

(Download) Blaxploitation Cinema

Blaxploitation Cinema

Josiah Howard

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Josiah Howard : Blaxploitation Cinema before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Blaxploitation Cinema:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Easily one of the best and most entertaining books on Blaxploitation LOADED with pictures By ScoreTheFilm This is definitely one of the better books on the subject. I've gone through a few titles and this is closer to what I'm looking for. If you want a hardcore analysis of the Blaxploitation genre then keep on lookin', but if you want a nice well-rounded introduction to the subject and one that will keep you busy for a long time then this might be for you. It breaks down like this...there is a brief introduction that defines the genre and basically outlines what you're in store for with this book (which is a good size at about 7.6" wide and nearly 10" tall at 240 pages). The next section is a QA with some of the top directors of the genre including Paul Bogart, Matt Cimber, Larry Cohen, Robert A. Endelson, Jama Fanka, Jack Hill, Jonathan Kaplan, Arthur Marks, Cirio H. Santiago and Don

Schain. There are about 2-3 pages devoted to each director interviewed. The next 146 pages is the meat of the book with an alphabetical listing of each film. This extensive reference section has lots of info which includes year, country, alternate titles, rating, genre, running time, studio, director, producers, soundtrack, cast, plot and a brief review. In between all of these are dozens and dozens of color images of movie poster art and lobby cards. Then there are the loads of BW photos of the stars, some behind the scenes images and lots of newspaper advertising for the films. All photos range in size from small (around 2"x2") to full page. So if it's info on an abundance of films in and around the genre and an extraordinary amount of pictures that you're looking for, this is it. I dug it but then I've bought a few books on the subject that weren't nearly as entertaining making this one all the more special. While I like the section discussing each film (I've been using it as a guide to search out other movies I've forgotten about), I really dig the wonderful movie poster art and behind the scenes pictures. It's a blast from the past from one helluva fun genre that gets better with age. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Decent publication, but filmography is not authoritative and includes numerous inaccuracies. By Joel Parham I purchased this book with a particular interest in obtaining a somewhat authoritative filmography of "Blaxploitation" films. The filmography that Josiah Howard compiled is good, but it needs to be further revised as there are numerous editorial mistakes in many of the entries. I consider the AFI Catalog of Feature Films to be the most authoritative source for information about all feature films that were released in the United States, and in cross-referencing many of the titles in Mr. Howard's filmography I discovered numerous discrepancies. Specifically, there are consistent discrepancies with release year and primary film title in many entries. This could have easily been corrected through a more thorough research method -- referring to AFI Catalog for Feature Films as well as reviewing Variety and Hollywood Reporter issues. Additionally, many of the films included in the filmography are not traditionally considered "Blaxploitation" films, but they do fit into Mr. Howard's broad definition of a "Blaxploitation film": "blaxploitation films are defined as 1970s black-cast or black-themed films (or mainstream Hollywood pictures featuring at least one prominent African-American player in a modern-minded narrative steeped in and/or influenced by the concurrent Black Pride movement), created, developed, and most importantly, heavily promoted to young, inner-city, black audiences." I wonder how widely accepted this definition of "Blaxploitation films" is within the academic field of film/cinema history? Regardless, I appreciate that Josiah Howard defines his subject clearly at the beginning of the book so that the reader understands the context of the content. Ultimately, this is a decent publication that serves as a good reference, but the contents of the filmography should be consumed with the knowledge that the entries are not authoritative and possibly inaccurate. 18 of 18 people found the following review helpful. Better than any other book on the subject currently available. By Curtis Martin...because there are really only two, and this one is better than the other one. Don't get me wrong. I have purchased and really enjoy this book. But if there were as many books out there on "Blaxploitation" films as there are on Hitchcock or Spielberg films, this one would probably fall in the middle of the road, quality-wise. But the fact is that there are only two books I know of that cover the genre as a whole--this one and "Black Action Films" by James Robert Parish and George A. Hill, available from McFarland in a VERY overpriced "library binding" edition. (Another book on the subject, "What it is, What it Was" by Andres Chavez, is also very good but is really a picture book with a few interviews thrown in). While "Black Action Films" has more in-depth listings, "Blaxploitation Cinema" is the much more informative and better-written volume. But "Blax" could have been a lot better. The book is basically broken down into three sections: 1) interviews with directors famous for Blaxploitation; 2) color reproductions of BLX movie posters and 3) short columns on the films in question. The interviews, I hate to say, kind of suck. The participants are game, but the author shoots them each basically the same bland questions indicating he had little knowledge of the individual's career beforehand ("How do you feel about the term 'Blaxploitation'?"). The poster art section is very good, but if that's what you want, the aforementioned "What it is.." is the better purchase. And the section on the individual films, while well-written, includes too many films that are not in any way "Blaxploitation" or even "Black" films (a problem "Black Action" has as well). "Silver Streak," for example, though it features a black actor, Richard Pryor, is in no way a part of the blaxploitation genre. But on the whole and in spite of its comparably minor flaws, this is a very entertaining book on a subject that gets too little serious attention.

Dazzling, highly stylised, excessively violent and brimming with sex, blaxploitation films enjoyed a brief but memorable moment in motion picture history. Never before, and never since, have so many African-American performers been featured in films, not in bit parts, but in name-above-the title starring roles. Here's a new and appreciative look back at a distinctly American motion picture phenomenon, the first truly comprehensive examination of the genre, its films, its trends and its far-reaching impact, covering more than 240 Blaxploitation films in detail. This is the primary reference book on the genre, covering not just the films' heyday (1971-1976) but the entire decade (1970-1980). Includes: film posters and ads