



Baad Bitches and Sassy Supermamas: Black Power Action Films (Paperback)

By Stephane Dunn

University of Illinois Press, United States, 2008. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. This lively study unpacks the intersecting racial, sexual, and gender politics underlying the representations of racialized bodies, masculinities, and femininities in early 1970s black action films, with particular focus on the representation of black femininity. Stephane Dunn explores the typical, sexualized, subordinate positioning of women in low-budget blaxploitation action narratives as well as more seriously radical films like Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song and The Spook Who Sat by the Door, in which black women are typically portrayed as trifling u0022bitches u0022 compared to the supermacho black male heroes. The terms u0022baad bitches u0022 and u0022sassy supermamas u0022 signal the reversal of this positioning with the emergence of supermama heroines in the few black action films in the early 1970s that featured self-assured, empowered, and tough (or u0022baad u0022) black women as protagonists: Cleopatra Jones, Coffy, and Foxy Brown. Dunn offers close examination of a distinct moment in the history of African American representation in popular cinema, tracing its emergence out of a radical political era, influenced especially by the Black Power movement and feminism. u0022Baad Bitches u0022 and Sassy Supermamas also engages blaxploitation...



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