

AFRICAN AMERICAN THEMED FILMS

Under our Soul Cinema marque airing daily 24/7, the Network brings a unique African American curated experience to our audience. From a historical standpoint, African American film is broadly divided into 4 periods.

1. The First Period

The First Period is known as "Race Films Period". This covers the beginning of Black Cinema up and to including World War II. Examples from this Period are the films of Oscar Micheaux and Spencer Williams with stars like Paul Robeson, "The Emperor Jones" and musicals including "Cabin in the Sky" and "Stormy Weather" which starred talents as Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, Cab Calloway, Lena Horne, Louie Armstrong, the Nicolas Brothers, etc.

2. The Second Period

The Second Period is the 'Civil Rights or Assimilation Period". Films took on POV of returning Black Soldiers from WWII and Korea who believed if they were good enough to die for the USA they were good enough to enjoy their full rights as citizens. Stars like Sidney Poitier, Harry Belafonte, Dorothy Dandridge, Sammy Davis Jr, etc., typified this Period. Film titles included, "Carmen Jones", "the Defiant Ones", "No Way Out" and "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner".

3. The Third Period

The Third Period is referred to as the "Blaxploitation Period", the filmmakers largely children of the WWII generation and a product of the Civil Rights Era made films characterized by Black empowerment and romanticized visions of Black America like "Black Cobra", "Christy Love", "Superfly", "Shaft", and "The Mack"

4. The Fourth Period

The Fourth Period is referred to as the "New Black Film Period" and began largely with "hip hop" influenced film, broadbased comedies, and social/heightened realism such as "Boys N the Hood", "New Jack City" and "Coming to America" and continues up to and including films popular among the AA Demo today such as Tyler Perry.

SOUL CINEMA

