



BLACK FILM CENTER & ARCHIVE

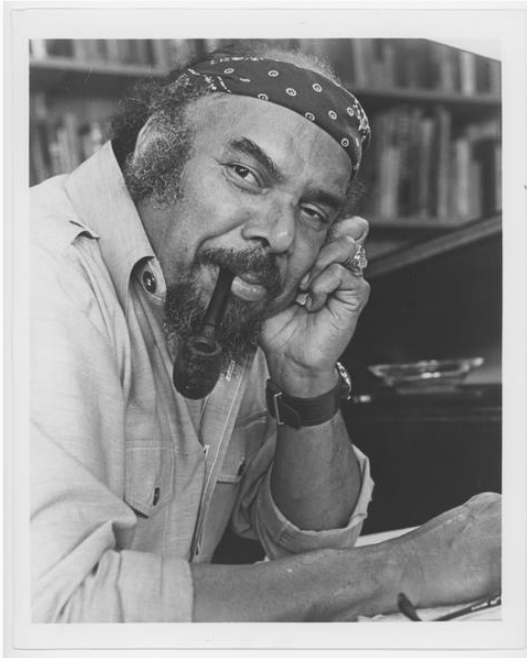
June 2022 Newsletter

Renée Baker visits and shines a light on multitalented composer Phil Moore



From May 16-20, the BFCA was honored to welcome back acclaimed composer Renée Baker onsite at our office. Ms. Baker spent the week researching hundreds of original musical manuscripts, correspondence, and other materials from our Phil Moore Collection, named after the prolific musician who was the first Black composer contracted to a major Hollywood studio. As Ms. Baker powerfully reflects on the visit, Phil Moore was an under-acknowledged Renaissance man of American popular music throughout the 20th century, mentoring and collaborating with an array of superstars that includes Judy Garland, Lena Horne, Dorothy Dandridge, Louis Armstrong, Frank Sinatra, Ray Charles, The Supremes, Aretha Franklin, Quincy Jones, Diahann Carroll, and many, many others. BFCA staff

thanks Ms. Baker for her visit and efforts to shine more light on the career and legacy of an unjustly forgotten talent. Check out [her new blog post](#) and learn more about the life of Phil Moore in [this 2017 post](#) by Elijah Pouges.



(Portrait of Phil Moore from the Mary Perry Smith Black Filmmaker Hall of Fame Collection at the BFCA; photo of Renée Baker with BFCA Director Akin Adesokan by JaQuita Joy Roberts.)



The BFCAs were thrilled to welcome Essence London to our team!



Essence has an MFA in Creative Writing and is currently studying home movies and mythmaking at the IU Media School. After writing for the BFCAs blog in the past, she is excited now to collaborate on programming alongside Dr. Akin Adesokan. Keep an eye out for her name in literary magazines and film credits--she's hard at work on upcoming projects!

Archival Spotlight

Stéphane Vieyra discusses the legacy of Paulin Vieyra in MoMA interview

In summer 2021, the BFCAs [acquired the personal papers](#) of pioneering Senegalese filmmaker and writer Paulin S. Vieyra, courtesy of a generous donation by his youngest son Stéphane Vieyra. BFCAs staff continue to do the considerable work of cataloging this collection for future researcher access. This past month, Stéphane was interviewed by Josh Siegel, film curator, and Ugochukwu-Smooth Nzewi, Curator of Painting and Sculpture at the Museum of Modern Art, in advance of the museum's May 14 & 16 screening of

Vieyra's landmark film *Afrique sur Seine* (1955). Stéphane reflects on his father's legacy and the challenges faced by postcolonial African filmmakers. [Read the full interview here!](#)



The BFC&A celebrated IU Day, this year!



On April 20, the BFC&A joined other programs across the Indiana University campuses and alumni worldwide in recognizing IU Day. In addition to

open house tours of our office throughout the afternoon, we also participated in the IU Day block party by the Showalter Fountain, where we met hundreds of undergrads and passed out BFCA-branded pens, magnets, buttons, bookmarks, and other cool swag. Thank you to everyone who donated or stopped by our table to say hi! If you missed us, feel free to stop by our office at Wells 044 and pick up some swag. Additionally, you can still donate! Please click the link below, to support our mission.

[Donate to the BFCA](#)

Social Media Highlights

Kathe Sandler



On May 11, we wished a happy birthday to educator, scholar, and Guggenheim award-winning filmmaker Kathe Sandler, born in 1959! Dr. Sandler's film work includes *Remembering Thelma* (1982), a portrait of silent film comedian Thelma Hill, and *A Question of Color* (1992), a pioneering documentary exploring attitudes about hair texture, skin color, and personal appearance within African American communities. Dr. Sandler donated her original production negatives and interviews from both films to the Black Film Center & Archive in 2010, where they remain

preserved as time capsules of Black perspectives on self-appearance and identity in the last decades of the 20th century. (Photo credit: Keith Bedford via Getty Images, 2003)

Annazette Chase



M-26 China Doll (ANNAZETTE CHASE) plays up to Slim (RICHARD PRYOR) to get a place in the mack's stable in a scene from THE MACK. The Harvey Bernhard Enterprises film was written by Robert J. Poole and directed by Michael Campus for distribution by Cinerama Releasing.

On May 20, we wished happy birthday to actress Annazette Chase, born in 1943! Over her 16-year film career from 1966 to 1982, Ms. Chase starred in multiple Blaxploitation releases now recognized as high-water marks of the period, including *The Mack* (1973), *Truck Turner* (1974), and *Black Fist* (1974). In 1977, she appeared opposite Muhammad Ali in his self-starring biopic *The Greatest*, where she played his wife Belinda Boyd. (*The Mack* promotional photo from the BFCA African American Contributions to Film Collection; *The Greatest* promotional photo from the BFCA General Collection.)

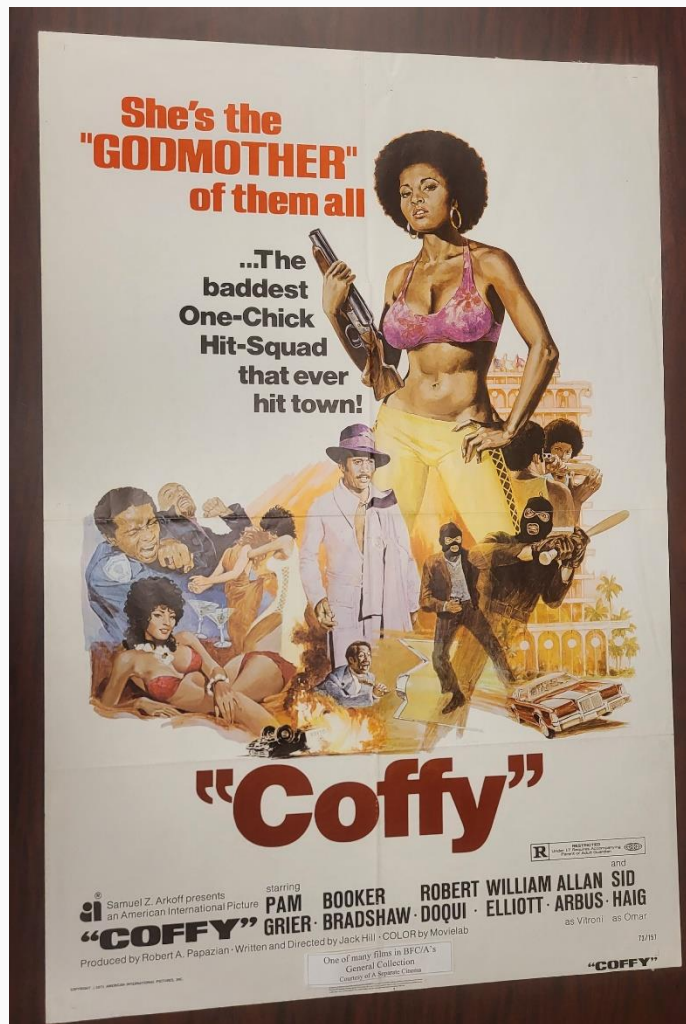


Pam Grier



On May 26, we wished a happy birthday to the legendary Pam Grier, born in 1949! Ms. Grier cemented a reputation as one of film history's great action stars during an extraordinary run of Blaxploitation roles throughout the 1970s, including Cool

Breeze (1972), Black Mama White Mama (1973), Coffy (1973), Scream Blacula Scream (1973), Foxy Brown (1974), Sheba, Baby (1975), Bucktown (1975), and Friday Foster (1975). She has continued to work steadily in the industry since the 1980s, taking a high-profile star turn in Jackie Brown (1997) and recurring cast roles in series like Miami Vice, The L Word, and Smallville. (Publicity photo from the Mary Perry Smith Collection; posters from the BFCA General Collection.)



Reminder: We have a New Name, a New Logo, and a New Website!

Starting January 18, 2022, we are officially the Black Film Center & Archive. Our new name can be abbreviated as “BFCA”. We are also proud to debut a new logo design and a fully updated website, featuring a cleaner, more user-friendly interface for exploring the BFCA’s history and collections. Visit us at bfca.indiana.edu to check it out. An example of our new logo is in the title above. We also invite you to email us at bfca@indiana.edu with any feedback about the new site's appearance or usability, or if you encounter a technical problem.

Matterport Scan - We've Gone 3D!

Can't physically visit our office? How about a virtual visit instead? The BFCA office on IU Bloomington's campus was recently given a Matterport 3D scan courtesy of the Indiana University IU3D Team. Check out this unique interactive virtual tour, featuring our space, amenities, and several featured items from our archival collections, such as the item pictured below! (Simplex 35mm Projector donated by Jon and Jennifer Vickers from the Vickers Theatre and the collection of Kenneth Marks).

Click the link below and then the play button in the bottom left corner for an automated tour or click around and explore the space at your leisure.

<https://bfca.indiana.edu/about/virtual-tour.html>



For more information about the BFCA, please visit our website www.bfca.indiana.edu. To subscribe to our blog, please visit our blog page <https://blogs.iu.edu/bfca/> and click on “Subscribe” in the bottom right of the screen. [Please consider ways to give](#), to continue our efforts and supporting our [mission](#). We sincerely thank you all for your support. We would not be able to complete all of our wonderful programs and awesome events, without your help.

Warmest regards,
BFCA Interim Director and Staff



THE MEDIA SCHOOL

BLACK FILM CENTER & ARCHIVE

Indiana University Bloomington



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