

The Drexel Theatre to Host “Black Filmmaking in Hollywood: An Evening with Wil Haygood” October 21 Followed by a *Colorization* Film Series October 25 & 26

In celebration of the release of Wil Haygood’s newest book, *Colorization: One Hundred Years of Black Films in a White World*, the Drexel Theatre is partnering with Gramercy Books for an evening of conversation and film that explores Black filmmaking in Hollywood. In his groundbreaking, new book, Haygood examines 100 years of Black movies using the struggles and triumphs of the artists and the films themselves as a prism to explore Black culture and the civil rights movement in America. The evening will include an introduction by Haygood, a screening of *Foxy Brown* (1974), brief Q&A following the film, and book signing in the lobby.

The Drexel presents “Black Filmmaking in Hollywood: An Evening with Wil Haygood” at the Drexel Theatre (2254 E. Main St.) on Thursday, October 21, at 7 pm. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased in-person at the CAPA Ticket Center (39 E. State St.), online at www.drexel.net, or by phone at (614) 469-0939. *Colorization* may also be purchased at the time of ticket purchase or at the event.

About Wil Haygood

Columbus native and former King-Lincoln District resident Wil Haygood is the author of *Tigerland*, which was a finalist for the Dayton Literary Peace Prize; *Showdown*, a finalist for an NAACP Image Award; *In Black and White*; and *The Butler*, which was made into a film directed by Lee Daniels. He has been a correspondent for *The Washington Post* and *The Boston Globe*, where he was a Pulitzer finalist. Haygood is a Guggenheim and National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow and is currently Boadway Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence in the department of media, journalism, and film at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Among Haygood’s other books are *Two on the River*, *King of the Cats: The Life and Times of Adam Clayton Powell Jr.*, *The Haygoods of Columbus: A Family Memoir*, and *Sweet Thunder: The Life and Times of Sugar Ray Robinson*.

About [*Colorization: One Hundred Years of Black Films in a White World*](#)

(Release date: October 19, 2021) Beginning in 1915 with D. W. Griffith’s *The Birth of a Nation*—which glorified the Ku Klux Klan and became Hollywood’s first blockbuster—author Wil Haygood gives us an incisive, fascinating, little-known history, spanning more than a century, of Black artists in the film business, on-screen, and behind the scenes.

He makes clear the effects of changing social realities and events on the business of making movies and what was represented on the screen—from Jim Crow and segregation to white flight and interracial relationships, from the assassination of Malcolm X to the O.J. Simpson trial, to the Black Lives Matter movement. He considers the films themselves—

including *Imitation of Life*, *Gone with the Wind*, *Porgy and Bess*, the Blaxploitation films of the seventies, *Do the Right Thing*, *12 Years a Slave*, and *Black Panther*. And he brings to new light the careers and significance of a wide range of historic and contemporary figures—Hattie McDaniel, Sidney Poitier, Berry Gordy, Alex Haley, Spike Lee, Billy Dee Williams, Richard Pryor, Halle Berry, Ava DuVernay, and Jordan Peele, among many others.

An important, timely book, *Colorization* gives both an unprecedented history of Black cinema and a groundbreaking perspective on racism in modern America.

About *Foxy Brown* (1974)

Pam Grier, Antonio Fargas, Peter Brown

Known as one of the most significant films of the blaxploitation genre and featuring Pam Grier, one of the greatest film stars of the '70s, this Jack Hill-directed action thriller tackles racism and sexism through the eyes of one of the toughest female heroines ever to grace the screen.

***Colorization* Film Series**

The Drexel's *Colorization* film series will explore the history of Black artists in Hollywood from early uncredited films to the tour de force works of Oscar Micheaux, Sammy Davis Jr., Pam Grier, and Melvin Van Peebles to the expanding representation of present-day cinema.

***A Man Called Adam* (1966)**

Monday, October 25, 4:15 pm & 7:15 pm

Sammy Davis Jr., Louis Armstrong, Ossie Davis, Cicely Tyson

This musical drama tells the story of a self-destructive jazz musician (Davis) plagued by poor health, racism, alcoholism, a short temper, and guilt, and his tumultuous relationships with the people in his life.

***Within Our Gates* (1920)**

Monday, October 25, 4:30 pm & 7:30 pm

Evelyn Preer, Flo Clements, James D. Ruffin

In this early silent film from pioneering director Oscar Micheaux, an educated Black woman with a shocking past dedicates herself to helping a near bankrupt school for impoverished Black youth.

***Blue Collar* (1978)**

Tuesday, October 26, 4 pm & 7 pm

Richard Pryor, Harvey Keitel, Yaphet Kotto

In the directorial debut of Paul Schrader, this crime drama follows three workers who attempt to steal from the local union only to discover a corruption which they decide to use as blackmail.

***The Story of a Three-Day Pass* (1967)**

Tuesday, October 26, 4:15 pm & 7:15 pm

Harry Baird, Pierre Doris, Christian Marin

Written and directed by Melvin Van Peebles, the film depicts a Black American soldier demoted for fraternizing with a white shop clerk while on a three-day weekend pass off his military base in France.

www.Drexel.net

CALENDAR LISTING

The Drexel Theatre presents BLACK FILMMAKING IN HOLLYWOOD: AN EVENING WITH WIL HAYGOOD

Thursday, October 21, 7 pm

Drexel Theatre (2254 E. Main St.)

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About the Drexel Theatre

For generations, the Drexel Theatre has been central Ohio's first source for independent film and the best of Hollywood and international cinema, striving to specialize in simply the best films from around the world.

About Friends of the Drexel, Inc.

Established in late 2009 by a group of committed community leaders and arts patrons, Friends of the Drexel, Inc. is an independent, not-for-profit organization dedicated to a more creative and prosperous future for the Drexel Theatre. Its mission is to secure and sustain the future of the historic Drexel Theatre as a distinctive cultural asset to Bexley and the greater Columbus community. It envisions the Drexel as a sustainable provider of unique arts content as well as a vibrant community meeting place that preserves the charm and eclectic, neighborhood film-going experience in a warm and inviting, yet technologically advanced, facility. The Friends of the Drexel, Inc. is grateful for the philanthropic support provided by individuals and corporations that make our work possible. For a full list of donors, please visit:

<https://www.drexel.net/supporters/>

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