



Sidney Poitier: Man, Actor, Icon

By Aram Goudsouzian

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Sidney Poitier: Man, Actor, Icon By Aram Goudsouzian

In the first full biography of actor Sidney Poitier, Aram Goudsouzian analyzes the life and career of a Hollywood legend, from his childhood in the Bahamas to his 2002 Oscar for lifetime achievement. Poitier is a gifted actor, a great American success story, an intriguing personality, and a political symbol; his life and career illuminate America's racial history.

In such films as *Lilies of the Field*, *In the Heat of the Night*, and *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, Poitier's middle-class, mannered, virtuous screen persona contradicted prevailing film stereotypes of blacks as half-wits, comic servants, or oversexed threats. His screen image and public support of nonviolent integration assuaged the fears of a broad political center, and by 1968, Poitier was voted America's favorite movie star.

Through careful readings of every Poitier film, Goudsouzian shows that Poitier's characters often made sacrifices for the good of whites and rarely displayed sexuality. As the only black leading man during the civil rights era, Poitier chose roles and public positions that negotiated the struggle for dignity. By 1970, times had changed and Poitier was the target of a backlash from film critics and black radicals, as the new heroes of "blaxploitation" movies reversed the Poitier model.

In the 1970s, Poitier shifted his considerable talents toward directing, starring in, and producing popular movies that employed many African Americans, both on and off screen. After a long hiatus, he returned to starring roles in the late 1980s. More recently, the film industry has reappraised his career, and Poitier has received numerous honors recognizing his multi-faceted work for black equality in Hollywood. As this biography affirms, Poitier remains one of American popular culture's foremost symbols of the possibilities for and limits of racial equality.

 [Download Sidney Poitier: Man, Actor, Icon ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Sidney Poitier: Man, Actor, Icon ...pdf](#)

Sidney Poitier: Man, Actor, Icon

By Aram Goudsouzian

Sidney Poitier: Man, Actor, Icon By Aram Goudsouzian

In the first full biography of actor Sidney Poitier, Aram Goudsouzian analyzes the life and career of a Hollywood legend, from his childhood in the Bahamas to his 2002 Oscar for lifetime achievement. Poitier is a gifted actor, a great American success story, an intriguing personality, and a political symbol; his life and career illuminate America's racial history.

In such films as *Lilies of the Field*, *In the Heat of the Night*, and *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, Poitier's middle-class, mannered, virtuous screen persona contradicted prevailing film stereotypes of blacks as half-wits, comic servants, or oversexed threats. His screen image and public support of nonviolent integration assuaged the fears of a broad political center, and by 1968, Poitier was voted America's favorite movie star.

Through careful readings of every Poitier film, Goudsouzian shows that Poitier's characters often made sacrifices for the good of whites and rarely displayed sexuality. As the only black leading man during the civil rights era, Poitier chose roles and public positions that negotiated the struggle for dignity. By 1970, times had changed and Poitier was the target of a backlash from film critics and black radicals, as the new heroes of "blaxploitation" movies reversed the Poitier model.

In the 1970s, Poitier shifted his considerable talents toward directing, starring in, and producing popular movies that employed many African Americans, both on and off screen. After a long hiatus, he returned to starring roles in the late 1980s. More recently, the film industry has reappraised his career, and Poitier has received numerous honors recognizing his multi-faceted work for black equality in Hollywood. As this biography affirms, Poitier remains one of American popular culture's foremost symbols of the possibilities for and limits of racial equality.

Sidney Poitier: Man, Actor, Icon By Aram Goudsouzian Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1816237 in Books
- Brand: Brand: The University of North Carolina Press
- Published on: 2004-03-29
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 1.42" h x 6.38" w x 9.60" l, 1.92 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 496 pages

 [Download Sidney Poitier: Man, Actor, Icon ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Sidney Poitier: Man, Actor, Icon ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Sidney Poitier: Man, Actor, Icon By Aram Goudsouzian

Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Poitier has been revered as the first black superstar and criticized for his saintly, sexless and sentimentalized screen image. In this intriguing biography, Goudsouzian, a Hamilton College history professor, thoughtfully depicts the actor's efforts to handle both praise and damnation. Poitier's is a rags-to-riches story: working as a butcher's assistant and construction worker, he learned to speak properly by listening to radio news reporters. Goudsouzian astutely notes that Poitier's dynamic performance in Joseph Mankiewicz's *No Way Out* was compromised by studio insistence that his mannerisms never suggest the "slightest animal urge." The true, full-blooded Poitier burst forth in 1955's *The Blackboard Jungle*, and he won a 1963 Best Actor Oscar for *Lilies of the Field*. But details of Poitier's triumphs never soften the book's hard-hitting, political tone. One memorable passage tells of Poitier's efforts to secure a hotel room in 1956 in Nairobi. He was turned away until the hotel manager discovered Poitier's *Something of Value* salary was \$30,000 and commented, "anyone who makes thirty thousand dollars for three months work is not black." Goudsouzian covers Poitier's romances with model/dancer Juanita Hardy, actress/singers Diahann Carroll and Eartha Kitt and actress Joanna Shimkus. Goudsouzian understands the dynamics behind Poitier's pictures, and carefully analyzes *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, *A Patch of Blue* and *To Sir, with Love*. Intense anecdotes highlighting Poitier's temper, occasional womanizing and insecurities keep him from appearing as a distant icon. The story loses steam in its final passages, but ends on a high note when Poitier admits, "I set out to prove to myself that I was capable of moving a mountain."

Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist

Starred Review Lots of celebrity bios are cranked out every year, but few are written with the serious scholarly intent of Goudsouzian's study of actor, director, and role model Poitier. Borrowing a page from many great literary biographers of the past half century (Deirdre Bair, Peter Ackroyd, Michael Holroyd), Goudsouzian chronicles Poitier's time and places him within it. Poitier's career alone makes fascinating reading. The son of a poor farmer eking out a living on Cat Island in the Bahamas, Poitier survived to thrive first in theater and then the movies, rising from early roles with the Harlem-based American Negro Theatre and in films like *Blackboard Jungle* to become one of the best known African American actors. But this book is no hagiography. Goudsouzian recounts the controversies Poitier became enmeshed in, from Clare Luce Booth's attempts to remove *Blackboard Jungle* from the Venice Film Festival because it reflected poorly on America to boycotts of Poitier's films in the South to backlash against him in the late 1960s and early 1970s as radical black leaders accused him of playing to the status quo by portraying characters who--dignified, stoical, but sexless--were least threatening to the dominant white culture. Goudsouzian's willingness to consider all aspects of Poitier's life and image accounts for why this biography reads like a well-written, highly addictive novel. *Jack Helbig*

Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Review

"The book illuminates . . . Poitier's impact on film and culture. . . . A well-written, invaluable resource for devotees of film and social history." -- *Black Issues Book Review, September-October 2004*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Michael Davis:

The book with title Sidney Poitier: Man, Actor, Icon has lot of information that you can find out it. You can get a lot of profit after read this book. This specific book exist new understanding the information that exist in this guide represented the condition of the world currently. That is important to you to understand how the improvement of the world. This book will bring you within new era of the global growth. You can read the e-book on your smart phone, so you can read the idea anywhere you want.

Arthur McLaurin:

Reading can be called head hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book mainly book entitled Sidney Poitier: Man, Actor, Icon the mind will drift away through every dimension, wandering in every aspect that maybe unknown for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging each and every word written in a book then become one web form conclusion and explanation in which maybe you never get just before. The Sidney Poitier: Man, Actor, Icon giving you a different experience more than blown away your head but also giving you useful details for your better life in this particular era. So now let us present to you the relaxing pattern in your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished reading through it, like winning a casino game. Do you want to try this extraordinary spending spare time activity?

Rigoberto Adams:

What is your hobby? Have you heard in which question when you got pupils? We believe that that problem was given by teacher with their students. Many kinds of hobby, Every individual has different hobby. And you know that little person such as reading or as studying become their hobby. You must know that reading is very important and also book as to be the point. Book is important thing to include you knowledge, except your own teacher or lecturer. You will find good news or update regarding something by book. Many kinds of books that can you choose to use be your object. One of them is actually Sidney Poitier: Man, Actor, Icon.

David Baker:

Reading a book make you to get more knowledge from it. You can take knowledge and information coming from a book. Book is prepared or printed or outlined from each source that will filled update of news. Within this modern era like currently, many ways to get information are available for a person. From media social like newspaper, magazines, science guide, encyclopedia, reference book, story and comic. You can add your knowledge by that book. Are you hip to spend your spare time to open your book? Or just seeking the Sidney Poitier: Man, Actor, Icon when you necessary it?

**Download and Read Online Sidney Poitier: Man, Actor, Icon By
Aram Goudsouzian #ND01W4YLRAU**

Read Sidney Poitier: Man, Actor, Icon By Aram Goudsouzian for online ebook

Sidney Poitier: Man, Actor, Icon By Aram Goudsouzian Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Sidney Poitier: Man, Actor, Icon By Aram Goudsouzian books to read online.

Online Sidney Poitier: Man, Actor, Icon By Aram Goudsouzian ebook PDF download

Sidney Poitier: Man, Actor, Icon By Aram Goudsouzian Doc

Sidney Poitier: Man, Actor, Icon By Aram Goudsouzian MobiPocket

Sidney Poitier: Man, Actor, Icon By Aram Goudsouzian EPub

ND01W4YLRAU: Sidney Poitier: Man, Actor, Icon By Aram Goudsouzian