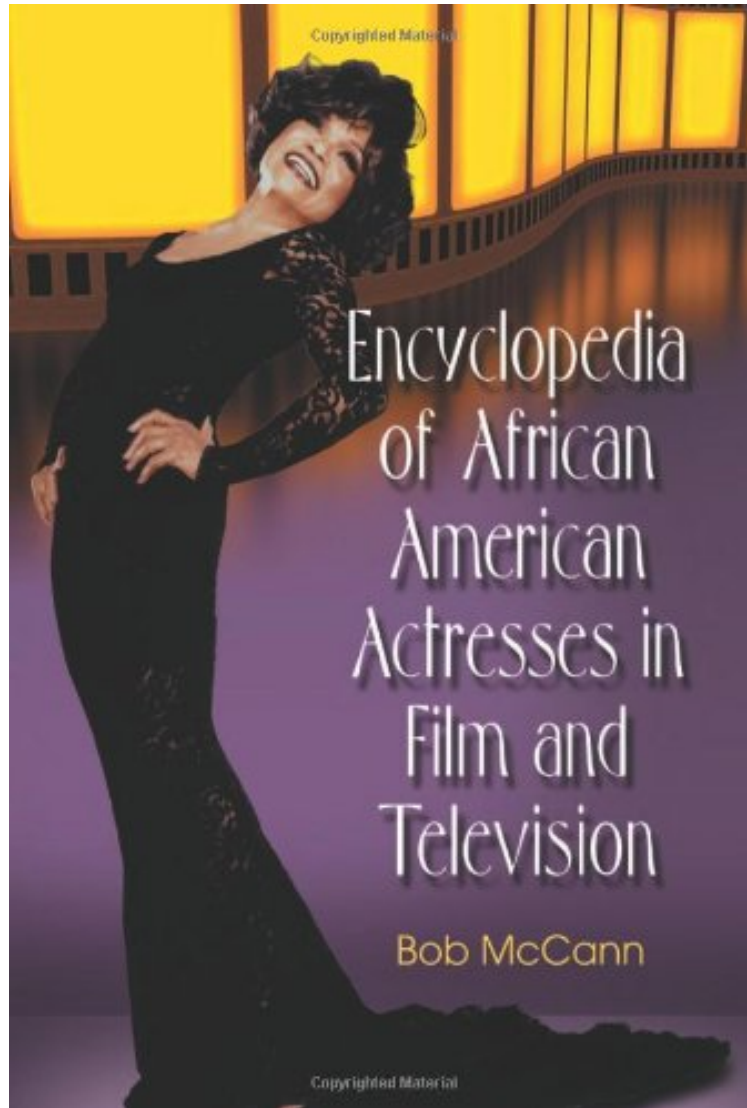


Encyclopedia of African American Actresses in Film and Television

Bob McCann

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Bob McCann : Encyclopedia of African American Actresses in Film and Television before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Encyclopedia of African American Actresses in Film and Television:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. One of a KindBy Mercedes P. BrownThis encyclopedia is helping me with research on African-American lives in Southern California, especially in Hollywood. It is a great addition to my collection.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Slightly "subjective" listing but lots of info on obscure and "B Movie" ActressesBy Steve RammThis thick (461 page) volume by the late Bob McCann is a wealth of

knowledge and appears to be generally well researched. In his Preface he explains who he included, or excluded, certain actresses. One thing he does point out is that if an actress was recently gaining fame they may, or may not, be included here so as not to have an imbalance. Well, African Americans were not given large roles in films prior to the 1960s so that was going to happen anyway. He does include some (very few) Black actresses from the silent film era but you can't find them unless you read the birth dates for each listing (there are 360 actresses listed here). There is a large concentration of those from Blaxploitation films of the 1970s (think Pam Grier!). And TV is included so we have near the whole female cast of shows like *The Cosby Show* and *The Jeffersons*. The listings have birth dates and SOME dates of death. (But there are many who have died - Hattie McDaniel, for example - who have no date of death in the heading but the year is mentioned in the narrative. Then there is a narrative bio of the actress and discussion of career highlights. This is followed by a listing of film (including TV films) and then TV appearances or shows. When archival footage was used, this is also noted. AS a reference book this is the first of its kind for this genre. But it is, admittedly not complete or comprehensive. Still it is recommended for libraries. Steve Ramm "Anything Phonographic"

The first work of its kind, this encyclopedia provides 360 brief biographies of African American film and television actresses from the silent era to 2009. It includes entries on well-known and nearly forgotten actresses, running the gamut from Academy Award and NAACP Image Award winners to B-film and blaxploitation era stars. Each entry has a complete filmography of the actress's film, TV, music video or short film credits. The work also features more than 170 photographs, some of them rare images from the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

From Booklist Focusing on positive achievement, this volume honors the work of 360 influential film and television actresses and reflects the authors sincere interest in and appreciation of these women, who contributed to their professions and to society in general. In determining the actresses to be covered, author McCann first chose pioneers before 1940, some of whom have already sunk into near oblivion, such as Fredi Washington. Award-winning actresses, B-movie actresses who sometimes have been undervalued, and a selective group of promising newcomers fill the pages. The term African American was rather loosely applied, since foreign-born women who worked largely in the U.S. (e.g., Akosua Busia) and U.S.-born women whose reputations depended on foreign careers (e.g., Josephine Baker) are included. Entries are alphabetical, ranging in length from one-third of a page to three pages. Content includes early life, career, main contributions, personal life, and a list of film and television credits. McCann sometimes spices up the entries with interesting details about films or personal situations. About half of the entries include a black-and-white photo; a few actresses garner two or three shots. A disappointingly short bibliography follows the entries, and a long index concludes the volume. Errors (for example, the omission of Hattie McDaniel's death date at her entry's start) are minimal. This work provides perspective on both African Americans and entertainment and should serve as a useful reference in academic and public libraries. Also available as an e-book. -- Lesley Farmer "should serve as a useful reference in academic and public libraries"--Booklist; "unique...as the first encyclopedia of its kind, it is indispensable for those studying women, film, and television. Essential"--Choice; "a unique resource...recommended"--Reference s; "elegant prose and fascinating subjects make this landmark feminist reference work difficult to put down...remarkably readable and engaging...highly recommended"--Feminist Collections. About the Author The late Bob McCann was the editor-in-chief at Castle Connolly Graduate Medical Publishing in New York.