



# Guide to the Oscar Micheaux Society Papers, 1976-2004

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## Summary

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**Collection Title:**

Oscar Micheaux Society papers, 1976-2004

**Source:**

Archive of Documentary Arts (Duke University)

**Creator:**

Oscar Micheaux Society

**Abstract:**

The Oscar Micheaux Society formed in the early 1990s to promote the study of the early African-American film director, writer, and producer Oscar Micheaux. Oscar Micheaux Society newsletters, production files, administrative materials, and correspondence regarding grants, restoration projects, Micheaux-related events and exhibits, and black film scholarship.

**Extent:**

4.5 Linear Feet  
116 Megabytes  
3375 Items

**Language:**

Material in English

**Collection ID:**

RL.00896

**Permalink:**

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1gd2h>

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Oscar Micheaux Society Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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## Background

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### Scope and Content

This collection contains copies of the first eleven issues of the Oscar Micheaux Society Newsletter, along with files relating to the production of those newsletters. (Beginning with the twelfth issue in 2004, the newsletter was published electronically.) There are several files of proposals, budgets, and correspondence from the many grant applications by which the organization attempted to secure funding for its book and restoration projects. The collection also contains information and programs from a variety of Micheaux-related events and exhibits; newspaper and magazine articles about Oscar Micheaux; resources and scholarship about Micheaux and black film generally; and a large number of photos, stills, and visual materials.

### Biographical/Historical

The Oscar Micheaux Society formed in the early 1990s to promote the study of the early African-American film director, writer, and producer Oscar Micheaux. It released its first newsletter in February 1993 under the editorship of Jane Gaines and Charlene Register, professors of film at Duke and UNC, respectively. The group would later collaborate with Turner Classic Movies to restore a recently rediscovered print of Micheaux's silent-film masterpiece *Symbol of the Unconquered*; the restored film aired as a part of TCM's "A Separate Cinema" series in the summer of 1998. The Society also spearheaded a book project entitled *Micheaux and His Circle*. The collection of essays featured several Oscar Micheaux Society Newsletter contributors, many of whom had presented their work at the "Micheaux and His Circle" conference at Yale in 1995; it was co-edited by Jane Gaines, Pearl Bowser, and Charles Musser.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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411 Chapel Drive  
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URL: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

### **Access Restrictions**

Access note. Some materials in this collection are electronic records that require special equipment. Contact Research Services with questions.

### **Use Restrictions**

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

### **Acquisition Information**

The Oscar Micheaux Society Papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a gift in 2010.

### **Processing Information**

Processed by Colby Bogie, July 2011

Encoded by Colby Bogie and Meghan Lyon, July 2011

Accession(s) described in this finding aid: 2010-0198

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## **Names and Subjects**

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- African Americans in motion pictures
- Motion picture producers and directors -- United States
- Motion pictures -- United States -- History -- 20th century
- African American motion picture producers and directors
- Archive of Documentary Arts (Duke University)
- Micheaux, Oscar, 1884-1951
- Oscar Micheaux Society

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## Collection Inventory

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### Correspondence, 1990-2000

**Physical Description:** 1 box

**Scope and Contents note**

Oscar Micheaux Society correspondence, including extensive e-mail exchanges between the newsletters editors and contributors.

Barbara White correspondence, 1996	Box 1
Campaign to nominate Ben Rinaldo to the Hollywood Walk of Fame, 2000	Box 1
Dorothy Dandridge photo correspondence, 1998	Box 1
General correspondence, 1991-1994	Box 1
Micheaux book correspondence, 1995-1996	Box 1
Newsletter correspondence, 1991-1997	Box 1
Pearl Bowser/Charlie Musser correspondence, 1994-1995	Box 1
Smithsonian Press correspondence, 1998	Box 1
TCM Micheaux restoration correspondence, 1996-1997	Box 1
William Greaves correspondence, 1994	Box 1

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### Events, 1976-2001 and undated

**Physical Description:** 1 box

**Scope and Contents note**

Programs, guides, and information from a variety of Micheaux-related events, some of which (such as the "Micheaux and His Circle" conference) were sponsored and organized by the Society.

American Museum of the Moving Image guide to exhibitions and programs, 1990-1994	Box 1
Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame, 1976	Box 1
Carolina Theatre Black Film Festival, 1996	Box 1
Early Black Film Festival (Germany), undated	Box 1
Festivals/Series, 1992-1993	Box 1
Gregory, SD welcome binder, 1996	Box 1
John Hope Franklin 80th birthday celebration, 1995	Box 1
Mapp Collection of African-American Film Posters exhibit, 1993-1994	Box 1
"Micheaux and His Circle" conference, 1993-1995	Box 1
"Micheaux and His Circle" conference curriculae vitae, 1994	Box 1
Multicultural Film Festival, 1996	Box 1
Oscar Micheaux Film Festival, 1996	Box 1
Oscar Micheaux Film Festival, 1996-1999	Box 1
Oscar Micheaux Film Festival, 2001-2005	Box 1
Oscar Micheaux Society annual meetings, 1992-1996	Box 1
The Other Oscars (Great Bend, KS), 2001	Box 1
Race Reels poster, 2001	Box 1
Symbol of the Unconquered screening at Duke, 1998	Box 1

TCM's "A Separate Cinema" , 1998 Box 1

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**Grant Applications, 1992-1997 and undated**

**Physical Description:** 1 box

**Scope and Contents note**

Proposal guidelines and drafts, budgets, and correspondence related to the Society's grant applications.

Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences Foundation, 1995-1996 Box 1

Book proposal and budget, 1995 Box 1

Budgets, proposals, and correspondence, 1992-1998 Box 1

Ford Foundation grant, 1993-1997 Box 1

Grant application drafts and correspondence, 1993-1996 Box 1

Grant proposal template, 1992-1993 Box 1

Louis B. Mayer Foundation, 1994-1996 Box 1

Micheaux and His Circle budgets, 1993 and undated Box 1

Micheaux Project funding ideas, 1993-1995 Box 1

Micheaux Project restoration leads, 1993-1996 Box 1

National Endowment for the Humanities/ American Film Institute grants, 1992-1994 Box 1

National Endowment for the Humanities grant, 1996-1997 Box 1

Pennsylvania grants, 1993-1995 Box 1

Rejection letters, 1994-1996 Box 1

Returned proposals, 1995-1996 Box 1

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### **Micheaux Publicity, 1983-2003 and undated**

**Physical Description:** 1 box

**Scope and Contents note**

Newspapers, magazines, and clippings about Oscar Micheaux, black film generally, and the Society's activities.

News Articles, 1983-1998 and undated	Box 2
Newspapers, 1994-2001	Box 2
Periodicals, 1998-2003 and undated	Box 2

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### **Newsletters, 1993-2003**

**Physical Description:** 1 box

**Scope and Contents note**

Eleven printed issues of the Oscar Micheaux Society Newsletter.

Newsletter Vol. 1, Feb. 1993	Box 2
Newsletter Vol. 2, Nov. 1993	Box 2
Newsletter Vol. 3, Summer 1994	Box 2
Newsletter Vol. 4, 1995	Box 2
Newsletter Vol. 5, Summer 1996	Box 2
Newsletter Vol. 6, Winter 1997	Box 2
Newsletter Vol. 7, Summer 1998	Box 2
Newsletter Vol. 8, Spring 2000	Box 2
Newsletter Vol. 9, Spring 2001	Box 2
Newsletter Vol. 10, Fall 2001	Box 2
Newsletter Vol. 11, Fall 2003	Box 2

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## **Production Files, 1992-2004 and undated**

**Physical Description:** 2 boxes

### **Scope and Contents note**

Files related to the production of the Oscar Micheaux Society Newsletter, including article ideas, drafts, correspondence, and layouts. This series also includes files related to the production of a special edition of Black Film Review that Jane Gaines and Pearl Bowser curated.

### **Access Restrictions:**

Access note. Some materials are electronic records that require special equipment. Contact Research Services with questions.

Advertising, 1999	Box 2
Article ideas and submissions, 1995-1997 and undated	Box 2
Black Film Review, 1992-1993	Box 2
Chapel Hill Printing and Graphics, 2000	Box 2
Newsletter Vol. 1 production files, 1992-1993	Box 2
Newsletter Vol. 2 production files, 1992-1993	Box 2
Newsletter Vol. 3 production files, 1993-1994	Box 2
Newsletter Vol. 4 production files, 1994-1995	Box 2
Newsletter Vol. 5 production files, 1996	Box 2
Newsletter Vol. 6 production files, 1996-1998	Box 2
Newsletter Vol. 7 production files, 1998	Box 2
Newsletter Vol. 8 production files, 1999-2000	Box 2

**Physical Description:** 2 folders

Micheaux #8, 1998-2000	Digital-materials RL00896-SET-0001
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Folder 1 > Disk RL00896-  
ZIP-0001

**Physical Description:** 93 Megabytes  
236 files

**Scope and Contents**

Includes still image, audio, document and application files

Newsletter Vol. 9 production files, 2000-2001 Box 2

Oscar Micheaux Newsletter #9 (collected files),  
1998-2001 Digital-materials RL00896-  
SET-0001  
Folder 1 > Optical-disc  
RL00896-OP-0001

**Physical Description:** 23 Megabytes  
44 files

**Scope and Contents**

Includes still image, document, and application files

Newsletter Vol. 10 production files, 2001 Box 3

Newsletter Vol. 11 production files, 2001-2003 Box 3

Newsletter Vol. 12 production files, 2003-2004 Box 3

Stationary, undated Box 3

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**Resources, 1979-2003 and undated**

**Physical Description:** 1 box

**Scope and Contents note**

Filmographies, bibliographies, catalogs, and listings relating to the life and career of Oscar Micheaux, as well as many resources relating to black film generally.

African-American Film Collection transfers,  
undated Box 3

Afro-American Studies at Duke, 1995-1996 Box 3

Alaska Center for Documentary Film, 1997 Box 3

Articles and papers, 1979-1992 and undated	Box 3
Available Visions conference participants contact sheet, 1992	Box 3
Black film A/V resources, undated	Box 3
Black press bibliography, undated	Box 3
Blacks and the West, 1996 and undated	Box 3
Black Arts Research Center, undated	Box 3
Black-cast films at the Library of Congress, undated	Box 3
Black independent film information, 1987-1990	Box 3
Blockson collection, 1989	Box 3
British Film Institute "Happy Though Married," 1994	Box 3
Cinemaction: "Le Cinema Noir Americain," undated	Box 3
The Girl from Chicago script transcribed by Sergio Mims, 1996	Box 3
International Film Archive information, undated	Box 3
Ku Klux Klan, undated	Box 3
Library of Congress and Smithsonian Video rare silent film brochure, 1994	Box 3
List of available Micheaux films, undated	Box 3
List of black-cast film producers and titles, undated	Box 3
Micheaux bibliography and filmography, 1997 and undated	Box 3
Micheaux biographical documents, undated	Box 3

Micheaux films and novels, 1992-1997 and undated	Box 3
Micheaux web resources, 1995	Box 3
Midnight Ramble information, 1989	Box 3
Norman Film Company filmography and visuals, undated	Box 3
"Rhapsodies in Black" exhibit program and bibliography, 1998	Box 3
Smithsonian Institute Traveling Exhibition Service, 2001-02003	Box 3
Translation of La Negra draft, undated	Box 3
The Tyler, TX Black Film Collection, undated	Box 3
W.E.B. Du Bois Institute at Harvard University, undated	Box 3
Wolfsonian Museum (Florida International University) information, 1995-2003	Box 3

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### **Scholarship, 1998-2001**

**Physical Description:** 1 box

#### **Scope and Contents note**

Copies of articles and essays on Micheaux.

"A Pioneering Black Filmmaker" by Scott Heller ( Chronicle of Higher Education), 1995	Box 3
"The Outcome of that Discontent" by Sarah Weiss, 2000	Box 3
"Stranger in a Strange Land" by M.K. Johnson ( Western American Literature), Fall 1998	Box 3
"Without the Gates" by Fiona Barnett, 2001	Box 3
<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	

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### **Subscriptions and Membership, 1993-1998 and undated**

**Physical Description:** 1 box

**Scope and Contents note**

Subscriber lists, subscription forms, and mailings.

Accounting, 1993-1995	Box 3
Mailings to members, 1996	Box 3
New subscribers, 1994-1998 and undated	Box 3
Subscription forms, undated	Box 3
Subscriber lists, 1994	Box 3

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### **Visual Materials, 1992-2000 and undated**

**Physical Description:** 1 box

**Scope and Contents note**

Photos and stills for use in the Oscar Micheaux Society Newsletter or in the essay collection *Oscar Micheaux and His Circle*.

Black film stills, undated	Box 3
Contributor photos, 2000 and undated	Box 3
Micheaux's grave, undated	Box 3
One More River to Cross cover, undated	Box 3
Oscar Micheaux and His Circle visuals, undated	Box 3
Photo rights correspondence, 1998-2003	Box 3
Photos/visuals, 1992-1993 and undated	Box 3
Schomberg Center stills, 1998 and undated	Box 3
Stills, undated	Box 3

Xeroxed visuals, undated Box 3

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Xeroxes of stills from the African Diaspora  
Images collection, undated Box 3

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