

## The Representation of African Americans in Steven Spielberg's 'Amistad'



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***(Dorothy Daugherty)***

## THE REPRESENTATION OF AFRICAN AMERICANS IN STEVEN SPIELBERG'S 'AMISTAD'

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GRIN Verlag Feb 2010, 2010. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 210x148x2 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Seminar paper from the year 2004 in the subject American Studies - Culture and Applied Geography, grade: 1,3, Ruhr-University of Bochum (Englisches Seminar), course: Playing in the Dark, language: English, abstract: In this research paper I deal with the representation of the African Americans in Spielberg s film Amistad, that has bee issued in 1997. I chose this film because it deals with a very important case in American and African American history. The verdict of the Supreme Court had a great impact on the abolitionist movement and therefore on American history. Although the trial was not on the issue of slavery but of cargo, in the head of the people it soon became the issue of slavery, slaves and abolition of slavery. The Amistad case did not only become known in the near vicinity of the New Haven jail where the Africans were being held in prison. The news of the captured Amistad Africans spread like fire and U.S. newspapers same as international newspapers featured them on the title pages. In the following chapters I will go deeper into the general representation of the Africans in the film, the preparations to the film Amistad, and the differences between the film and actual history. Doing that, I will also compare the representation of the slaves, respectively the Africans, in Amistad to the representation of the slaves in Birth of a Nation. I will add this issue in different chapters when I think it is appropriate, and in one chapter I will specifically deal with the main differences. Natalie Davis calls Amistad a feature film because those kind of films are often described as inventory and with no...



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