

# SYNERGY MAGAZINE

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## TEAR SHEET

Attached is a Tear Sheet of a review prepared by Synergy Magazine, we welcome corrections, additions or comments.

Your feedback is always appreciated.  
Robert Black  
Editor  
Synergy Magazine

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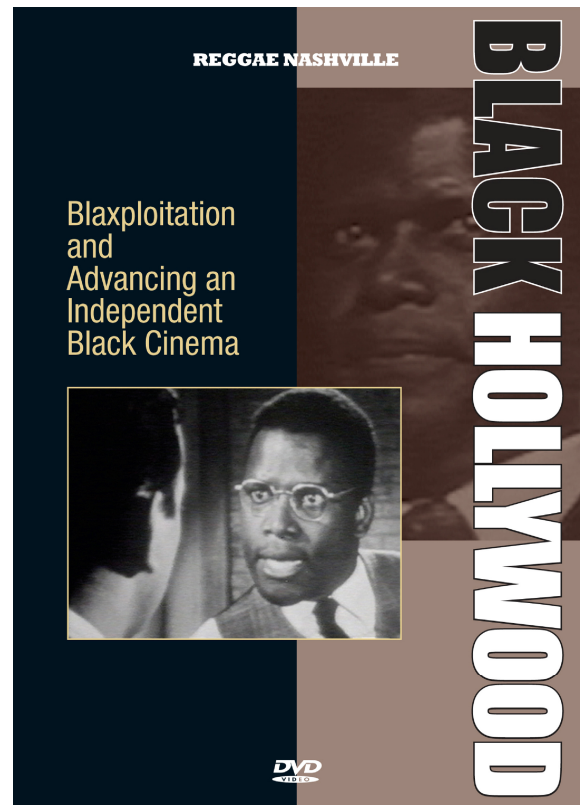
# THINKING TIME!

**Black Hollywood  
Blaxploitation and Advancing an Independent Black Cinema**  
Screen Edge  
MVDVisual  
Region Free DVD  
Web: <http://mvdb2b.com/>

Black Hollywood is an intelligent, well informed and entertaining look at both Blaxploitation and Black cinema in general. Rather than simply extolling the "cult" value of Blaxploitation films, it explores the economical, sociological and cultural significance of such films in terms of the development of Black Cinema. It examines the way in which Hollywood used Blaxploitation (and films aimed at other minorities) to overcome a lack of success with mainstream audiences and then when it was back on its feet, left behind those it had seemingly exploited.

It is a perceptive documentary deliberately allowing different "voices" from within the Black community to discuss their experience and perceptions of Hollywood. These range from the bitter and furious to the pragmatic; from perceptions of racism to a more "economic" view of how Hollywood operates. Some have more confidence about the future than others, but all are willing to share their experiences.

Shot entirely on location in Hollywood in 1984, this documentary is still extremely relevant, especially with the current interest in Blaxploitation titles. It has many rare interviews, but is not just made up of "talking heads", it includes comedy routines, lots of action packed movie



clips and some excellent commentary.

In a very wide reaching presentation Diahnne Abbott, Rosalind Cash and Alfre Woodard talk about negative stereotyping. While Jim Brown, Vonetta McGee and D'Urville Martin come up with alternative solutions to the one-way-street that was "blaxploitation" and discuss new ways of advancing an independent black cinema. There is a rare interview with Lorenzo Tucker, the Black Valentino, about his career with Oscar Micheaux and Joel Fluellen and Vincent Tubbs tell memorable stories of what life was like for the few blacks working in Hollywood in the 50s and 60s.

This is a comprehensive documentary which balances coverage of Blaxploitation with discussions of Black Cinema in general and the politics of race and the financial mechanics of Hollywood. It is honest, at times biting, at other times amusing, but always informative and entertaining.