

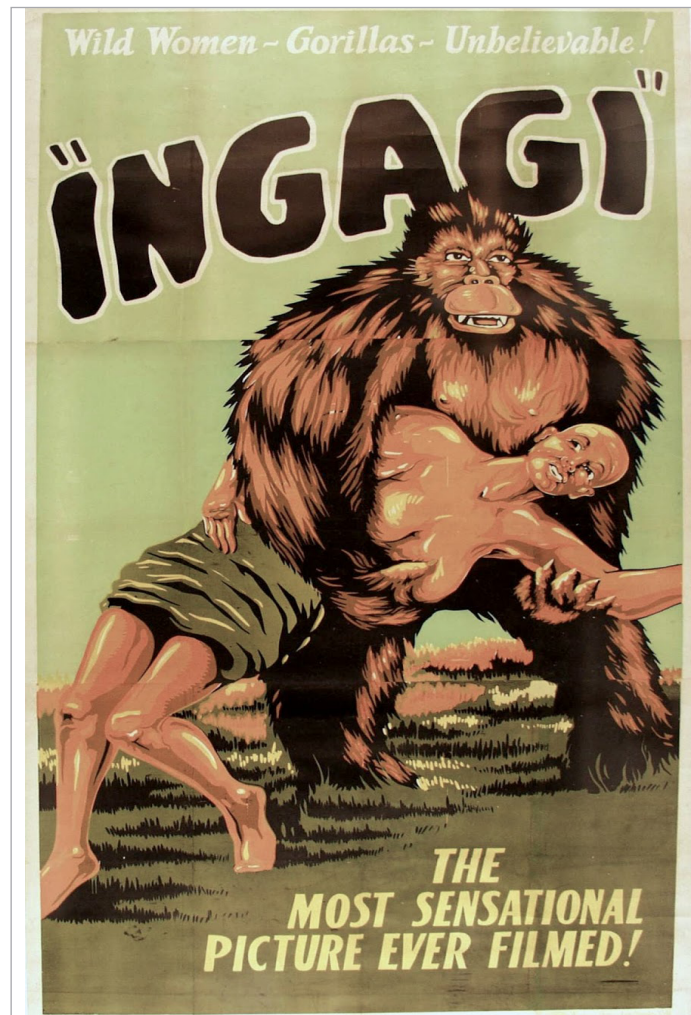
# JUNGLE QUEST:

## Dehumanization, Black Womanhood, and Adventure Films



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### BACKGROUND:

Released on March 15, 1930, *Ingagi* lead audiences on a safari into the “dark continent” of Africa. Produced by Congo Pictures, *Ingagi* contended tribes of “Africans” sacrificed women to giant gorillas, who gave birth to half-human apes. The film is apart of a long tradition of “racial adventure films” such as *The Blonde Captive* (1931), *Tarzan, the Ape Man* (1932), and most famously, *King Kong* (1933). Central to these films is the threat of miscegenation, or, racial mixing. African-American newspapers like *The Pittsburgh Courier*, *The Chicago Defender*, and *The Louisville Leader* reported outrage over the film. In July of 1930, a council of three prominent African-American men attended a screening of *Ingagi* at the Walnut Theatre: J. A. Thomas, I. Willis Cole, and Joseph R. Ray. The men returned disgusted and determined to have the film banned by Mayor William B. Harrison. While the ban didn’t last, it revealed how African-Americans pushed back against dehumanizing, stereotypical representations in the early twentieth century.



### RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

- What is the role of African women in “racial adventure” films?
- How did the African-American community of Louisville come together to ban a dehumanizing film?

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### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

We would like to thank Dr. Tyler Fleming from Pan-African Studies for his guidance. We would also like to thank the University of Louisville. We are proud to be apart of the first cohort awarded grant money under the Early Undergraduate Research & Creative Activities Initiative.