

An all-black cast film gives black viewers the chance to see representation on the screen. Even if the representation is not accurate, an all-black cast gives black audience members the opportunity to see actors and relate with them more deeply than they could with an all-white cast. All-black films make it so that black audiences don't have to suspend their belief even further to see themselves as worthy to be seen on a feature film.

However, many all-black films, such as earlier ones like *Hallelujah* (1930's) all the way up to more modern films like the *Friday* franchise (2000's) fall into the trap of playing to what modern, predominately white audiences see as marketable. This usually means that black characters become caricatures, with no deep storylines or character development that is afforded white counterparts in other films. Often times, all-black films feature black archetypes like the "coon" or "mammie", and while they technically fall under "representation" due to the actors sharing a skin tone that is unrepresented in society, I feel that the harmful stereotypes cause a disconnect with black audiences, which in turn renders the "representation" moot. There is then the trouble modern day all-black audiences have with complaining or boycotting films that show these types of stereotypes. From personal experience, whenever I hear a movie that has a harmful stereotype to black people being recalled or republished due to protesting or boycotting, I also see a dip in black-led film. Complaining about the problems usually gets all-black film cut as a whole.