

The (W)rap SHEET

Black Film Center/Archive
Indiana University

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3
SEPTEMBER 2011
EDITOR: LESLIE HOUIN

Black Film Center/Archive Celebrates 30th Anniversary



Professor Phyllis R. Klotman, Founding Director of the BFC/A (far right), with Gloria Gibson and Frances Stubbs (1986).

After 30 years, the Black Film Center/Archive has approached this major milestone as an opportunity to reflect upon its mission as a repository of films and related materials by and about African Americans. It is a moment to remember how the organization started, its major achievements and programs, and our vision for the organization as we plan for our future.

The BFC/A was founded in 1981 by **Professor Phyllis R. Klotman**, who directed the Archives for 18 years and is now professor emerita of Afro-American Studies and

Film Studies. During the 1970s, it became apparent that films by and about African Americans from 1890 to the present were rapidly disappearing due to technical indifference to preservation, lack of established outlets for the films, and inadequate teaching resources.

At the same time, important films by black independent filmmakers which offered an alternative to Hollywood's view of black culture were similarly threatened by obscurity and neglect. Klotman and others believed that promotion of black films as a

genre worthy of serious intellectual consideration, coupled with the introduction of black films to all ethnic groups, would help to reverse the trend of severe neglect.

During Klotman's tenure, the BFC/A began an outreach program, created workshops and film festivals for independent black filmmakers such as Kathleen Collins, Bill Gunn, Warrington Hudlin and Carl Weathers; collaborated with the Black Expo and Madame Walker Urban Life Center

In this issue:

2 BFC/A History

Fall Events
BFC/A Staff News **3**

4 New Publications
New Websites
Recent Acquisitions

Mississippi River 9th Ward
Film and Arts Festival **5**

6 Black Camera
Call for Papers

Fall 2011 Film Festivals **7**

BFC/A History continued on page 2

The (W)rap-Sheet

BFC/A History continued from page 1

in Indianapolis; created a foundational collection for the Archive; and started the BFC/A Newsletter which eventually became the academic journal, *Black Camera*.

In 1999, Klotman retired, stepping down as director. In the shift from founding director to new leadership, **Professor Audrey T. McCluskey** became the interim Director of the BFC/A, eventually taking on the role as Director in 2001. Her first major project during her inaugural year was coordinating an international film festival entitled *Films of the African Diaspora: Bridging Cultures through Film*. The festival featured works by Haile Gerima,

McCluskey then arranged an artist-in-residence program which brought Melvin van Peebles and Salem Mekuria to Indiana University. She also made possible a series of film festivals, retrospectives, and special screenings on the IUB campus that often had a community outreach component, including children and parents of Bloomington as well as academics and students.

McCluskey also collaborated with the Indiana University Art Museum for the featured exhibition *Imaging Blackness, 1915-2002: Film Posters from the BFC/A Collection*.

2



BFC/A display case
at Wells Library, August 2011.

Photo by Leslie Houin

She oversaw the expansion of the BFC/A of the newsletter and the collections. The newsletter, *Black Camera*, became a micro-journal that included interviews with directors and actors as well as articles written by IU faculty and BFC/A graduate assistants.

One of her final contributions to the BFC/A was the Black Women Filmmakers Forum, which brought filmmakers Alile Sharon Larkin, Jessie Maple, and Yvonne Welbon to IU.

In 2006, McCluskey ended her seven-year tenure at BFC/A to take the position as Director of the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center.

Professor Michael T. Martin became Director of the BFC/A at this time.

IU Cinema poster
for the August 2011
screening of *Shaft*.

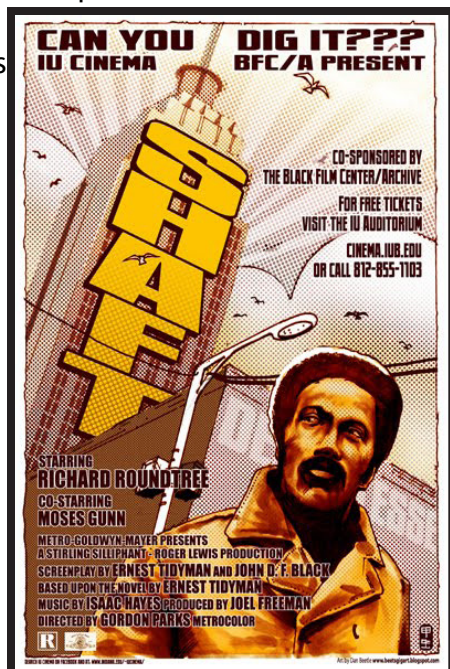
Poster by Dan Beetle

During the last five years, the BFC/A grown immensely. Martin expanded the newsletter from a micro-journal to a full academic journal entitled *Black Camera: An International Film Journal*. The journal--which includes interviews with filmmakers, actors, and film artists; film reviews; and scholarly articles on African American film--is published biannually by Indiana University Press.

Directorship at the BFC/A is complimented by Archivist **Mary K. Huelsbeck**, who oversees much of the day-to-day operations of the Archive.

On January 7, 2010, the BFC/A moved from its previous location at the Smith Research Center to the Herman B. Wells Library. The new facilities boast a conference/classroom room; a seminar room; a reading room for research; office space for visiting filmmakers or scholars, the director and archivist; work space for graduate assistants, volunteers, and interns; an equipment room; and a climate-controlled storage room for collections.

BFC/A History continued on page 5



Fall 2011 Events

8/28 *Shaft* - IU Cinema, 6:30pm

9/15-17 *Rejoice & Shout* - IU Cinema, Th, F 9:30pm; Sat 6:30pm, 9:30pm

10/6-8 **Films of Pedro Costa: The Artful Tableau of Everyday Life** - IU Cinema

3:00 pm: JORGENSEN LECTURE SERIES

6 7:00 pm: *Down to Earth*

10:00 pm: *Bones*

3:00 pm: Shorts Program (1984-2010)

7 6:30 pm: *Colossal Youth*

9:30pm: *The Blood*

3:00 pm: *In Vanda's Room*

8 6:30 pm: *Ne Change Rien*

9:30 pm: *Where Does Your Hidden Smile Lie?*

11/3-6 **Arriving at the Truth: Films by Charles Burnett** - IU Cinema

3:00 pm: Public Interview with Charles Burnett & Michael Martin

3 7:00 pm: *Killer of Sheep* (Indianapolis Museum of Art)

3:00 pm: Charles Burnett Shorts Program - 1969-2007

4 7:00 pm: *Killer of Sheep*

3:00 pm: *My Brother's Wedding*

5 6:30 pm: *To Sleep With Anger*

9:30 pm: *The Glass Shield*

6 3:00 pm: *Namibia: The Struggle for Liberation*

11/4 **Reception in Honor of Phyllis Klotman & Charles Burnett** - BFC/A, 6:00 pm

BFC/A Staff News

Stacey Doyle is the newly appointed Graduate Research Assistant at the BFC/A. As a MLIS graduate student, she volunteered for the BFC/A for a year before accepting an internship this summer.

Leslie Houin, Graduate Assistant, interned this summer at Artpace San Antonio, a contemporary arts center that boasts one of the best artist-in-residency programs in the world. She worked in the Curatorial, Education, and Development departments where she conducted research

and wrote curatorial material and grants. She also helped formulate the organization's current blog management strategies. Houin documented special events and artistic processes during the artists' residencies while also conducting interviews with the artists.

Nzingha Kendall, Graduate Assistant, went to London this summer to view Black British films at the British Film Institute. She also saw *Contest Terrains* at the Tate Modern, an exhibition of recent work by four contemporary artists

working in Africa, co-curated by Tate and the Centre for Contemporary Art, Lagos.

Michael T. Martin, Director, visited the University of Ottawa for a two-day symposium entitled *Articulations of Memory in Cinemas*. Martin presented a paper *Historical Trauma: Reading Slavery in the Cinematographic Archive*, which engages with memory, its historicity and importance to cinematic accounts and readings of historical trauma. It is also about the relevance of memory to the project of worldmaking.

New Publications

New BFC/A Book Series

In partnership with IU Press, the BFC/A will launch a book series devoted to the study of black filmmakers and seminal and distinctive films engaging with black life in the global diaspora.

The personages selected for the series include prominent (living and deceased) and emerging filmmakers and the films comprise feature and short narrative, documentary, and experimental works of enduring historical, cultural and aesthetic importance.

The first books in the series will include *Nothing But a Man* (1964), *Daughters of the Dust* (1991), *Killer of Sheep* (1977), and *The Spook Who Sat By the Door* (1973).

New Websites

With the immense guidance and assistance of Gyeongja Jun (GJ) Lee, the BFC/A recently launched an updated version of the BFC/A website (<http://www.indiana.edu/~bfca/>) as well as a new website for its publication, *Black Camera* (<http://www.indiana.edu/~blackcam/>).

The new websites provide a user-friendly format designed with the interests and concerns of BFC/A website visitors in mind.

African Film Poster Collection

The African Film Poster Collection is a special project that the BFC/A began in 2007, inspired by FESPACO and the rarity of African film posters due to small production budgets.

Recently, the BFC/A received a donation of 119 posters from Gaston Kaboré, director of IMAGINE-Film Training Institute in Burkina Faso. The posters come from a variety of countries, including: Algeria, Belgium, Benin, Burkina

Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, France, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea-Conakry, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Martinique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo, and Tunisia.

Sarah Mayersohn, an MLIS graduate student with a concentration in archives and the BFC/A's newest volunteer, is cataloguing and processing all the posters.

Recent Acquisitions

Percival Ethridge Collection

An avid poster collector from Picayune, Mississippi, Percival Ethridge donated 18 posters to the BFC/A during his visit to Indiana for the 100th anniversary of the fraternity Kappa Alpha Psi which was founded at Indiana University.

Mr. Ethridge began collecting Blaxploitation film posters, then posters of independent black films of the 1970s, and currently collects posters from the Silent Era of the 1920s and 30s.

John Williams Collection

Inspired by an article written by LaMonda Horton-Stallings entitled "*Redemptive Softness*": *Interi-*

ority, Intellect, and Black Women's Ecstasy in Kathleen Collins's *Losing Ground* in the Spring 2011 issue of *Black Camera*, Professor John Williams of Lane Community College in Eugene, Oregon donated materials documenting the work and life of Collins.

Screen Actors Guild Foundation

The SAG Foundation, an educational, humanitarian and philanthropic 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that enhances the lives of actors by investing in programs which help them in their professional endeavors and the communities in which they live, donated a DVD from their Conversations Series with Phylicia Rashad.

BFC/A History continued from page 2

After the move to the new facility, the BFC/A hosted two important symposiums in March 2010. *From the Post Colonial to the Global Postmodern? African and Caribbean Francophone Filmmakers and Scholars in Conversation* featured filmmakers Gaston Kaboré, Euzhan Palcy, Joseph Ramaka, and Jean-Marie Teno. *Cinematic Representations of Racial Conflict in 'Real Time'*, brought Robert M. Young and Sam Greenlee to IU to discuss their films, *Nothing But a Man* and *The Spook Who Sat by the Door*, respectively, with a panel of scholars.

In addition to *Black Camera*, another major publication, *Studies of*

Cinema in the Black Diaspora, with IU Press will be launched this fall.

Recruited to work at the BFC/A are self-motivated and forward-thinking graduate assistants, volunteers, and interns who dedicate their time to strategic planning and implementation of programs, marketing, archival practices, and publications. As a rapidly expanding institution, the BFC/A is one of the best places for IU graduate students from a variety of backgrounds to gain valuable and practical experience in library science and nonprofit organizational management.

For the 30th anniversary, the

BFC/A started its celebration with a screening of *Shaft* (1971) at IU Cinema. The Archive will screen films bi-monthly on Friday afternoons and co-sponsor the Pedro Costa and Charles Burnett campus visits and retrospectives at IU Cinema. On November 4th, the BFC/A will host a reception and appreciation of Charles Burnett and Phyllis Klotman, our founder, for her powerful efforts in establishing the Black Film Center/Archive thirty years ago.



Photo by Leslie Houin

Mississippi River 9th Ward Film and Arts Festival

Join us for the Mississippi River 9th Ward Film and Arts Festival, **October 6-9, 2011!**

On **Friday September 16** at the New Orleans African American Museum, there will be a Festival Sneak Preview, featuring *Mississippi Damned* (2009) with Director Tina Mabry. Admission is free, seating is limited. Reserve a place at: noafest@neworleansafrikanfilmfest.org or 504-942-8542.

October 6, the Festival opens at the Galvez Restaurant & Atrium with a Gala honoring Harold Battiste, Jr, recipient of the second Toni Cade Bambara Award for Cultural Leadership. Come hear Jesse McBride Presents the Next Generation and

a Battiste composition arranged by Dr. Jean Montes for Molto, a funky chamber orchestra!

October 7-9, films screened will focus on youth, women, the violence they endure and often overcome: *Draw Yourself!* (France, 2010); *Shirley Adams: Portrait of a Mother* (South Africa, 2009); *Africa United* (UK, 2010); *Murder on a Sunday Morning* (France/U.S., 2001); *Central Station* (Brazil, 1999); *Black Venus* (France/Tunisia, 2010), with live music by Charmaine Neville, Fredy Omar con su banda, and the Caesar Brothers Funk Box preceding evening screenings. And we will host two roundtables: "Black Men and the Justice System" and "Race and Power in New Orleans in Global Perspective."

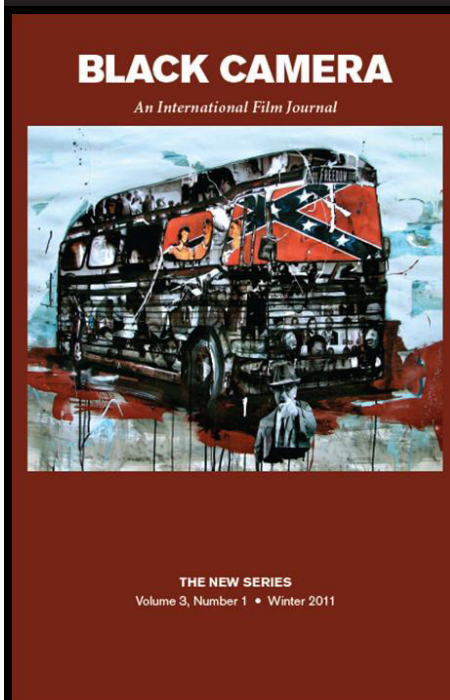
Gala Tickets are \$75 each or \$135 for two. Tickets available online or by check.

Festival screenings are \$5 each. A Festival Pass for all screenings may be purchased for \$20, online or by check.

Make checks payable to:
NOAFEST
2670 George Nick Connor Dr.
New Orleans, LA 70119

Black Camera: An International Journal

Volume 3, Number 1, Winter 2011



<http://www.indiana.edu/~blackcam/>

Contents

Editor's Notes 1

Call for Special Issue Submissions

Precious and the Novel *Push* (Suzette Spencer and Carlos Miranda, guest editors) 3

Afrosurrealism in Film/Video (Terri Simone Francis, guest editor) 5

Haile Gerima's Black Radical Tradition On Screen:
African Cinema of Liberation at Home and Abroad
(Greg Thomas, guest editor) 7

Articles

"Woman Thou Art Bound": Critical Spectatorship, Black Masculine Gazes, and
Gender Problems in Tyler Perry's Movies 9

Robert J. Patterson

Flora Gomes, Filmmaker in Search of a Nation 31

Akin Adesokan

The Last King of Scotland and the Politics of Adaptation 54

Lesley Marx

"Draggin' the Chain": Linking Civil Rights and African American Representation
in *The Defiant Ones* and *In the Heat of the Night* 75

Emma Hamilton and Troy Saxby

Interviews

"Buses are a Comin'. Oh Yeah!": Stanley Nelson on *Freedom Riders* 96

Michael T. Martin

Africultures Dossier

FESPACO 2011: A Festival under Threat 123

"This Is the Last FESPACO I'll Be Coming To" 134

"The Way to Help Us Is to Give Us Our Funding on Time" 141

Olivier Barlet

Documents

FeCAViP Manifesto (1990) 146

Federation of Caribbean Audiovisual Professionals

Poster Gallery: Coming Attractions

147

Book Reviews

Novotny Lawrence,
Blaxploitation Films of the 1970s: Blackness and Genre 163

Karen Bowdre

Kara Keeling,
*The Witch's Flight: The Cinematic, the Black Femme,
and the Image of Common Sense* 165

Holly Mayne

Priscilla Pena Ovalle,
Dance and the Hollywood Latina: Race, Sex, and Stardom 168

Jennifer Zale

Archival News

173

Professional Notes and Research Resources

181

Notes on Contributors

187

Call for Submissions

191

September

Venice Film Festival, Aug 31-Sept 10
 International Film Festival Ireland, 1-9
 Amakula Kampala Cinema Caravan Festival, 2-30
 Austin Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, 6-12
 Harlem International Film Festival, 7-11
 Toronto International Film Festival, 8-18
 Big Bear Lake International Film Festival, 15-18
 Hamptons Black International Film Festival, 16-18
 Cinéfest Sudbury International Film Festival, 17-25
 Twin Cities Black Film Festival, 18-20
 Arpa International Film Festival, 22-24
 DocMiami International Film Festival, 22-25
 Fieri International Film Festival, 22-25
 Tulsa International Film Festival, 22-25
 Prishtina International Film Festival, 22-29
 Montreal International Black Film Festival, Sept 22-Oct 2
 International Black Film Festival of Nashville, Sept 28-Oct 2
 Asheville QFest, Sept 29-Oct 2
 Camden International Film Festival, Sept 29-Oct 2
 Cincinnati Film Festival, Sept 29-Oct 2
 Palo Alto International Film Festival, Sept 29-Oct 2
 Vancouver International Film Festival, Sept 29-Oct 14
 New York Film Festival, Sept 30-Oct 16

November

Cape Town International Film Festival, TBD
 African in Motion Film Festival, 1-6
 Chicago Lesbian & Gay International Film Festival, 3-12
 Brisbane International Film Festival, 3-13
 Leeds International Film Festival, 3-20
 Cinema Tous Ecrans, 4-10
 Thessaloniki International Film Festival, 4-13
 North Carolina Latin American Film Festival, 4-19
 South Asian International Film Festival, 9-15
 Stockholm International Film Festival, 9-20
 BronzeLens Film Festival, 10-13
 St. Louis International Film Festival, 10-20
 Teaneck International Film Festival, 11-13
 Amiens Festival International du Film, 11-20
 Costa Rica International Film Festival, 11-20
 Mar del Plata International Film Festival, 13-21
 Portland African American Film Festival, 17-20
 International Film Festival of India, Nov 23-Dec 3
 Cairo International Film Festival, Nov 29-Dec 8
 Whistler Film Festival, Nov 30-Dec 4
 Africa International Film Festival, Nov 30-Dec 5

Fall 2011 Film Festivals

October

Sediciorto International Film Festival, 3-9
 Arlington International Film Festival, 6-9
 Festival Do Rio: Rio de Janeiro International Film Festival, 6-18
 Chicago International Film Festival, 6-20
 Gotham Screen International Film Festival, 7-17
 Maryland International Film Festival, 13-16
 Hawaii International Film Festival, 13-23
 Marbella International Film Festival, 14-16
 Silicon Valley African Film Festival, 14-16
 New Orleans Film Festival, 14-20
 Buffalo International Film Festival, 14-23
 Gold Lion Film Festival, 15-31
 Santa Fe Independent Film Festival, 19-23
 International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival, 20-23
 Austin Film Festival, 20-27
 Queer Black Cinema Film Festival, 21-23
 United Nations Association Film Festival, 21-30
 Vermont International Film Festival, 21-30
 Mostra Internacional de Cinema, Oct 21-Nov 3
 Tokyo International Film Festival, 22-30
 Birmingham Black International Film Festival, 24-30
 Hollywood Black Film Festival, 27-30
 Edinburgh African Film Festival, Oct 27-Nov 6
 Savannah Film Festival, Oct 29-Nov 5

December

Bahamas International Film Festival, 1-4
 International Film Festival of Marrakech, 2-10
 Anchorage International Film Festival, 2-11
 Black Soil International Film Festival, 4-7
 Dubai International Film Festival, 7-14
 Monaco International Film Festival, 8-11
 Kathmandu International Mountain Film Festival, 8-12
 Gwangju International Film Festival, 9-12



The Black Film Center/Archive

The BFC/A was founded in 1981 and was the first repository in the United States for the collection and preservation of films and related materials by and about African Americans. Since that time, its collections have grown and its scope has broadened to include films from other geographical sites in the African Diaspora. Our collections, which features many independent filmmakers, highlights the work of black writers, actors, producers, directors, and musicians in all aspects of film production.

Objectives

- To promote scholarship on black film and serve as a resource for scholars, researchers, students, and the general public.
- To preserve and expand the collection of historically and culturally significant films by and about black people.
- To encourage film activity by independent black filmmakers.
- To undertake and encourage research on the history, impact, theory and aesthetics of black film traditions.

Black Film Center/Archive

Indiana University
Wells Library, Room 044
1320 East 10th Street
Bloomington, IN 47405

Telephone: (812) 855-6041

Fax: (812) 856-5832

Email: bfca@indiana.edu

Website: <http://www.indiana.edu/~bfca/>

Blog: blackfilmcenterarchive.wordpress.com/



A selection of posters from the Percival Ethridge Collection.

Recent Publications on Black Film

- ***African American Theater Buildings: An Illustrated Historical Directory, 1900-1955***
Eric Ledell Smith, McFarland, 2010
- ***ALT 28 Film in African Literature Today***
Ernest N. Emenyonu (editor), James Currey, 2010
- ***American Cinema and the Southern Imaginary***
Deborah Barker and Kathryn McKee (editors), University of Georgia Press, 2011
- ***Black in Films, Television, and Video: An Encyclopedia***
Elizabeth Hadley, Routledge, 2010
- ***Blaxploitation Films***
Mikel J. Koven, Oldcastle Books, 2010
- ***Contemporary Black Cinema: Critical Methodologies***
Paula Massood, Routledge, 2010
- ***Horror Noire: Blacks in American Horror, 1890s to Present***
Robin R. Means Coleman, Routledge, 2011
- ***Men in African Film and Fiction***
Lahoucine Ouzgane (editor), Boydell & Brewer, 2011
- ***Paul Robeson: Film Pioneer***
Scott Allen Nollen, McFarland, 2010
- ***Second Skin: Josephine Baker and the Modern Surface***
Anne Anlin Cheng, Oxford University Press, 2011