

Black Hollywood (MVD) This oddly obscure 1984 film (never heard of it, no IMDB listing, etc.) is pretty remarkable. Shot on filmstock, not video, it has faded and degraded beautifully. There have been several movies and TV shows about the history of black film, and the challenges black actors face, but nothing as dynamic and engaging as this. Amongst the many treasures here is priceless footage of Paul Mooney doing devastating stand up, Oscar Micheaux actor Lorenzo Tucker telling tales of early black cinema, Jim Brown being Jim Brown, and droves of beautiful black actresses telling discouraging tales of being offered prostitute roles. Director/actor/writer Oscar Williams is the centerpiece, holding court, and being a visionary about what Michael Jackson's crossover appeal will mean to the forthcoming generation. But he does make one poor prediction: he claims no one would ever call Pacino's *Scarface* a violent, black exploitation movie. 10 million hip hop fans might disagree. What may be best about this movie is that its seeming randomness (it cuts to breakdancers and urban fashion shows in the style of a mondo movie) actually helps paint a broad picture of the black cultural landscape and where Hollywood doesn't, but could, reflect it.