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# DVD Review: Black Hollywood

## Blaxploitation and Advancing an Independent Black Cinema

*Black Hollywood* is a documentary shot in Hollywood in 1984 exploring the role of black actors, black directors and the black audience in American movies. It helps refresh your memories of the early 80's when the genre of hip hop had just become popular, break dancing was filling all the night clubs and streets and Eddie Murphy and Richard Pryor were the only two black stars making it big in the entertainment world.

This DVD, *Black Hollywood* shows us clips and interviews where Dihanne Abbott, Rosalind Cash, and Alfre Woodard talk about all the negative stereotyping that went on back then. Jim Brown, Vonetta McGee and D'Urville Martin come up with alternative solutions that was blaxploitation and they talk of new ways of advancing an independent black cinema.

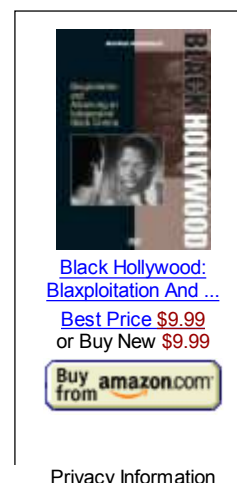
We hear some memorable tales of what life was like for the few blacks that worked in Hollywood in the 50's and 60' from Vincent Tubbs and Joel Fluellen. Included is a rare interview with Lorenzo Tucker, The Black Valentino, about his career with Oscar Micheaux.

Sidney Poitier gives a speech on accepting the Black Hall of Fame "oscar". Grandmaster Flash and his "Message" is the theme tune and the writer Oscar Williams holds the whole show together with his advice to the creative outsider.

*Black Hollywood* makes an interesting documentary and if you would like to purchase your own copy, click on the Amazon icon at the top of this article.

Jan Barrett

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