

Race in North American Literature, Theatre, and Film

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White Ideology & Anti-Black Stereotypes: Black People Framed

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Black Men Framed: The Black Buck



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Black Men Framed: The Black Buck

'the barbaric black out to raise havoc ... subhuman and feral, ... nameless characters setting out on a rampage full of black rage (Bogle 13)

'oversexed and savage, violent and frenzied as they lust for white flesh' (14)

`Griffith played on the myth of the Negro's high-powered sexuality, then articulated the great white fear that every black man longs for a white woman. Underlying the fear was the assumption that the white woman was the ultimate in female desirability, herself a symbol of white pride, power, and beauty. Consequently, when Lilian Gish, the frailest, purest of all screen heroines, was attacked by the character Lynch – when he put his big black arms around this pale blond beauty- audiences literally panicked. Here was the classic battle of good and evil, innocence and corruption` (14)

Constructing Blackness

from colonization onward: Black and the Indigenous people framed as

impervious to ethics, representing not only the absence of values but also the negation of values ... the enemy of values ... absolute evil. A corrosive element, destroying everything within his reach, a corrupting element, distorting everything which involves aesthetics and morals, an agent of malevolent powers, an unconscious and incurable instrument of blind forces

(Fanon, *The Wretched* 6)

reading tip: Frank Wilderson's *Red, White & Black. Cinema and the Structure of U.S. Antagonisms*

Black Men Framed: Emmett Till



Group Discussion: Amiri Baraka's *Dutchman*



homework: read Davidson's 'Sometimes Funny, but Most Times Deadly Serious: Amiri Baraka as Political Satirist'