

The University of Arizona Hanson Film Institute and the School of Media Arts
present a FREE four-day Symposium at The University of Arizona | Feb 3-6, 2010

In Our Own Voice, African American Film Makers OSCAR MICHEAUX, SPIKE LEE, & NOLAND WALKER

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 4-6 PM

**SCHOOL OF MEDIA ARTS
LOUISE FOUCAR MARSHALL BUILDING, 845 N PARK AVE, RM 212**

**Representation of Race in the Media
Guest Film Scholar: Pearl Bowser**

Discussion and Screening of *Midnight Ramble: Oscar Micheaux and the Story of Race Movies*; dir. by Bestor Cram and Pearl Bowser, 1994 (57min.)

Midnight Ramble tells the story of "race movies," over 500 independent films made primarily by, for, and about the Black Community from 1910 through 1950. Race movies grew out of the Black Community's desire to use the newly-invented motion picture technology to provide alternatives to demeaning stereotypes of Black Americans prevalent in American popular culture.



**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 4 - 6:30PM
HOLSCLAW HALL (RM 100A), UA SCHOOL OF MUSIC
1017 N OLIVE ROAD**

**Reframing Race Movies: Oscar Micheaux and His Audience
Guest Film Scholars: Pearl Bowser and Dr. John Howard
In Collaboration with The UA School of Music**

Pearl Bowser will discuss Oscar Micheaux - the most prolific African-American filmmaker to date and a filmmaking giant of the silent period. Both artist and showman, Micheaux stirred controversy in his time as he confronted issues such as lynching, miscegenation, peonage and white supremacy, passing, and corruption among black clergymen.



Presentation followed by Screening of *Body and Soul*; dir. by Oscar Micheaux, 1925, starring Paul Robeson (102 min.)

Print courtesy of Museum of Modern Art. With live piano accompaniment by Suzanne Knosp, School of Music

A minister is malevolent and sinister behind his righteous facade. He consorts with, and later extorts from, the owner of a gambling house, and betrays an honest girl, eventually driving them both to ruin.

Q & A with guest film scholars follows the screening:



PEARL BOWSER is a film scholar, author, and consultant specializing in African American cinema. She is the founder and director of African Diaspora Images, a collection of historical and contemporary African-American and African films and memorabilia. Since 1970 she has curated film programs in Europe, Asia, Africa, and throughout the United States. Her producer credits include *Midnight Ramble: Oscar Micheaux and the Story of Race Movies*, *Namibia Independence Now!*, *Mississippi Triangle*, and *To Love Honor and Obey*. Pearl is the author of the award-winning book *Writing Himself into History* and the catalogue *Oscar Micheaux and His Circle*. Pearl received the prestigious Jean Mitry Award in recognition of her work on Oscar Micheaux.



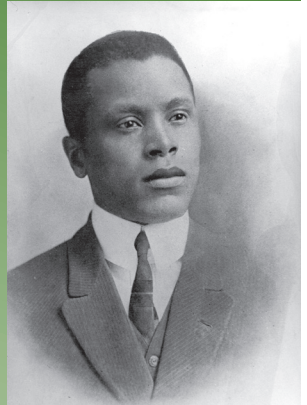
JOHN HOWARD holds a B.A. from Brandeis University, an M.A. from New York University, a Ph.D. from Stanford University, Ph.D., and a J.D. from Pace University. He retired as a Distinguished Service Professor at Purchase College, The State University of New York. John has published extensively in a number of fields and was the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Grant focusing on African-American art and literature. His latest book, *Faces in the Mirror: Oscar Micheaux and Spike Lee*, examines the lives and works of two directors whose biographies define the history of African-Americans in film.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 4-7 PM

**GALLAGHER THEATRE, STUDENT UNION
FILM SCREENS 4:30-6:30 PM**

**Faces in the Mirror: Oscar Micheaux and Spike Lee
Guest Film Scholar: John Howard**

John Howard's talk will place Spike Lee in historical context by comparing his career to that of Oscar Micheaux. Spike Lee came of age after the 'coons' and 'mammies' of traditional Hollywood fare had given way to less demeaning portrayals of blacks, but no black in the history of Hollywood had sustained a career behind the camera as a director at the time he entered film school.



Presentation followed by Screening of the critically-acclaimed *Do The Right Thing*; dir. by Spike Lee, 1989 (120 min.)

35mm print courtesy of NBC, Universal.

It's the hottest day of the year in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn, and tensions are growing there, with the only local businesses being a Korean grocery and Sal's Pizzeria. Mookie, Sal's delivery boy, manages to always be at the center of the action.



Q & A with John Howard follows the screening.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 7 PM

GALLAGHER THEATRE, STUDENT UNION

**Book Signing with Film Scholar: John Howard
In association with The UA BookStores**

***Faces in the Mirror: Oscar Micheaux and Spike Lee*
by John Howard**



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 4-6 PM

**AEROSPACE & MECHANICAL ENGINEERING BLDG AUDITORIUM, RM 202
1130 N MOUNTAIN AVE (CORNER OF SPEEDWAY & MOUNTAIN)**

In Person: Documentary Filmmaker Noland Walker

Citizen King - The American Experience, 2004
Jonestown: The Life and Death of Peoples Temple, 2006
Boogie Man: The Lee Atwater Story - Frontline, 2008

Noland Walker is an Emmy and Peabody Award-winning filmmaker whose films have premiered at Sundance Film Festival, screened in festivals worldwide, and have been broadcast nationally on television. His work includes writing and co-producing the acclaimed documentary, *Jonestown: The Life and Death of Peoples Temple*, co-producing and co-directing *Citizen King*, a two-hour film about the last years of Martin Luther King's life, and producing an episode of the groundbreaking 1998 series *Africans in America*.



The Symposium will end with a 20 minute clip introduced by Pearl Bowser of a work in progress: *Oscar's Comeback: Festival of the Unconquered*; dir. by Lisa Collins and Mark Schwartzburt.



Hanson Film Institute

For more information call the
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