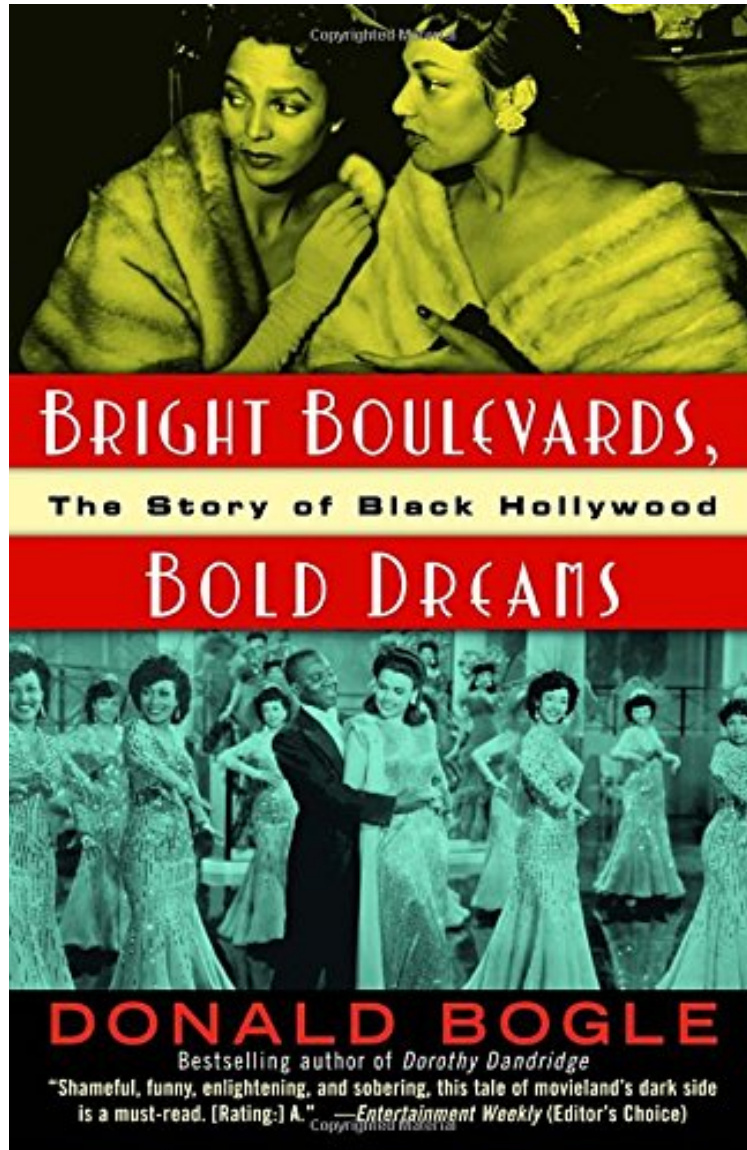


[FREE] Bright Boulevards, Bold Dreams: The Story of Black Hollywood

Bright Boulevards, Bold Dreams: The Story of Black Hollywood

Donald Bogle

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Donald Bogle : Bright Boulevards, Bold Dreams: The Story of Black Hollywood before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bright Boulevards, Bold Dreams: The Story of Black Hollywood:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One of the best books on the topic By Jessica Salmonson There are a really fine handful of books about black cinema and black Hollywood and it seems no one writes about the topic with

love and respect and knowledge, so they're always good reads. But this one's the best I've read so far. It gives the best sense of a community. The people and their lives, their heroic moments, their successes, their unjust humiliations, what a cast of greatness. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Rich History By Mercedes P. Brown Bright Boulevards, Bold Dreams is a great book about the African American experience in Hollywood. What I found interesting are the neighborhoods Sugar Hill (partially destroyed by the Santa Monica Freeway project) and Central Avenue in Los Angeles. This story is not told in most books and I congratulate Donald Bogle for igniting my interest in these neighborhoods that clearly have a rich and exquisite history. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It is a good book and if you want to know more about ... By Carole G. Allen I've added this book to my collection. Donald Bogle has written several film classics about Black Cinema History so I was anxious to have this one also. It is a good book and if you want to know more about film, it is important to add his books to your collection. I highly recommend this book and I give it four out of five stars.

In Bright Boulevards, Bold Dreams, Donald Bogle tells for the first time the story of a place both mythic and real: Black Hollywood. Spanning sixty years, this deliciously entertaining history uncovers the audacious manner in which many blacks made a place for themselves in an industry that originally had no place for them. Through interviews and the personal recollections of Hollywood luminaries, Bogle pieces together a remarkable history that remains largely obscure to this day. We discover that Black Hollywood was a place distinct from the studio-system-dominated Tinseltown world unto itself, with unique rules and social hierarchy. It had its own talent scouts and media, its own watering holes, elegant hotels, and fashionable nightspots, and of course its own glamorous and brilliant personalities. Along with famous actors including Bill Bojangles Robinson, Hattie McDaniel (whose home was among Hollywood's most exquisite), and, later, the stunningly beautiful Lena Horne and the fabulously gifted Sammy Davis, Jr., we meet the likes of heartthrob James Edwards, whose promising career was derailed by whispers of an affair with Lana Turner, and the mysterious Madame Sul-Te-Wan, who shared a close lifelong friendship with pioneering director D. W. Griffith. But Bogle also looks at other members of the black community from the white stars' black servants, who had their own money and prestige, to gossip columnists, hairstylists, and architects and at the world that grew up around them along Central Avenue, the Harlem of the West. In the tradition of Hortense Powdermaker's classic *Hollywood: The Dream Factory* and Neal Gabler's *An Empire of Their Own*, in *Bright Boulevards, Bold Dreams*, Donald Bogle re-creates a vanished world that left an indelible mark on Hollywood and on all of America. From the Hardcover edition.

From Publishers Weekly Bogle, whose previous works (*Primetime Blues*, etc.) have focused primarily on the "screen images" of blacks, now explores "what happened just before the cameras rolled or once the performers left the studio to go home... how people lived and socialized." Starting with Madame Sul-Te-Wan's work in D.W. Griffith's 1915 *The Birth of a Nation* and ending with the 1960s deaths of Louise Beavers, Nat "King" Cole and Dorothy Dandridge, Bogle tells the stories of the stars of Black Hollywood: their outfits, their love affairs and their struggles for better roles. Initially, his coverage is encyclopedic; it includes the black independent studios, the work of Black Hollywood architect Paul Williams, stories of the wives of major black stars, Black Hollywood's residential shifts but gossip about the big personalities (Sammy Davis Jr., Lena Horne, etc.) gradually overwhelms the narrative. Some important black actors, like Paul Robeson and Canada Lee, are barely mentioned, as if their politics made them less dishy. And while the hundred photos Bogle includes are wonderful, a single map of Black Hollywood would've made the discussions of changes in residential segregation much more meaningful. Still, Bogle's lively style (the Sugar Hill neighborhood wasn't quite Hollywood Hills, but it wasn't "chopped liver either") and his many anecdotes will entertain and inform film students and black history buffs alike. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Bogle, black cinema historian and author of *Primetime Blues: African Americans on Network Television* (2001), celebrates the black movie colony that existed side by side with mainstream Hollywood during the first half of the twentieth century. Exploring the social and political backstory of black Hollywood before integration, Bogle presents a parallel universe that produced its own stars, had its own nightspots, and generated its own glamour. The cohesiveness that was born of segregation and limited opportunities also included roles for blacks as servants, hairdressers, architects, and assistants to the powerful. Bogle recalls the careers of black performers, including the Nicholas Brothers, Dorothy Dandridge, Lena Horne, Mantan Moreland, Hattie McDaniel, Stepin Fetchit, and Sammy Davis Jr. He explores the growth of black immigration to California as the allure of Hollywood seemed to promise greater opportunities. Each chapter focuses on a decade from the 1910s through the 1950s, chronicling the changes in race relations as reflected in the movies. The book includes more than 100 photographs that help re-create an era of glamour and segregation. Vanessa Bush Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved. Mr. Bogle continues to be our most noted black-cinema historian. SPIKE LEE Praise for Dorothy Dandridge An ambitious, rigorously researched account of the long-ignored film star and chanteuse . . . [Bogle] has fashioned a resonant history of a bygone era in Hollywood and passionately documented the contribution of one of its most dazzling and complex performers. The New York Times Book Donald Bogle, that pioneering safekeeper of the history of blacks in film, has

completed the first definitive biography of Dandridge. Bogles epic biography depicts all the rich details of Dandridges life. Vogue Praise for Toms, Coons, Mulattoes, Mammies, and Bucks Bogle is passionate and good-humored. His book is valuable as a film reference work and social document. GENE SISKEL Far more inclusive and informative than previous books on the subject. The New York Times From the Hardcover edition.