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Donald Bogle : Blacks in American Films and Television: An Encyclopedia (Garland Reference Library of the Humanities) by Donald Bogle (1988-03-01) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Blacks in American Films and Television: An Encyclopedia (Garland Reference Library of the Humanities) by Donald Bogle (1988-03-01):

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of the movies, television shows, actors and their performances is balanced and insightful. His analysis skillfully takes into consideration the racist nature of the motion picture business throughout the early years of America cinema, never sugarcoating or condemning the industry. His assessments are intelligently delivered and masterfully compliment the commentary and photographs throughout. Published in 1988, this book is a bit dated. However, the historical value of its contents is invaluable. There are numerous photos and profiles of long-ago African-American movie stars, including Lena Horne, Eddie "Rochester" Anderson, Dorothy Dandridge, Ethel Waters, Paul Robeson, Hattie McDaniel and Billie "Buckwheat" Thomas, as well as lesser-known artists such as Rex Ingram, Tim Moore, Lillian and Amanda Randolph and Mantan Moreland. Bogle also critiques numerous television shows that featured or starred African-American performers, including "Benson", "Amos `n' Andy", "Room 222", "The Cosby Show", "I Spy", "Julia", "Amen" and even the short-lived, "Get Christie Love". Fortunately, Bogle does not exclude more contemporary (remember, this book was written in 1988) African-American performers. Eddie Murphy, Richard Roundtree, Alfre Woodard, Diana Ross, Melvin Van Peebles and others are also profiled. This is a very enjoyable, easy to read text. A complimentary addition to any library. Oh, and by the way...the first African-American to portray "God" in a motion picture was Rex Ingram in the 1936 classic: "Green Pastures".

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