

Cool Pose The Dilemmas Of Black Manhood In America

What is Cool?Cool PoseReimagining Black MasculinitiesBlack Manhood in James Baldwin, Ernest J. Gaines, and August WilsonBlack Manhood on the Silent ScreenBlack MasculinityDeconstructing TyroneBoyhood to ManhoodProgressive Black MasculinitiesMasculinity in the Black ImaginationThe Agony of MasculinityBeyond Money, Cars, and WomenThe Performance of Black Masculinity in Contemporary Black DramaA Question of Manhood, Volume 1Dismantling Black ManhoodI Fight for a LivingBlack Masculinity and the U.S. SouthUnderstanding the Assault on the Black Man, Black Manhood, and Black MasculinityCool PoseSearching for the New Black Man Marlene K. Connor Richard Majors Mark C. Hopson Keith Clark Gerald R. Butters Robert Staples Natalie Hopkinson C. Spencer Platt Athena D. Mutua Ronald L. Jackson Pierre W. Orelus Jasmin S. Greene John Rogers Harris Darlene Clark Hine Daniel P. Black Louis Moore Riché Richardson Wesley Muhammad Richard Majors Ronda C. Henry Anthony

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a profound personally engaged anatomy of the codes that have shaped and continue to shape black manhood marlene kim connor reveals cool as a vital code of behaviors and attitudes that plays an often disregarded role in shaping the conception of manhood among young black boys in this thoughtful impassioned and provocative book connor uncovers cool s history explores its essence and explains why even though it deserves praise cool often becomes an insidious force affective black american life today

traces the history of black men in america using a tough guy image to obscure their anger and disappointment over their roles in society back to their origins in africa and the slave era

reimagining black masculinities race gender and public space addresses how black masculinities are created negotiated and contested in public spaces focusing on how theory meets praxis when mobilizing for social change contributors disentangle complexities of the black experience and reimagine the radical progressive work required for societal health and wellbeing forming a mental picture of what the world has the potential to be without excluding current realities for black boys and men civic manhood maleness and the fluidity of masculinities these realities are acknowledged and interrogated across private and public contexts media education occupation and theoretical perspectives this book encourages readers to reenvision social identity as an ongoing phenomenon asserting that collective vision informs action and collective action informs possibilities for peace and freedom in the world around us scholars of communication gender studies and race studies will find this book particularly interesting

challenging the standard portrayals of black men in african american literature from frederick douglass to the present the preoccupation of black writers with manhood and masculinity is a constant black manhood in james baldwin ernest j gaines and august wilson explores how in their own work three major african american writers contest classic portrayals of black men in earlier literature from slave narratives through the great novels of richard wright and ralph ellison keith clark examines short stories novels and plays by baldwin gaines and wilson arguing that since the 1950s the three have interrupted and radically dismantled the constricting literary depictions of black men who equate selfhood with victimization isolation and patriarchy instead they have reimagined black men whose identity is grounded in community camaraderie and intimacy delivering original and startling insights this book will appeal to scholars and students of african american literature gender studies and narratology

in early twentieth century motion picture houses offensive stereotypes of african americans were as predictable as they were prevalent watermelon eating chicken thievery savages with uncontrollable appetites sambo and zip coon were all representations associated with african american people most of these caricatures were rendered by whites in blackface few people realize that from 1915 through 1929 a number of african american film directors worked diligently to counter such racist definitions of black manhood found in films like d w griffith s the birth of a nation the 1915 epic that glorified the ku klux klan in the wake of the film s phenomenal success african american filmmakers sought to defend and redefine black manhood through motion pictures gerald butters s comprehensive study of the african american cinematic vision in silent film concentrates on works largely ignored by most contemporary film scholars african american produced and directed films and white independent productions of all black features using these race movies to explore the construction of masculine identity and the use of race in popular culture he separates cinematic myth from historical reality the myth of the euro american controlled cinematic portrayal of black men versus the actual black male experience through intense archival research butters reconstructs many lost films expanding the discussion of race and representation beyond the debate about good and bad imagery to explore the construction of masculine identity and the use of race as device in the context of western popular culture he particularly examines the filmmaking of oscar Micheaux the most prolific and controversial of all african american silent film directors and creator of the recently rediscovered within our gates the legendary film that exposed a virtual litany of white abuses toward blacks black manhood on the silent screen is unique in that it takes contemporary and original film theory applies it to the distinctive body of african american independent films in the silent era and relates the meaning of these films to larger political social and intellectual events in american society by showing how both white and black men have defined their own sense of manhood through cinema it examines the intersection of race and gender in the movies and offers a deft interweaving of film theory american history and film history

a portrait of today s african american male evaluates both archetypes and stereotypes exploring black masculinity as it is represented by a range of personalities from professionals and hip hop figures to family men and criminals original

boyhood to manhood seeks to foster an open and honest discussion about the intersection of multiple identities found among black males the book explores topics such as what it means to be a black male race and ethnicity health dis ability athletics socioeconomic status historical accounts employment religion and sexual identity

in the struggle for pride and political agency the imperative to be a man has been central to the lives of black males yet what it means to be a black man in terms of both racial and gender identity has been subject to continual debate in public and academic spheres alike progressive black masculinities brings together leading black cultural critics including michael eric dyson mark anthony neal and patricia hill collins to examine an alternatively demonized and mythologized black masculinity collectively they offer a roadmap for new progressive models of black masculinity

that may chart the course for the future of black men

how do black men imagine who they are and what they must do within their families communities and the world the essays in this collection both ask and attempt to answer this question based in communication and drawing from diverse disciplines masculinity in the black imagination seeks to address identity race and gender by examining the communicative dimensions of black manhood the collection works to define deconstruct and contextualize the interactive practice of masculinity as both a local and global phenomenon

drawing on critical race theory and empirical data from case studies involving fifty men of african descent this book presents a new perspective on black masculinity maleness sexism and institutional racism the book situates black masculinity in a racial socio historical and postcolonial context to provide innovative ways of understanding the profound effects of institutional racism although its focus is primarily on people of african descent the book addresses issues concerning all races and ethnicities explores the harmful effects of sexism and homophobia on women and queer people and proposes practical steps that can be taken to fight against socio economic inequality and injustice that is racially gender and sexually based given the practical nature and interdisciplinary dimension of this book readers and educators studying race racism sexism and gender issues will find it germane to their needs and their classes

masculinity and hip hop are two topics that have been gaining wide attention in recent years however research has often been limited to solely criticizing the hip hop movement and examining the culture from a very parochial outsider s perspective an in depth study of the relationship between hip hop and black masculinity with commentary from the very men who are affected by it is missing from the academia it is with this thought that i have written my book i wish to give a voice to those who have not yet been heard from to examine and bring to light the damaging as well as positive affects that hip hop has on black men by talking to every day black men themselves and to show that the hip hop phenomenon can be used as a great political tool for mobilizing this generation this book examines stereotypical definitions of black manhood and looks at how specific images and lyrics in hip hop promote these stereotypes i discuss how young black men often growing up without fathers look to the males in hip hop as role models i argue that negative aspects of hip hop are really affecting young black men and that artists need to be more conscious of their impact and role in the black community i also discuss many positive hip hop artists and music and that conscious hip hop is kept underground intentionally by corporations i have integrated a case study throughout the book where i interviewed young black men on ideas of masculinity education and hip hop i end by discussing the positive in hip hop and by giving examples of how it can be taken so much farther especially to connect the young urban community with politics and social awareness

each of these essays illuminates an important dimension of the complex array of black male experiences as workers artists warriors and leaders the essays describe the expectations and demands to struggle to resist and facilitate the survival of african american culture and community black manhood was shaped not only in relation to black womanhood but was variously nurtured and challenged honed and transformed against a backdrop of white male power and domination and the relentless expectations and demands on them to struggle resist and to facilitate the survival of african american culture and community

drawing on documents between 1794 and 1863 shows how the forms and symbols of manhood in pre colonial west africa were destroyed by slavery and how male slaves strove to redefine what it meant to be an adult male in the absence of the communal discussion captivity is shown to have erased not only the rites of manhood the functions and activities by which men fulfilled the social roles as warrior husband father and protector the reconstructed notions included such aspects as sexual performance absolute patriarchal domination of the household and the devaluation of and commitments that impinge on independence they seemed to be largely in place by the time slavery

ended and african american men carried them into their new status annotation copyrighted by book news inc portland or

the black prizefighter labored in one of the few trades where an african american man could win renown boxing his prowess in the ring asserted an independence and powerful masculinity rare for black men in a white dominated society allowing him to be a man and thus truly free louis moore draws on the life stories of african american fighters active from 1880 to 1915 to explore working class black manhood as he details boxers bought into american ideas about masculinity and free enterprise to prove their equality while using their bodies to become self made men the african american middle class meanwhile grappled with an expression of public black maleness they saw related to disreputable leisure rather than respectable labor moore shows how each fighter conformed to middle class ideas of masculinity based on his own judgment of what culture would accept finally he argues that african american success in the ring shattered the myth of black inferiority despite media and government efforts to defend white privilege

this pathbreaking study of region race and gender reveals how we underestimate the south s influence on the formation of black masculinity at the national level many negative stereotypes of black men often contradictory ones have emerged from the ongoing historical traumas initiated by slavery are black men emasculated and submissive or hypersexed and violent nostalgic representations of black men have arisen as well think of the philosophical hardworking sharecropper or the abiding upright preacher to complicate matters says riché richardson blacks themselves appropriate these images for purposes never intended by their mostly white progenitors starting with such well known caricatures as the uncle tom and the black rapist richardson investigates a range of pathologies of black masculinity that derive ideological force from their associations with the south military policy black liberation discourse and contemporary rap she argues are just some of the instruments by which egregious pathologies of black masculinity in southern history have been sustained richardson s sources are eclectic and provocative including ralph ellison s fiction charles fuller s plays spike lee s films huey newton s and malcolm x s political rhetoric the o j simpson discourse and the music production of master p the cash money millionaires and other dirty south rappers filled with new insights into the region s role in producing hierarchies of race and gender in and beyond their african american contexts this new study points the way toward more epistemological frameworks for southern literature southern studies and gender studies

you may ask and it would be a legitimate question why brother dr wesley is another book on the assault on the black male even necessary by now we all know that america is hostile to black men but that is precisely the problem too much familiarity breeds disrespect we have become so familiar with the fact of the american assault on the black male that we don t respect that fact like we should this is why there is no real urgency to change the situation in the lives of individuals we have the problem of simultaneously knowing both too well and too insufficiently black men know well that there is an assault but we don t know well enough about the plot to guard against falling prey to its many traps on a daily basis and black women know their man is under assault but don t yet know enough of the architecture of the plot to keep from unwittingly becoming an aider and abettor to the plot as he is an aider and abettor in the plot himself one of the reasons most people black and white fail to grasp and take seriously the depth of the problem of this assault on the black male is because we assume it to be an isolated historical american phenomenon restricted to antebellum america and we believe that the feminization of the black male is incidental to the white man s strategy of domination a side show so to speak it is not it is in fact central to his strategy the american assault on the black man his manhood and his masculinity from slavery till today was and is part of a global project and only by understanding that global project and its methods repeated all over the world can we fully appreciate what is going on here in america

the detailed emphasis on behavioral descriptions applied issues and a practical plan for immediate

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using the slave narratives of henry bibb and frederick douglass as well as the work of w e b du bois james baldwin walter mosley and barack obama ronda c henry anthony examines how women s bodies are used in african american literature to fund the production of black masculine ideality and power in tracing representations of ideal black masculinities and femininities the author shows how black men s struggles for gendered agency are inextricably entwined with their complicated relation to white men and normative masculinity the historical context in which this study couches these struggles highlights the extent to which shifting socioeconomic circumstances dictate the ideological cultural and emotional terms upon which black men conceptualize identity yet anthony quickly moves to texts that challenge traditional constructions of black masculinity in these texts she traces how the emergence of collaboratively gendered discourses or a blending of black female male feminist consciousnesses are reshaping black masculinities femininities and intraracial relations for a new century

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