

# Free to Watch Now: Films by Black Creators

Updated 09/14/20

| Platform/App                   | Film  | Direct Link                          | Director  | Country | Year      | Rating | TRT | Synopsis   |
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| YouTube                        | <b>13TH</b>   | <a href="#">Watch the film here</a>  | Ava DuVernay  | USA     | 2016      | NR     | 100 | Combining archival footage with testimony from activists and scholars, director Ava DuVernay's examination of the U.S. prison system looks at how the country's history of racial inequality drives the high rate of incarceration in America.   |
| YouTube                        | <b>BLACK THOUGHTS</b>   | <a href="#">Watch the film here</a>  | Dwayne Logan  | USA     | 2020      | NR     | 30  | Aiming to bridge the divide that exists between embattled Americans, BLACK THOUGHTS places viewers within the history ravaged mind of a broken-hearted Black man, as he contemplates how confusion has kept citizens engaged in an endless cycle of conflict.  |
| YouTube                        | <b>STRONG ISLAND</b>  | <a href="#">Watch the film here</a>  | Yance Ford  | USA     | 2007      | NR     | 107 | In 1992, filmmaker Yance Ford's brother William was shot and killed by a 19-year-old white mechanic after a common complaint about a car repair spiraled violently out of control. The mechanic claimed he fired in self-defense, and though William was unarmed, he quickly became the prime suspect in his own death. When an all-white grand jury set the shooter free, Yance's family retreated into a silent fury. STRONG ISLAND dismantles and reimagines the wreckage left in the wake of William's murder, bringing us as close as art can come to the blistering truth.   |
| UCLA Film & Television Archive | <b>L.A. Rebellion: Project One Films</b>                                  | <a href="#">Watch the films here</a> | Jamaa Fanaka, Bernard Nicolas, Jacqueline Frazier, Haile Gerima, Alile Sharon Larkin, Ben Caldwell, Melvonna Ballenger, Thomas Penick, Don Amis | USA     | 1969-1977 |        |     | A rite of passage at the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television for nearly 50 years, Project One films were undertaken by aspiring filmmakers before most of them ever set foot in a production class. Armed with an 8-millimeter semi-automatic camera, the students were expected to write, direct and edit a motion picture with sound during their first academic quarter. The UCLA Film & Television Archive is pleased to be able to make these Project One films available to the public as part of its ongoing "L.A. Rebellion" initiative. Note: A DAY IN THE LIFE OF WILLIE FAUST, OR DEATH ON THE INSTALLMENT PLAN is current offline.   |
| Shudder                        | <b>HORROR NOIRE: A HISTORY OF BLACK HORROR</b>                            | <a href="#">Watch the film here</a>  | Xavier Burgin   | USA     | 2019      | NR     | 83  | Delving into a century of genre films that by turns utilized, caricatured, exploited, sidelined, and finally embraced them, HORROR NOIRE traces the untold history of Black Americans in Hollywood through their connection to the horror genre. Adapting Robin Means Coleman's seminal book, HORROR NOIRE presents the living and the dead, using new and archival interviews from scholars and creators — the voices who survived the genre's past trends, to those shaping its future.  |
| Tubi                           | <b>A LONG WAY FROM HOME: THE UNTOLD STORY OF BASEBALL'S DESEGREGATION</b> | <a href="#">Watch the film here</a>  | Gaspar González   | USA     | 2019      | NR     | 41  | A Long Way from Home chronicles the struggles and triumphs of the African-American and Latino players who followed Jackie Robinson into white professional baseball. Playing their minor-league ball in small, remote towns where racial segregation remained a fact of life well into the 1960s, these were the men who, before they could live their big-league dreams, first had to beat Jim Crow. Featuring original, revealing interviews with James "Mudcat" Grant, Grover "Deacon" Jones, Jimmy Wynn, J.R. Richard, Tony Pérez, and Orlando Cepeda, among others.   |
| Tubi                           | <b>BACK TO NATURAL</b>  | <a href="#">Watch the film here</a>  | Dr. Gillian Scott-Ward  | USA     | 2019      | NR     | 65  | Reveals the shocking truth about hair, politics, and racial identity in Black communities and beyond. Directed by New York City based Clinical Psychologist Gillian Scott-Ward, the film was inspired by the work she was doing in her clinical practice and her own drive to go natural. Back to Natural is a powerful call for healing that takes a grassroots approach to exploring the globalized policing of natural Black hair. Filmed in New York City, Philadelphia, Paris, And Cape Town, this documentary explores universal aspects of the Black experience and the "New" Natural Hair movement. Join us on this journey of discovery and enlightenment while celebrating our history and natural styles that are taking the world by storm.  |
| Tubi                           | <b>BLACK AND CUBA</b>   | <a href="#">Watch the film here</a>  | Robin J. Hayes  | USA     | 2015      | PG-13  | 119 | BLACK AND CUBA follows street-smart students, who are outcasts at an elite Ivy League university, as they band together and adventure to Cuba to see if revolution is truly possible. While filming their poignant encounters with AfroCuban youth, breathtaking sites and moving hip-hop performances, the travelers confront realities behind myths of color-blindness and social mobility. This edgy and artful documentary of their journey uncovers renewed hope for equality and human rights. 'Black and Cuba' is the feature film directorial debut of international human rights advocate and scholar Robin J. Hayes, PhD.  |
| Tubi                           | <b>BLACK HOLLYWOOD</b>  | <a href="#">Watch the film here</a>  | Howard Johnson  | USA     | 1984      | NR     | 85  | In 1984, actor and director Howard Johnson took the temperature of legendary Black filmmakers and actors, allowing them to speak frankly about their exclusion from the Hollywood Establishment while offering solutions for advancing Black narratives. Producer/actor Jim Brown, actress Vonetta McGee, BLACK BELT JONES writer Oscar Williams, and DOLEMITE director D'Urville Martin are scathingly candid about the mechanics of marginalization and the necessary emergence of an independent Black cinema while analyzing the legacy of 'Blaxploitation.' Diahnne Abbott, Rosalind Cash and Alfre Woodard speak to being repeatedly offered roles reinforcing negative stereotypes. Lorenzo Tucker — the 'Black Valentino' — illustrates his career with pioneering filmmaker Oscar Micheaux alongside studio era actors Joel Fluellen and Vincent Tubbs recounting the isolation they felt working under the studio system of '50s and '60s. BLACK HOLLYWOOD stands as a raw, unfiltered testimony of the Black experience in Hollywood. |

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| Tubi | <b>BONES</b>  | <a href="#">Watch the film here</a>   | Ernest Dickerson                   | USA             | 2001 | R     | 96  | Twenty years after his death, a local legend and benefactor returns as a ghost to avenge those who killed him and restore his neighborhood.   |
| Tubi | <b>CHARLIE STEEL</b>  | <a href="#">Watch the film here</a>   | Bevis Parsons                      | South Africa    | 1984 | NR    | 84  | When Dlamini's daughter, Dudu, is kidnapped for ransom, he calls on his old friend Charlie Steel, a renowned Private Investigator. Charlie attempts to infiltrate the gang responsible, but is soon exposed by one of his ex-army comrades, a vicious murderer by the name of Jimmy, working for the gangster known as Sonny. CHARLIE STEEL is distributed by Cape Town based 'Gravel Road Distribution Group', a company dedicated to distributing Afrocentric narratives like CHARLIE STEEL that were unable to find distribution in South Africa at the height of Apartheid.   |
| Tubi | <b>DISCO GODFATHER</b>                                      | <a href="#">Watch the film here</a>   | J. Robert Wagoner                  | USA             | 1979 | R     | 93  | Rudy Ray Moore ends his '70s film run in this trippy Blaxploitation classic featuring Kung-Fu moves, disco bliss and nightmarish anti-drug sequences. DISCO GODFATHER was the film debut of Keith David in an unbilled bit-part as a patron in the nightclub.   |
| Tubi | <b>DOLEMITE</b>   | <a href="#">Watch the film here</a>   | D'Urville Martin                   | USA             | 1975 | R     | 90  | After he is released from jail, a pimp takes on the criminals and corrupt police officers who framed him in the first place.  |
| Tubi | <b>FREE ANGELA DAVIS AND ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS</b>        | <a href="#">Watch the film here</a>   | Shola Lynch                        | USA             | 2013 | NR    | 102 | The story of professor Angela Davis, whose social activism implicated her in a botched kidnapping and put her on the FBI's Most Wanted List in 1970.  |
| Tubi | <b>GO DOWN, DEATH</b>                                       | <a href="#">Watch the film here</a>   | Spencer Williams                   | USA             | 1944 | NR    | 56  | The owner of a juke joint arranges to frame an innocent preacher with a scandalous photograph, but his scheme backfires when his own adoptive mother interferes.  |
| Tubi | <b>HUMAN TORNADO, THE</b>                                   | <a href="#">Watch the film here</a>   | Cliff Roquemore                    | USA             | 1976 | R     | 98  | In this action-packed sequel, Dolemite flees after getting caught with a Sheriff's wife and helps a madam at war with a local gangster.   |
| Tubi | <b>MOTHER OF GEORGE</b>                                     | <a href="#">Watch the film here</a>   | Andrew Dosunmu                     | Nigeria and USA | 2013 | R     | 107 | Adenike and Ayodele, a Nigerian couple living in Brooklyn, are having trouble conceiving a child — a problem that defies cultural expectations and leads Adenike to make a shocking decision that could either save or destroy her family.  |
| Tubi | <b>PETEY WHEATSTRAW</b>                                     | <a href="#">Watch the film here</a>   | Cliff Roquemore                    | USA             | 1977 | R     | 99  | Rudy Ray Moore is PETEY WHEATSTRAW, whose talent for comedy is only topped by his gift for Kung Fu. When his arch-rivals Leroy and Skillet massacre him and his friends, Petey mistakenly ends up in Hell and is given a one-way ticket out: wed Satan's daughter.  |
| Tubi | <b>TOP OF THE HEAP</b>                                      | <a href="#">Watch the film here</a>   | Christopher St John                | USA             | 1972 | R     | 94  | A Washington D.C. cop is proud to be one of the few African-Americans on the force. He is not well loved by his peers or by street people. Trouble erupts when he is overlooked for a promotion in writer/director/star Christopher St. John's complex surrealist drama.  |
| Tubi | <b>UNTOLD STORY OF EMMETT LOUIS TILL, THE</b>               | <a href="#">Watch the film here</a>   | Keith Beauchamp                    | USA             | 2005 | PG-13 | 70  | Never-before-seen testimony is included in this documentary on Emmett Louis Till — who in 1955, was brutally murdered after he whistled at a white woman.   |
| Tubi | <b>WHO KILLED CAPTAIN ALEX?</b>                             | <a href="#">Watch the film here</a>   | Nabwana I.G.G.                     | Uganda          | 2010 | NR    | 80  | A mafia leader's brother is captured in a shootout, prompting a revenge attack on the army camp. But when troop leader Captain Alex is killed during a raid, a violent war escalates between the two sides. The captain's brother takes matters into his own hands, while mafia henchmen take to the skies to bomb Kampala. Narrated with energy and wit by 'Video Joker' Emmie, ultra-low budget thriller WHO KILLED CAPTAIN ALEX? became an international viral sensation when its trailer first hit YouTube. Self-taught filmmaker Nabwana Isaac Godfrey Geoffrey produced, directed, shot, wrote and edited the film from his home in the slums of Uganda (a.k.a "Wakaliwood") for under \$200.   |
| PBS  | <b>THE AFRICAN AMERICANS: MANY RIVERS TO CROSS</b>          | <a href="#">Watch the series here</a> | Phil Bertelsen; Sabin Streeter; Ja | USA             | 2013 | NR    | 318 | This Emmy Award-winning mini, 6-episode series premiered in 2013 and looks at more than just Black history. It explores Black identity and what it means to be an African American in the U.S. today. Unveiling different religious and social perspectives, a multiplicity of cultural perspectives, and the evolution of the African American people, this series spans five hundred years and two continents as Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr. takes viewers on a journey of the Black experience throughout the United States. On the way, he visits historic sites, engages in passionate debates with America's top historians on African American history, and interviews eyewitnesses who have been on the frontlines of change.<br><br>Throughout the series, Dr. Gates highlights tragedies, triumphs and contradictions throughout Black history, revealing that the African American community has never been a uniform entity and sheds new light on what it means to be African American. |
| PBS  | <b>AGAINST ALL ODDS: The Fight for a Black Middle Class</b> | <a href="#">Watch the film here</a>   | Bob Herbert                        | USA             | 2017 | NR    | 77  | A documentary about the extraordinary difficulty African-Americans have faced in their efforts to establish and maintain a middle class standard of living. Nearly 40 percent of all black children are poor. And the black middle class remains proportionally much smaller and far less healthy than the white middle class. With a compelling narrative, dramatic historical footage and a series of deeply personal interviews, Bob Herbert shows why this is still the case a half century after the heyday of the civil rights movement.  |
| PBS  | <b>AMERICAN PROMISE</b>                                     | <a href="#">Watch the film here</a>   | Joe Brewster & Michèle Stephen     | USA             | 2013 | NR    | 112 | This intimate documentary follows the 12-year journey of two African-American families pursuing the promise of opportunity through the education of their sons.   |

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| PBS                               | <b>BLACK JOURNAL</b>                                  | <a href="#">BLACK JOURNAL: 3 episodes (1968-1969)</a> | William Greaves                                | USA                              | 1969 | NR    | 59  | BLACK JOURNAL debuted on June 12, 1968 on National Education Television as a monthly one-hour program and was publicly funded with a goal of presenting Black urban life and Black issues in order to provide Black Americans with a representation in the media. President Lyndon B. Johnson, concerned with the impact of the long, hot summer of 1967, hoped that programs like BLACK JOURNAL would prevent future riots. Following a strike in August 1968 by Black staff members, white producer Alvin Perlmutter was replaced by African-American documentary filmmaker William Greaves who became the series' producer, director, and occasional host. Under Greaves' direction, BLACK JOURNAL won an Emmy Award in 1969 for excellence in public affairs programming. Episodes spanning 1968 to 1977 of BLACK JOURNAL have been contributed to the American Archive of Public Broadcasting by WNET and the Library of Congress, and feature segments on the Black Power Movement, the "black is beautiful" movement, the assassinations of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X, the African diaspora, Pan-Africanism, media's representation of black people and more. Three key episode are available to view via this link to PBS' site. |
| PBS                               | <b>THE FIRST RAINBOW COALITION</b>                    | <a href="#">Watch the film here</a>                   | Ray Santisteban                                | USA                              | 2019 | NR    | 57  | In 1969, the Chicago Black Panther Party began to form alliances across lines of race and ethnicity with other community-based movements in the city, including the Latino group the Young Lords Organization and the southern whites of the Young Patriots. Banding together in one of the most segregated cities in postwar America to collectively confront issues such as police brutality and substandard housing, they called themselves the Rainbow Coalition. The First Rainbow Coalition tells the movement's little-known story through rare archival footage and interviews with former coalition members in present-day.  |
| PBS                               | <b>THE TALK: RACE IN AMERICA</b>                      | <a href="#">Watch the film here</a>                   | Samuel D. Pollard                              | USA                              | 2017 | NR    | 114 | This two-hour documentary is about the increasingly common conversation taking place in homes and communities across the country between parents of color and their children, especially sons, about how to behave if they are ever stopped by the police. This program originally aired in 2017.   |
| Hoopla<br>(Library Card required) | <b>BEYOND THE LIGHTS</b>                              | <a href="#">Watch the film here</a>                   | Gina Prince-Bythewood                          | USA                              | 2014 | PG-13 | 116 | The pressures of fame have superstar singer Noni on the edge, until she meets Kaz, a young cop who works to help her find the courage to develop her own voice and break free to become the artist she was meant to be.   |
| Hoopla<br>(Library Card required) | <b>BLACK AMERICA SINCE MLK: AND STILL I RISE</b>      | <a href="#">Watch the 4 part series here</a>          | Leslie Asako Gladsjo & Talleah Bridges McMahon | USA                              | 2016 | NR    | 240 | BLACK AMERICAN SINCE MLK: AND STILL I RISE looks at the last five decades of African American history through the eyes of Henry Louis Gates Jr., exploring the tremendous gains and persistent challenges of these years. Drawing on eyewitness accounts, scholarly analysis and rare archival footage, the series illuminates our recent past, while raising urgent questions about the future of the African American community — and our nation as a whole.  |
| Hoopla<br>(Library Card required) | <b>THE BLACK PANTHERS: VANGUARD OF THE REVOLUTION</b> | <a href="#">Watch the film here</a>                   | Stanley Nelson                                 | USA                              | 2015 | NR    | 120 | In the turbulent 1960s, change was coming to America and the fault lines could no longer be ignored — cities were burning, Vietnam was exploding, and disputes raged over equality and civil rights. A new revolutionary culture was emerging and it sought to drastically transform the system. The Black Panther Party for Self-Defense would, for a short time, put itself at the vanguard of that change. THE BLACK PANTHERS: VANGUARD OF THE REVOLUTION is the first feature-length documentary to explore the Black Panther Party, its significance to the broader American culture, its cultural and political awakening for Black people, and the painful lessons wrought when a movement derails. Master documentarian Stanley Nelson goes straight to the source, weaving a treasure trove of rare archival footage with the diverse group of voices of the people who were there: police, FBI informants, journalists, white supporters and detractors, and Black Panthers who remained loyal to the party and those who left it. Featuring Kathleen Cleaver, Jamal Joseph, Ericka Huggins and dozens of others, as well as archival footage of the late Huey P. Newton and Eldridge Cleaver,  |
| Hoopla<br>(Library Card required) | <b>DARK GIRLS</b>                                     | <a href="#">Watch the film here</a>                   | D. Channsin Berry & Bill Duke                  | USA                              | 2011 | NR    | 71  | Documentary exploring colorism—the deep-seated biases and attitudes about skin color—outside of and within the Black American culture.  |
| Hoopla<br>(Library Card required) | <b>FREEDOM RIDERS</b>                                 | <a href="#">Watch the film here</a>                   | Stanley Nelson                                 | USA                              | 2010 | NR    | 120 | From May until December 1961, more than 400 black and white Americans risked their lives — many endured savage beatings and imprisonment — for simply traveling together on buses as they journeyed through the Deep South. Determined to test and challenge segregated travel facilities, the Freedom Riders' were greeted with mob violence and bitter racism, sorely testing their belief in non-violent activism. From award-winning filmmaker Stanley Nelson, FREEDOM RIDERS features testimony from a fascinating cast of central characters; the Riders themselves, state and federal government officials, and journalists who witnessed the rides firsthand.   |
| Hoopla<br>(Library Card required) | <b>GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN</b>                     | <a href="#">Watch the film here</a>                   | Stan Lathan                                    | USA                              | 1985 | NR    | 100 | This film adaptation of James Baldwin's celebrated novel tells the journey of a family from the rural South to "big city" Harlem seeking both salvation and understanding and of a young boy struggling to earn the approval of a self-righteous and often unloving stepfather.   |
| Hoopla<br>(Library Card required) | <b>I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO</b>                            | <a href="#">Watch the film here</a>                   | Raoul Peck                                     | Switzerland<br>France<br>and USA | 2016 | NR    | 86  | I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO envisions the book James Baldwin never finished, a radical narration about race in America, drawing on the writer's original words on the lives and assassinations of Medgar Evers, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King Jr.   |

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| Hoopla<br>(Library Card required) | <b>MAYA ANGELOU AND STILL I RISE</b>   | <a href="#">Watch the film here</a> | Rita Coburn Whack & Bob Hercules  | USA | 2016 | NR    | 114 | Celebrates Dr. Maya Angelou by weaving her words with rare and intimate archival photographs and videos, which paint hidden moments of her exuberant life during some of America's most defining moments. From her upbringing in the Depression-era South to her work with Malcolm X to her inaugural speech for President Bill Clinton, the film takes us on an incredible journey through the life of a true American icon.  |
| Hoopla<br>(Library Card required) | <b>MOONLIGHT</b>   | <a href="#">Watch the film here</a> | Barry Jenkins                     | USA | 2016 | R     | 111 | A young African-American man grapples with his identity and sexuality while experiencing the everyday struggles of childhood, adolescence, and burgeoning adulthood.   |
| Hoopla<br>(Library Card required) | <b>SLAVERY BY ANOTHER NAME</b>   | <a href="#">Watch the film here</a> | Sam Pollard                       | USA | 2015 | NR    | 90  | SLAVERY BY ANOTHER NAME challenges one of America's most cherished assumptions — the belief that slavery in the U.S. ended with Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation — by telling the harrowing story of how in the South, a new system of involuntary servitude took its place with shocking force.  |
| Hoopla<br>(Library Card required) | <b>SPIES OF MISSISSIPPI</b>  | <a href="#">Watch the film here</a> | Dawn Porter                       | USA | 2014 | PG-13 | 90  | View the story of a secret spy agency formed during the 1950s and '60s by the state of Mississippi to preserve segregation and maintain white supremacy. Over a decade, the Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission employed a network of investigators and informants, including African Americans, to help infiltrate the NAACP, CORE and SNCC. They were granted broad powers to investigate private citizens and organizations, keep secret files, make arrests and compel testimony. The program tracks the commission's hidden role in important chapters of the civil rights movement, including the integration of the University of Mississippi, the trial of Medgar Evers, and the KKK murders of three civil rights workers in 1964. |
| Hoopla<br>(Library Card required) | <b>TELL THEM WE ARE RISING: THE STORY OF BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES</b> | <a href="#">Watch the film here</a> | Stanley Nelson and Marco Williams | USA | 2017 | NR    | 85  | Though much of its history was eclipsed by the explosiveness of the 1960s, the essential role the nation's historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) played in shaping Black life, creating a Black middle class, and dismantling segregation cannot be overstated.   |
| Hoopla<br>(Library Card required) | <b>WHOSE STREETS?</b>  | <a href="#">Watch the film here</a> | Sabaah Foleyan and Damon Davis    | USA | 2017 | R     | 101 | An unflinching look at the Ferguson uprising and a powerful battle cry from a generation fighting, not for their civil rights, but for their lives.  |