

'Gone With the Wind' and the damaging effect of Hollywood racism

HBO temporarily pulled "Gone With the Wind" from its recently launched HBO Max lineup, saying in a statement that the civil war epic is not gone forever but that it will return with new material added for the purpose of providing context and addressing the film's historical shortcomings.

Removing those things that honor and celebrate racists is not erasing history. Instead this is holding history accountable, while providing necessary context.

Films like "Gone With the Wind" should have been held accountable a long time ago. Further, Hollywood's role in **disseminating** such demeaning, dehumanized, stereotypical images can no longer be ignored.

disseminate 宣传; 传播

"Gone With the Wind" is a descendant of DW Griffith's "The Birth of a Nation" from 1915, the foundation that American cinema is built upon. It was celebrated for its technological mastery of visual storytelling, yet its narrative is nothing more than racist propaganda, which introduced the image of the violent, threatening black male beast and the menacing black thug.

With this in mind, when we consider the role that streaming plays in the contemporary media landscape, perhaps it is time for a rating system when it comes to older movies such as "Gone With the Wind"? What if a movie like this is granted an "O" rating — "O" for offensive — when the film in question is steeped in the kind of racism that "Gone With the Wind" projects?

This way no one could say that the film had been banned, but anyone who chose to watch it would at least potentially have to **contemplate** what it means to consume such inherently racist material.

contemplate 沉思; 注视