author: Berthelemy, Anthony Gerard Pub Date: 1987
Auburn Avenue Research Library: WR 822.3 BARTHELEMY

Racial Geometries of the Black Atlantic, Asian Pacific and American Theatre
Author: Steen, Shannon Pub Date: 2010
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 792.089 STEEN

The Problematic Tyler Perry
Author: Adu-Opake, Kawaku Pub Date: 2016
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 791.43028 PERRY
Black City Cinema: African American Urban Experiences in Film
Author: Massood, Paula J. Pub Date: 2003
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 791.43 MASSOOD

Why We Make Movies: Black Filmmakers Talk About the Magic of Cinema
Author: Alexander, George Pub Date: 2003
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 791.43 MASSOOD

Author: Grant, W.R. Pub Date: 2004
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 791.43 GRANT

Film Blackness: American Cinema and the Idea of Black Film
Author: Gillespie, Michael Boyce Pub Date: 2007
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 338.96 791.43 GILLESPIE

Author: Williams, Roland Leander Pub Date: 2015
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 791.43 WILLIAMS

Uplift Cinema: The Emergence of African American Film and the Possibility of Black Modernity
Author: Field, Allyson Nadia Pub Date: 2015
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 791.43652 FIELD

Racial Imperatives: Discipline, Performativity, and Struggles Against Subjection
Author: Ehlers, Nadine Pub Date: 2012
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 810.93552 BELLUSCIO

Whitewashing the South: White Memories of Segregation and Civil Rights
Author: Lavelle, Kristen M. Pub Date: 2012
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 305.800975 LAVELLE

Black for a Day: White Fantasies of Race and Empathy
Author: Gaines, Alisha Pub Date: 2017
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 305.8 PERRY
Washing the Negro White: The Evolution of Thinking of African Economic Development
Author: Adu-Opake, Kawaku  Pub Date: 2007
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 338.96 ADU-OPAKO

White Out: The Continuing Significance of Racism
Author: Adu-Opake, Kawaku  Pub Date: 2007
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 338.96 ADU-OPAKO

"White" washing American education: the new culture wars in ethnic studies
Author: Sandoval, Denise M.  Pub Date: 2016
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 378.00973 WHITE V. 1
378.00973 WHITE V. 2

Washing
Author: Adu-Opake, Kawaku  Pub Date: 2007
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 338.96 ADU-OPAKO

Racial Imperatives: Discipline, Performativity, and Struggles Against Subjection
Author: Ehlers, Nadine  Pub Date: 2012
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 305.8 EHLERS

Near Black: White-to-Black Passing in American Culture
Author: Dreisinger, Baz  Pub Date: 2008
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 305.809 DREISINGER

Racism without Racists: Color-blind Racism and the Persistence of Racial Inequality in America
Author: Bonilla-Silva, Eduardo  Pub Date: 2014
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 305.8 BONILLA-SILVA

Skin Deep: How Race and Complexion Matter in the "Color-blind" Era
Author: Herring, Cedric  Pub Date: 2004
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 305.8 HERRING

The Myth of Racial Color Blindness: Manifestations, Dynamics, and Impact
Author: Neville, Helen A.  Pub Date: 2007
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 305.8 MYTH

White Self-criticality Beyond Anti-racism: How Does It Feel to be A White Problem?
Author: Yancy, George  Pub Date: 2015
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 305.8 WHITE
Racechanges: White Skin, Black Face in American Culture
Author: Gubar, Susan  
Pub Date: 1997
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 305.8 GUBAR

Color Monitors: The Black Face of Technology in America
Author: Kevorkian, Martin  
Pub Date: 2005
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 302.23 KEVORKIAN

The Birth of the Banjo: Joel Walker Sweeney and Early Minstrelsy
Author: Carlin, Bob  
Pub Date: 2007
Auburn Avenue Research Library: B SWEENEY

Real Sister: Stereotypes, Respectability, and Black Women in Reality TV
Author: Adu-Opake, Kawaku  
Pub Date: 2007
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 338.96 ADU-OPAKO

New Media in Black Women's Autobiography: Intrepid Embodiment and Narrative Innovation
Author: Curtis, Tracy  
Pub Date: 2015
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 810.9 CURTIS

Quentin Tarantino's Django Unchained: The Continuation of Metacinema
Author: Speck, Oliver C.  
Pub Date: 2014
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 791.4372 QUENTIN

Brainwashed: Challenging the Myth of Black Inferiority
Author: Burrell, Tom  
Pub Date: 2010
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 305.896 BURRELL

White Scripts and Black Supermen Black Masculinities in Comic Books
Author: Gayles, Jonathan  
Pub Date: 2011
Auburn Avenue Research Library: DVD 741.50973 WHITE

Black like You: blackface, whiteface, insult & imitation in American popular culture
Author: Strausbaugh, John  
Pub Date: 2006
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 305.896 STRAUSBAUGH

White on Black: Images of Africa and Blacks in Western Popular Culture
Author: Nederveen Pieterse, Jan  
Pub Date: 1992
Auburn Avenue Research Library: WR 700 NEDERVEEN PIETERSE
Perspectives of Black Popular Culture  
**Author:** Sahw, Harry B.  
**Pub Date:** 1990  
**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 338.96 ADU-OPAKO

**Author:** Faulkner, Janette  
**Pub Date:** 1982  
**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 305.896 ETHNIC

Black Films and Film-makers: A Comprehensive Anthology from Stereotype to Superhero  
**Author:** Patterson, Lindsay  
**Pub Date:** 1975  
**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 791.43 PATTerson

Born to be Hurt: The Untold Story of Imitation of Life  
**Author:** Staggs, Sam  
**Pub Date:** 2009  
**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 791.4372 STAGGS

The Complexity and Progression of Black Representation in Film and Television  
**Author:** Moody, David L.  
**Pub Date:** 2006  
**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 791.4372 STAGGS

Black African Cinema  
**Author:** Diawara, Manthia  
**Pub Date:** 1993  
**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 791.43 BLACK

Electronic Materials and Mixed Media:  
From Amos and Andy to Cosby and all the Way Back Again: A Textual Analysis of Predominantly Black Situation Comedies and the Presence of Traditional Stereotypes at the End of the Twentieth Century  
**Author:** Hollis, Cassandra Denise  
**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 791.45617 HOLLIS
Suggested Search Terms and Keywords:
- White-washing
- White-washing AND Passing
- Passing
- Colour-blind casting
- Racebending
- White savior narrative
- Straight washing
- White-washing AND Type-casting
- Blackface
- Yellow face
- Minstrel shows AND black stereotypes
- Black stereotypes AND film industry/Hollywood
- Minorities AND film AND White-washing

How to Use Booleans:

Photo Courtesy of School District of Onalaska