

ARTHIST 554S/AAAS 520S/HARLEM RENAISSANCE


Wednesday, September 11

Biographical report: Oscar Micheaux

Seminar Discussion: Selected readings and Oscar Micheaux's *Within Our Gates* (1920) & *Body and Soul* (1925)



NOT MERELY A COMMON
MOVING PICTURE
A SCREEN MASTERPIECE



Monday Evening
SPECIAL NOTICE! Owing to the peculiar nature of this picture no theatre could be secured that would exhibit it, therefore we were forced to do the next best thing and use our own building.

"Within Our Gates"

ONE DAY ONLY FEATURING, EVELYN PREER SPECIAL MUSIC
SUPPORTED BY AN ALL STAR COLORED CAST

UNION HALL, KENT & AURORA AVES.
WHO KILLED PHILIP GIRDLESTONE?

"THE LYNCHING EVIL" MANAGEMENT, J. HOMER GOINS
8000 FEET OF SENSATIONAL REALISM 8000

There was a roar, a blinding flash—and it was done! The planter lay dead at his feet, while his quivering hand held a smoking revolver! And yet he had fired no shot! It was all so sudden, so vague—but who killed the man? He raised his eyes after a time and chanced to look toward the window—and therein stood "Eph," "the tattler," whom the blacks called a "white folks nigger," eyes wide, lips accusing. "You did that," said he—and the next moment was gone. The black man on the inside heard his footsteps die in the distance as he sped toward the village to tell the townspeople that he, Jasper Landry, had killed the planter! And this being Mississippi, he knew there would be no trial—only the rope, the torch, the flames of Hell—and death!

Two hours later Jasper Landry and his family were hid away in the swamp while bloodhounds and a thousand men were scouring the neighborhood, crying out in diabolical tones for their blood. Two weeks passed—and starvation compelled one to venture out in quest of food—then the capture, and—

Can you imagine the fate of the Landrys? And after you have visioned the very worst fate you can think of, you have not imagined the half that you will see in, "WITHIN OUR GATES."

THE PLAY OF THE HOUR
ALL RECORDS BROKEN
DONT MISS IT



July 12, 8:30 p. m.
ADMISSION 50 CENTS

MIDNITE
SHOW
SUNDAY

GIBSON'S

EVENING
PERFORMANCES
8:30

NEW DUNBAR THEATRE

WEEK OF DECEMBER 14TH

Oscar Micheaux's Greatest Film Accomplishment

BODY AND SOUL

WITH
PAUL ROBESON
who electrified London audiences with his
masterly acting

9 Reels of Romance, Action and Pathos

BIG MUSICAL UNIT REVUE
POPULAR PRICES

MATINEE DAILY

POPULAR PRICES

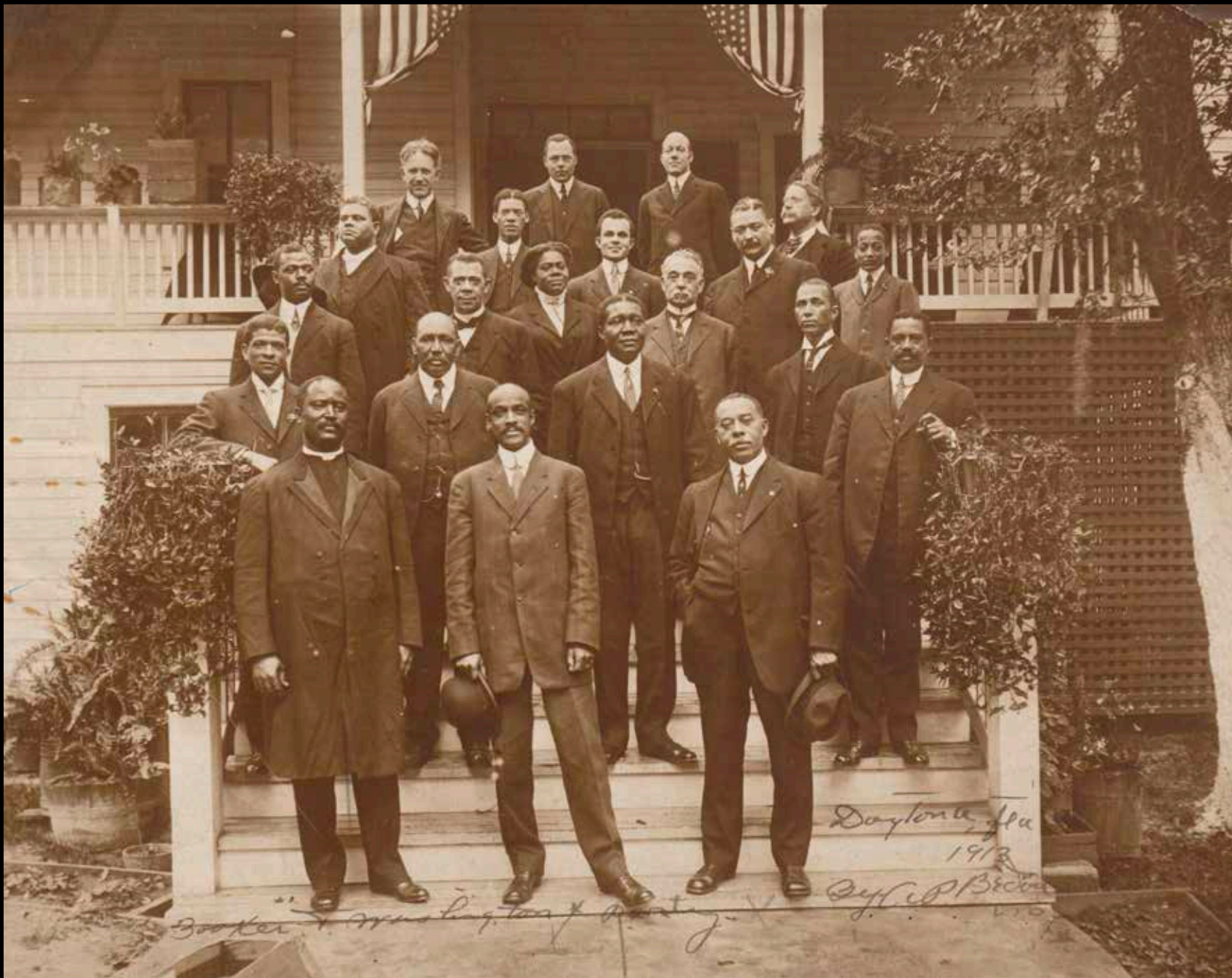
E. FRANKLIN FRAZIER
"DURHAM: CAPITAL OF THE BLACK MIDDLE CLASS"



Above: Photograph of the founders of the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company (featuring Aaron Moore (far left), John Merrick (center), & C. C. Spaulding (far right), ca. 1913.

Right: Garland R. Rose, architect, North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Building, Durham, NC, 1921.





Arthur P. Bedou, A group, lead by Booker T. Washington (third row, second from left), to the educational and Industrial Training School for Girls, Daytona, Florida, headed by Mary McLeod Bethune (behind Washington to the right), 1912. Photograph. Among the visitors are founders of the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company founders C.C. Spaulding (second row from the front, far left) and John Merrick (same row, far right). A 27-years old Alain Locke is standing far right, two row behind John Merrick.



Micheaux Film Corporation

Producers and Distributors of
High Class Negro Feature Photoplays

Executive Offices — 3457 So. State St. — Chicago

Branch Offices

Congo Film Service
Hampton Theatre
Roanoke, Va.
Adams & Sons
Verdun Theatre
Beaumont, Texas

Officers

Oscar Micheaux, Pres.
S. E. Micheaux, Sec. & Treas.
W. R. Cowan, Vice-Pres.
G. S. O'Neal, Jr.
Traveling Representative

PRODUCTIONS IN THE ORDER OF RELEASE

"THE HOMESTEADER"
7 Reels with Evelyn Preer and Chas.
D. Lucas
"WITHIN OUR GATES"
7 Reels with Evelyn Preer
"THE BRUTE"
7 Reels with Evelyn Preer and All
Star Cast
"SYMBOL OF THE UNCONQUERED"
7 Reels with all Star Cast
"GUNSAULUS MYSTERY"
7 Reels with Evelyn Preer and All Star
Cast
"THE DUNGEON"
7 Reels with Wm. E. Fountaine and
All Star Cast

FORTHCOMING

"VIRGIN OF SEMINOLE"
7 Reels with Wm. E. Fountaine and
Shingzie Howard
"THE HOUSE BEHIND THE
CEDARS"
9 Reels by Chas. W. Chestnutt
"A FOOL'S ERRAND"
7 Reels with Wm. E. Fountaine and
Shingzie Howard
"JASPER LANDRY'S WILL"
6 Reels with Wm. E. Fountaine and
Shingzie Howard
"THE HYPOCRITE"
7 Reels with Evelyn Preer, Cleo Des-
mond and All Star Cast
"HOOKER'S BEND"
7 Reels with All Star Cast

MICHEAUX Pictures Corporation

Established 1918

Only consistent producers of All-Talking Negro Photoplays

OSCAR MICHEAUX, President and Director
200 West 135th Street, New York City
Cable Address: "MICHEAUX" New York

FEATURES — COMEDIES — SNAPPY 2-REEL REVUES!



GET A LOAD OF THIS, MR. EXHIBITOR:

Poor attendance is due, in some measure, to the fact that your patrons are "fed up" on the average diet you are feeding them daily and is crying for "something different." Why not give them one of our Negro features as a change? Many theatres are doing so—and with gratifying success. They are especially good for mid-night shows. Modern in theme, which pleases your flapper patrons—each picture has a bevy of Creole beauties—with bits of the floor shows from the great night clubs of New York, with singing and dancing as only Broadway Negro entertainers know how to deliver—try one!

All bookings made, and prints shipped directly from our New York offices, or from the SACK AMUSEMENT ENTERPRISES, 304 Main Ave., San Antonio, Tex.

Promotional materials for Oscar Micheaux's photoplay company, circa 1921 (left) and circa 1930 (above).





Beautiful EVELYN PREER
Appearing as "Grisen," whose Characterization is Complete.

NEW CENTER THEATRE

Fifteenth St. and Troost Avenue
ONE WEEK
COMMENCING SUNDAY, MAR. 2

COLORED PEOPLE SEATED ANYWHERE IN THE HOUSE

TWICE DAILY, 2:30 AND 8:15 P. M.

Oscar Micheaux's Mammoth Photo-Play

"The Homesteader"

A powerful Drama of the Great American Northwest; adapted for the screen by the author from his popular new novel of the same name.

FEATURING

An All-Star Negro Cast!

At Popular Prices



CHAS. D. LUCAS
Whose vivid portrayal of "Jean Baptiste," the man who went, is without doubt the most perfect work ever done by a Negro.



OSCAR MICHEAUX
Author of
"THE HOMESTEADER"

ALSO

The Return of the "Fighting 8th"

The crack Chicago Regiment who pushed the Huns back across the Rhine and sent the Kaiser into oblivion.



MISS IRIS HALL
As "Agnes," the Tenderest Little Heroine Ever Created.



MISS INEZ SMITH
Portraying the Evil "Ethel," Whose "Close-ups" Will Long Be Remembered.

AND

GEORGE GARNER, Jr.

Greatest Negro Tenor,
will sing at each performance



GEORGE R. GARNER, JR.
The Race's Greatest Tenor, who will sing at each performance.

NOTE--- This wonderful and spectacular production, the first great creation from the pen of a Negro ever screened was held up by the Board of Censors for the city of Chicago, owing to a vicious attack by three well known Negro ministers of that city, until reviewed by a committee of the better class of both races, who unanimously proclaimed it to be the most masterful portrayal for many a day. The part objected to by these three ministers was, that it attacked the moral conduct of a certain well known minister—one of the three happening to be the one attacked. Needless to say the production was duly released and is now playing to great crowds at more than a dozen houses in that city, black and white.

Left: Oscar Micheaux (1884-1951). Right: Newspaper advertisement for Oscar Micheaux's *The Homesteader* (1919).

THIS BOY'S DEATH CAUSED RACE RIOT



Eugene Williams

It was the drowning of Eugene Williams, 3921 Prairie avenue, at the 29th street beach Sunday, July 27th, that caused the city to be thrown in a general uproar for several days.

Williams was knocked from a raft by a rock said to have been thrown by George Stauber, a young white boy. Stauber is being held on a charge of murder.



Left: "This Boy's Death Caused Race Riot," *Chicago Defender*, August 39, 1919. Above: Unidentified Photographer, White men stoning a Black man during a race riot, Chicago, Illinois, July-August 1919.

Race People of Chicago— Please Note!
 The Photoplay, *WITHIN OUR GATES*, was passed by the Censor, but owing to a wave of agitation on the part of certain Race people (who had not even seen it) 1,200 feet was eliminated during its first engagement. This 1,200 feet has been restored and the picture will positively be shown from now on as originally produced and released—no cut-outs.—OSCAR MICHEAUX.

OSCAR MICHEAUX'S
 SCREEN MASTERPIECE

“WITHIN OUR GATES”

A STORY OF THE RACE
 WITH AN
All-Star Colored Cast
 FEATURING
Evelyn Preer
 AND OTHER CAPABLE ARTISTS

THE GREATEST PREACHMENT AGAINST RACE PREJUDICE
 AND THE GLARING INJUSTICES THAT ARE BEING
 PRACTICED UPON OUR PEOPLE

It Will Hold You Spellbound
 FULL OF DETAILS THAT WILL MAKE YOU
Grit Your Teeth in Deepest Indignation

8,000 Feet of Sensational Realism COST MORE THAN ANY
 RACIAL PICTURE EVER MADE

Four Days—Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Feb. 2-3-4-5 9:30 P. M. TO MIDNIGHT

DOOLEY'S
ATLAS THEATER
 4711 STATE STREET



Above: *Chicago Defender* Advertisement for Oscar Micheaux's 1920 film *Within Our Gates*. Film still from *Within Our Gates*, featuring Evelyn Preer.



Film stills from Oscar Micheaux's 1920 *Within Our Gates* (center: Charles D. Lucas in the role of Dr. V. Vivian; right: Lucas & Preer in the roles of Dr. Vivian & Sylvia Landry).

Sylvia's Story:

Years ago, in the depth of the forest,
but not so far that one could help
hearing of a late afternoon the somber
echo of cow bells stealing across the
valley from the Gridlestone estate . . .



Film stills from Oscar Micheaux's 1920 *Within Our Gates*. Left: Mrs. & Mr. Landry (played by Mattie Edwards & William Starks). Right: *Within Our Gates*' lead character Sylvia Landry (played by Evelyn Preer).



Upper & lower left: Film stills of E.G. Tatum in the dual roles in *Within Our Gates* of the Reverend Uncle Ned and Efrem. Upper, center, & lower right: Film stills of E.G. Tatum in the role of Efrem in the lynching scene in *Within Our Gates*.



*"Meanwhile, in the depths of the forest,
a woman, though a Negro, was a
HUMANBEING."*



Above: Photograph of Mattie Edwards in the London production of *In Dahomey* (1903). Right: Film still of Mattie Edwards in the role of Mrs. Landry in *Within Our Gates*.



Film still of the vigilante decree for a lynching
in *Within Our Gates*.

PROCLAMATION:
HANGING OF THE NEGRO MURDERERS OF
PHILIP GRIDLESTONE

The murderer Jasper Landry, having been
captured and having confessed to the crime
of which he is accused, will be brought under
guard by the citizens of Lawrence to
the place of execution.

—The Committee

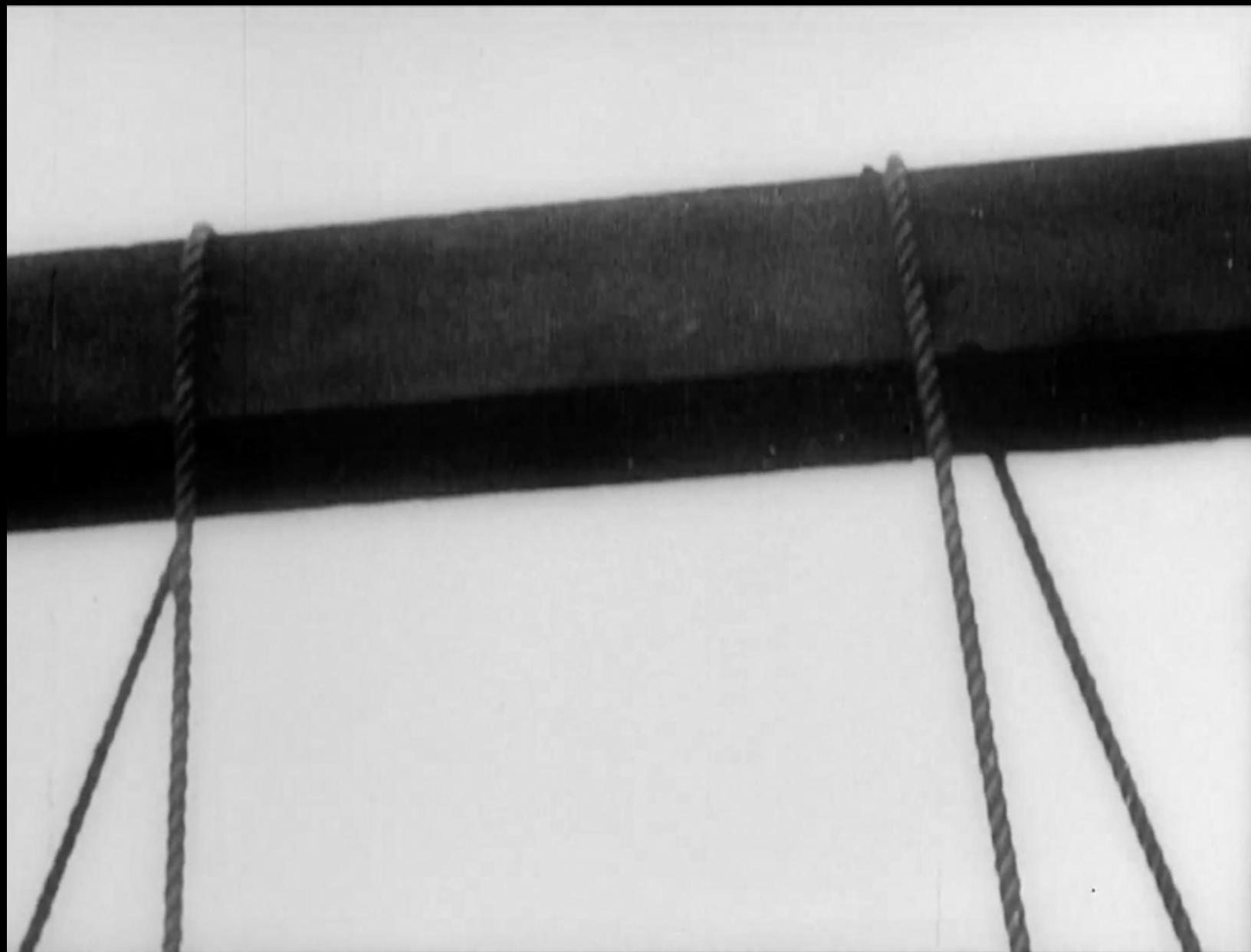


Film still from Oscar Micheaux's 1920 *Within Our Gates* depicting the lynch mob.



Film still from Oscar Micheaux's 1920 *Within Our Gates* depicting the lynching of Mr. & Mrs. Landry.

Film still from Oscar Micheaux's 1920 *Within Our Gates* depicting the lynching of Mr. & Mrs. Landry.





Film still from Oscar Micheaux's 1920 *Within Our Gates* showing Armand Gridlestone (Grant Gorman) assaulting Sylvia Landry (Evelyn Preer).


A scar on her chest saved her because, once it was revealed, Gridlestone knew that Sylvia was his daughter—his legitimate daughter from marriage to a woman of her race—who was later adopted by the Landrys.



Film still from Oscar Micheaux's 1920 *Within Our Gates*: The revealing of the scar.

Newspaper advertisement for Oscar Micheaux's *Body and Soul* (1925) featuring Mercedes Gilbert and Paul Robeson.

OSCAR MICHEAUX'S PRODUCTION
PAUL ROBESON
World's Greatest Negro Actor in
"BODY AND SOUL"
a drama of the lowly
With an All Star COLORED CAST



MICHEAUX
PRODUCTIONS
All Colored
PLAYERS

Paul Robeson and Mercedes Gilbert
in a tense scene
from "BODY AND SOUL"

Distributed by Micheaux Film Corporation New York City



Film stills from *Body and Soul* showing Paul Robeson in the dual roles of the Reverend Isaiah T. Jenkins (Cicero Brown) and his brother Sylvester Brown.

Film still from *Body and Soul* showing Paul Robeson in the roles of the Reverend Isaiah T. Jenkins, here conversing with someone in a saloon.

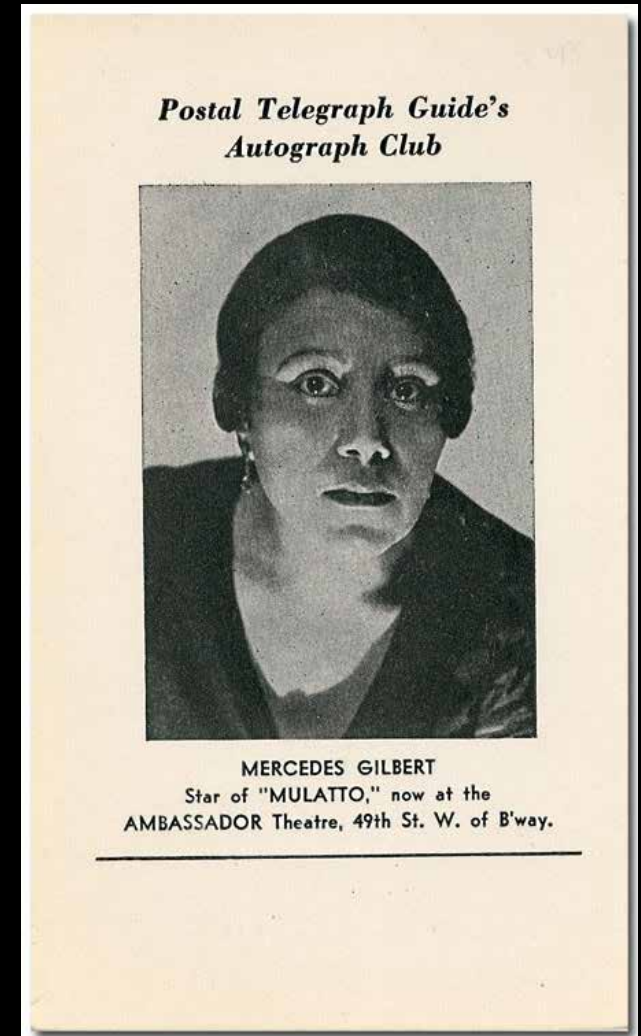


The Rt. Reverend Isiah
T. Jenkins, alias,
"Jerimiah, The Deliverer"
— still posing as a "Man of
God".

- - - Paul Robeson



Film stills from *Body and Soul* explaining in an intertitle Paul Robeson in the role of the Reverend Isiah T. Jenkins.



Left: Film still from *Body and Soul* showing Martha Jane (Mercedes Gilbert). Right: Advertisement featuring actress Mercedes Gilbert in the Langston Hughes Broadway play *Mulatto* (1936).



Film still from *Body and Soul* showing a sanctified church scene with ecstatic worshippers.

"I said you wouldn't believe me, mother; I knew you wouldn't believe anybody who said anything about your pastor. But the time has come when you *must* hear my story."



Film stills from *Body and Soul* explaining in an intertitle/showing Martha Jane (Mercedes Gilbert) & her daughter Isabelle (Julia Theresa Russell) after sharing her story about the Reverend Isaiah T. Jenkins' sexual assault.



Film stills from *Body and Soul* showing the Reverend Isaiah T. Jenkins (Paul Robeson) & Isabelle (Julia Theresa Russell) in a rainstorm.



Film stills from *Body and Soul* showing the Reverend Isaiah T. Jenkins's (Paul Robeson) predatory actions before and after sexually assaulting Isabelle (Julia Theresa Russell).

EX-CONVICT MAKES ESCAPE:

"Black Carl", noted Negro detective, reports the escape of a prisoner whom he had arrested in Tatesville, Ga., and was bringing North for extradition to England where he is wanted on several charges. When arrested, the ex-convict and a man of many aliases, was posing as a preacher under the title of "The Rt. Reverend Isaiah T. Jenkins."

ou
fun
his

BIB
TO

to-d
of a
and
last
out
str



Film stills from *Body and Soul's* explaining in an intertitle Cicero Brown's escape from prison and his alias as the Reverend Isaiah T. Jenkins & showing Paul Robeson as the murderer of Martha Jane's dreamworld son.



Film still from *Body and Soul* showing Paul Robeson in the role of Sylvester Brown, the fiancé of Isabelle (center, Julia Theresa Russell) & the future son-in-law of Martha Jane (right, Mercedes Gilbert).