

George Jones
Teddy Champion
African American Cinema

a. What does Bogle mean when he describes the 1980s as the “era of tan”?

The era of tan was basically a time when the film industry made it so that black actors and actresses, appeared more “white-washed.” They were stripped of their cultural identities and molded into a “more appropriate” presentation for the white community. Even though they were still in degrading roles, it was a step forward for the black community and the film industry despite the prejudice modifications. For black men, they were presented in a way in which they could not be perceived as romantic interest. Instead, they were forced into roles of background characters than anything else, they were always seen as the sidekick.

Richard Pryor became an icon during the 1980’s, people loved him for his comedic flow and charm, it seemed like he was on top of the world at the time. Throughout his comedy he was able to connect personally with his audience by giving them true stories from his life. He was also from a low income background and which is why a lot of other black people who came from similar backgrounds gravitated toward him. His career started to take off and as it did, hollywood cornered him into being the black man that was able to make it in white movies, until most of his costars were indeed white. His career slowly started to decline as he could no longer connect with his audience, his physical also started to decline. He was removed from the class that initially gave him his rise to stardom, and even though it was a blessing it also became a curse.