Jacqueline Najuma Stewart
Professor, Department of Cinema and Media Studies and the College
University of Chicago

Jacqueline Stewart’s research and teaching explore African American film cultures from the origins of the medium to the present, as well as the archiving and preservation of moving images, and “orphan” media histories, including nontheatrical, amateur, and activist film and video. She directs the South Side Home Movie Project and is co-curator of the L.A. Rebellion Preservation Project at the UCLA Film and Television Archive. She also serves as an appointee to the National Film Preservation Board. She is currently researching the racial politics of moving image preservation and is also completing a study of the life and work of African American actor/writer/director Spencer Williams.

Stewart is the author of Migrating to the Movies: Cinema and Black Urban Modernity, which has achieved recognition from the Society for Cinema and Media Studies and the Black Caucus of the American Library Association. She participated in the Public Voices Thought Leadership Fellowship Program, offered by Northwestern University, and the OpEd Project. She has also been awarded fellowships from the Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies at Princeton University, and the New York Public Library’s Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture Scholars-in-Residence Program.

Stewart earned her AM and PhD in English from the University of Chicago and an AB in English with interdisciplinary emphasis from Stanford University.

David Drazin
Chicago-based pianist and composer David Drazin is a music and motion picture archivist who has acquired a national reputation for his piano improvisations accompanying silent films. Among silent movie screenings for which he has performed are Cinevent Film Festival in Columbus, Ohio, the Gene Siskel Film Center of the School of the Art Institute in Chicago, Silent Film Society of Chicago, Argonne National Laboratory, LaSalle Bank Theatre, North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh, the Cleveland Museum of Art and the Cleveland Cinematheque as well as at many universities, libraries and churches. Drazin is notable among contemporary accompanists for playing 1920s-era hot jazz and blues, rather than classic ragtime, to enhance silent comedies.

With thanks to Mike Mashon, Head of the Moving Image Section of the Library of Congress.
program

Introduction and discussion
Jacqueline Najuma Stewart

Piano accompaniment
David Drazin

entée

Colored Troops Disembarking (William Paley, Edison, May 1898, 1 min.)

part 1

A Hard Wash (Biograph Co., 1896)
The Gold Dust Twins (G. W. Bitzer, American Mutoscope & Biograph Co., 1903)
On the Old Plantation AKA Cotton Spinning (Arthur Marvin, AM&B, May 1901)
Laughing Ben (Arthur Marvin, AM&B, May 1901)
Gator and Pickaninny (Marvin, AM&B, Aug 1901)
Dancing Darkey Boy (William Heise, Edison, Oct 1897)
A Scrap in Black and White (A. C. Abadie, Edison, 1903)
Cake Walk (AM&B, 1903)
Comedy Cake Walk (AM&B, 1903)
Watermelon Contest (James White, Edison, June 1900)

part 2

This reel is made up of films ‘taken on the midwinter cruise of the S. S. “Prinzessin Victoria Luise” of the Hamburg-American Line’

Native Women Coaling a Ship and Scrambling for Money [West Indies] (Edison, Apr 1903)
Native Women Coaling a Ship at St. Thomas (Edison, Apr 1903)
Native Women Washing a Negro Baby (Edison, Apr 1903)
Native Women Washing Clothes at St. Vincent (Edison, Apr 1903)
West Indian Boys Diving for Money (Edison, Apr 1903)
West Indian Girls in Native Dance (Edison, Apr 1903)
Wharf Scenes and Natives Swimming (Edison, Apr 1903)

part 3

A Kiss in the Dark (A. E. Weed, American Mutoscope & Biograph Co., Jan 1904, 45 sec.)
What Happened in the Tunnel (Edwin S. Porter, Edison, Nov 1903, 53 sec.)
Mixed Babies (Wallace McCutcheon, AM&B, Jun 1908, 8 min.)
Nellie, The Beautiful Housemaid (Vitagraph, 1908, 1 min. 26 sec.)
A Bucket of Cream Ale (A.E. Weed, American Mutoscope & Biograph Co., Feb 1904)

part 4

A Nigger in the Woodpile (A. E. Weed, American Mutoscope & Biograph Co., 1904, 4 min.)
A Close Call (A.E. Weed, 1912, 9 min.)
Uncle Tom’s Cabin (Edwin S. Porter, 1903, 19 min.)

outro

Jack Johnson v. Jim Flynn for the Heavyweight Championship of the World (Jack Curley, 1912, 21 min.)