

ENG375/AFS375 (TH 12:25-2:15)
Dr. Marsha Orgeron

AFRICAN-AMERICAN FILM



Barbara O. Jones in Haile Gerima's *Bush Mama* (1979)

This course traces the relationship between African Americans and film from the turn of the twentieth century to the present, though we will largely focus on post-1960s filmmaking. We will study major directorial figures, genres (melodrama, gangster, documentary), and historical movements (race films, Blaxploitation, 1980s social realism). In addition to looking at films by African-American directors, we will also consider on-screen images of African-Americans over the course of the last hundred-plus years of American cinema. Directors will likely include Oscar Micheaux, Spike Lee, Melvin Van Peebles, Julie Dash, Robert Townsend, Haile Gerima, Gordon Parks, Cheryl Dunye, John Singleton, Kasi Lemmons, and the Hughes Brothers. There will be two papers, a midterm, and a final examination for this course.



Richard Roundtree in Gordon Parks' *Shaft* (1971)