

where he least expects it (by his sex kitten)? Could he, like Lear, be harboring a "serpent's tooth" in his bosom, instead?

— Phillipa Kafka  
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**Therese Daniels and Jane Gerson, eds. *The Colour Black: Black Images in British Television*. (London: British Film Institute Publishing, 1989) vii, 160 pp., \$9.95 paper.**

*The Colour Black* is a concise reference source for scholars interested in research about ethnic images portrayed in television programs produced in other countries. This volume is largely a collection of television review articles for three prime-time television formats in Great Britain: (1) situation comedies, (2) drama series and serials, and (3) soap operas.

The primary thesis of *The Colour Black* is not only to note the black images in British television which are usually stereotypical but, also, to broaden the discussion about these images. For instance, Jim Pines, one of the four additional contributors who introduces the section on drama series and serials, suggests that through scholarship the industry should be challenged to make more interesting uses of the crime genre in relation to the wide diversity of black and white experiences so that the same stereotypes are not always used.

Furthermore, when discussing situation comedies, Andy Medhurst encourages scholars to view a comedy like *The Cosby Show* as only part of a spectrum that includes British comedy series like *No Problem*, *Tandoori Nights*, and *Desmond's* (which is currently being shown on Black Entertainment Television) and not to "inflict" it (*The Cosby Show*) with the "burden of representation." Just as Pines, Medhurst is essentially targeting the industry; after all, if there were more situation comedies about blacks or other ethnic minorities who had more participation in the production process, scholars would not overburden a series like *The Cosby Show* with as much analysis and as many expectations.

In addition to briefly introducing new approaches for critical theory concerning black images in television, *The Colour Black* actually includes reprints of review articles for a select number of programs which can be helpful to American scholars studying ethnic perspectives. Each article includes the author, the journal or periodical title, and date of publication, along with the credits and transmission dates for each television program featured. Overall, *The Colour Black* is an essential resource for the scholar of the ethnic experience in relation to television. Also, with the increasing need for cross-cultural research, this volume will definitely encourage and facilitate comparisons between United States and Great Britain television scholarship.

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