CONTENTS

Illustrations xiv

Preface to the Fifth Edition xviii

Introduction xxii

1 BLACK BEGINNINGS: FROM UNCLE TOM'S CABIN TO THE BIRTH OF A NATION 1

The Tom 2
The Coon 4
The Tragic Mulatto 6
The Mammy 6
The Brutal Black Buck and The Birth of a Nation 7

2 INTO THE 1920s: THE JESTERS 15

3 THE 1930s: THE SERVANTS 29

High-Steppin' Sir Stepin 32

Waiting on West and Serving Shirley 37
Mr. Bojangles: The Cool-Eyed Tom 40

Clarence Muse: The Inhibited, Humanized Tom Standing in a Corner by

Himself 45

Imitation of Life: Mother Knows Best 48

Iridescent Fredi: Black Girl in Search of a Black Role 51

Louise Beavers: The Black Guardian Angel 54

The Green Pastures 58

Rex Ingram: First of the Freed Black Men 60

Stepin's Step-Chillun 62

Rochester: The Gentleman's Gentleman 67

Hi-Hat Hattie 72

Gone with the	Wind: Romanticizing	Black Realities	and the End of a
Tradition	76		

Paul Robeson: The Black Colossus 82

4 THE INTERLUDE: BLACK-MARKET CINEMA 89

Oscar Micheaux 97

5 THE 1940s: THE ENTERTAINERS, THE NEW NEGROES, AND THE PROBLEM PEOPLE 105

The Entertainers 106

Hazel Scott: Miss Proper Middle-Class Lady 109

Lena Horne: Black Beauty in Residence 112

Cabin in the Sky 115 Stormy Weather 118

Bits and Pieces of Black Action 119

Song of the South 121

The New Negroes: An Interim 122

The Problem People 128

Home of the Brave and the Postwar Good Sensitive Negro 129

Lost Boundaries' Tragic Mulattoes 132

Pinky's Tragic Mulatto and Its Strong Black Woman 135

Intruder in the Dust and the Defiantly Proud Black Man 139

6 THE 1950s: BLACK STARS 143

Ethel Waters: Earth Mother for an Alienated Age 145
Dorothy Dandridge: Apotheosis of the Mulatto 149
Sidney Poitier: Hero for an Integrationist Age 158

Black Odds and Ends 165

7 THE 1960s: PROBLEM PEOPLE INTO MILITANTS 175

Steps Forward 176

Black Art Films 180

A Step Backward: Ossie Davis and Gone Are the Days 184

Along the Road, in Harlem, and on the Subway 185

Way Down in de New Ole South with Tom-Tom, Miss Bronze Barbie Doll,

and Ms. Militant Mammy 188

A Man Called Adam and Sammy Davis, Jr.'s, Bid for Movie Stardom 192

Super Sidney of the 1960s 194

Jim Brown: Black Buck Hero for a Separatist Age 198

The New-Style Black Film 201

8 THE 1970s: BUCKS AND A BLACK MOVIE BOOM 209

Preludes 210

Melvin Van Peebles: The Black Movie Director as Folk Hero 212

Shaft: He's a Badd Mother-Shut Your Mouth 216

Super Fly: Mixed Messages 217

Buckmania 218

The Jock as Movie Star 219

Lady Sings the Blues: Black Stars, Black Romance 221

Sounder 223

Sidney Strikes Again 226

Superbadd, Supermama 227

Sisters in Distress 228

Other Films, Other Voices 232

Richard Pryor: The Crazy Nigger as Conquering Hero 234

The Wiz 239

9 THE 1980s: BLACK SUPERSTARS AND THE ERA OF TAN 241

Holding Up the Fort 242

Dramatic Possibilities 243

Buddy Buddy 245

Richard Pryor, Superstar: The Ups and Downs 249

Trading Places: Eddie Murphy 254

A Soldier's Story 259

Say It with Music 260

Different Directions 262

Women: As Exotics and Non-Racials 262

A Controversy about Color 263

Whipping Whoopi 268

Independents 270

Hollywood and the Race Theme 272

Burning History: The White Man's Burden 272

The Bird Doesn't Fly 274

Focusing on Apartheid 276

Bringing History to Light: Glory 279

Denzel Washington: On the Road to Stardom 281

Driving Miss Daisy: The Matter of Perspective 284

Morgan Freeman: The Long Journey to Get There 285

Other Films 287

Sidney Returns 288

Closing the Era on the Right Note 288

10 THE 1990s: NEW STARS, NEW FILMMAKERS, AND A NEW AFRICAN AMERICAN CINEMA 293

The Good, the Bad, the Bonded, the Typed 295

Whoopi's Back 297

An Emerging New African American Cinema 304

Charles Burnett: A New Career Direction 305

A Breakthrough Year 307

New Jack Movies 308

A Black New Wave 309

John Singleton's South Central 310

Rising from the Dust 314

More by Spike 314

Other New Directors and Films 327

Carl Franklin: Film Noir from Another Point of View 331

Actresses in Search of Roles 333

Waiting to Exhale: Reaching the Black Female Audience 335

Angela Bassett: Still Holding Her Breath 340

Whitney Houston: Pop Goddess Turned Movie Star 341

Post-Exhale Women 345 Oprah's Opus: Beloved 351

Movies for the Smart Young Hip Crowd: love jones and Love and

Basketball 354

New Actors 356

Eddie Murphy: All Grown Up, Looking for a Place to Go 363 Laurence Fishburne: From Child Actor to Leading Man 365

Wesley Snipes: Action Hero 367

Character Actors Turned Stars: Morgan Freeman and

Samuel L. Jackson 372

Denzel Washington: Leading Man, Occasional Romantic Hero, Enduring Superstar 382 Throwbacks to the Past 386

11 THE NEW CENTURY, THE NEW MILLENNIUM: OLD TYPES, NEW STARS, NEW FILMMAKERS, RE-EXAMINATIONS OF THE PAST 389

Seems Like Old Times, Old Types 391

Denzel Washington: Still at the Top Despite a Rogue Cop 394

Halle Berry Comes of Age 401

Royalty's Rocky Reign: Queen Latifah 406 Chris Rock Trying to Rock the Boat 412

Crash and Hustle & Flow 417

Music Stars In Pursuit of Movie Stardom 420

Outsiders Coming In: T. D. Jakes and Tyler Perry 423

Inter-Ethnic Casting 429

Oscar Time 437

Will Smith: Oscar Nominee, Megastar, Movie Disappointments 439

2006: Forest Whitaker, A Big Year 442

Big Dreams: Dreamgirls 444

Women on the Rise: New Roles 447

A Long Time In the Making 449

Count Ms Davis In 450

Precious and Lee Daniels' Gothic Cinema of Excess 452

Directors, Veterans and Newcomers 455

Another Decade: Re-examining the Past 464

History, Slavery, and Plantation Dramas 467

Other Films: Other Re-examinations 472

Index 479