

Basic Detail Report

Vonetta McGee on an unspecified film set

Date

1969-1979

Medium

gelatin silver print

Description

Vonetta McGee was an American actress. McGee was in a live-in relationship with Max Julien during the early-to-mid 1970s. In 1987, McGee married actor Carl Lumbly. Thereafter came the string of blaxploitation pictures which made her famous: Blacula, The Big Bust-Out (both 1972) and Shaft in Africa (1973). In essence, these were genre pictures that starred black actors instead of white ones. They proved immensely popular with audiences, but tended to be disdained or ignored by mainstream film critics. Vonetta disliked the "blaxploitation" label: she was proud of the black part, proud of the strong, take-charge characters she had played in the films, but did not consider them exploitative in any way. She was a smart woman, who saw no difference between these and other popular entertainment's, whatever the colour of the stars.

Dimensions

Overall: 30.5 x 24.8 cm (12 x 9 6/8 in.)