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| Micheaux, Oscar (1884-1951) |
| **[Enter any *variant forms* of your headword – OPTIONAL]** |
| Oscar Micheaux, generally regarded as the first black feature film director, was an African-American writer, director, and author of seven novels and more than forty films. Often associated with the spirit of uplift that would become prevalent during the Harlem Renaissance, Micheaux’s work was independently envisioned and yet addressed broader black audiences.  In 1917, following the release of Micheaux’s third novel, *The Homesteader*, the Lincoln Motion Picture Company (an early black film company) attempted to purchase the rights to turn Micheaux’s novel into a film. However, Micheaux insisted on creative control and turned down the offer, opting to found his own film studio in 1918 called the Micheaux Film and Book Company. Micheaux’s second film, *Within Our Gates* (1920), is considered his most important and is often seen as a response to D. W. Griffith’s *The Birth of a Nation* (1915). |
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| Further reading:  (Bowser, Gaines and Musser)  (Green) |