Booklist

Advanced Review – Uncorrected Proof

Race in American Film: Voices and Visions That Shaped a Nation.
Bernardi, Daniel (Editor) and Green, Michael (Editor)
Jul 2017. 1026 p. ABC-CLIO, hardcover, $294. (9780313398391). 791.43.

This reference work couldn't have come at a better time. Its examination of race and racism on screen, from the film industry's early days to the present, provides historical and cultural context for our current national discussion. As the editors explain in the preface, their aim is to cover three kinds of films: "those that are considered outright racist; those that attempt to subvert racism (however problematically); and those by nonwhite directors that feature nonwhite characters or racial themes." They enlisted a diverse group of 95 contributors to write more than 300 articles on individual actors, films, genres, directors, and other relevant topics. Each of the alphabetically arranged entries provides not only basic information, such as plot summaries and production histories, but also background discussions of contemporary as well as current reactions to particular films or subjects. There are also suggestions for further viewing and reading. Additional features include a guide to related topics, a chronology, and a substantial list of recommended resources. These three volumes will be a welcome addition to collections that serve high-school and college students as well as individual film buffs and independent scholars.

— *Carolyn Mulac*