Record Nr. UNINA9910453143003321 Autore Fenner Angelica Titolo Race under reconstruction in German cinema: Robert Stemmle's Toxi / / Angelica Fenner Pubbl/distr/stampa Toronto, [Canada];; Buffalo, [New York];; London, [England]:,: University of Toronto Press, , 2011 ©2011 **ISBN** 1-4426-6187-9 1-4426-7017-7 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (294 p.) Collana German and European Studies Disciplina 791.43/72 Soggetti Race in motion pictures Black people in motion pictures Race relations in motion pictures Electronic books. Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- 1. A Changing Postwar Landscape -- 2. Toxi's Allegorical Narrative: Adjoining Reality and Fantasy -- 3. Genealogy, Geography, and the Search for Origins -- 4. 'Black' Market Goods, White Consumer Culture -- 5. The Reterritorialization of Enjoyment in the Adenauer Era -- 6. Intertextual Echoes -- Conclusion -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index Sommario/riassunto Race Under Reconstruction in German Cinema investigates postwar racial formations via a pivotal West German film by one of the most popular and prolific directors of the era. The release of Robert Stemmle's Toxi (1952) coincided with the enrolment in West German schools of the first five hundred Afro-German children fathered by African-American occupation soldiers. The didactic plot traces the ideological conflicts that arise among members of a patrician family when they encounter an Afro-German child seeking adoption, herein

broaching issues of integration at a time when the American civil rights

resistance. Perceptions of 'Blackness' in Toxi demonstrate continuities

movement was gaining momentum and encountering violent

with those prevailing in Wilhelmine Germany, but also signal the influence of American social science discourse and tropes originating in icons of American popular culture, such as Uncle Tom's Cabin, Birth of a Nation, and several Shirley Temple films. By applying a Cultural Studies approach to individual film sequences, publicity photos, and press reviews, Angelica Fenner relates West German discourses around race and integration to emerging economic and political anxieties, class antagonism, and the reinstatement of conventional gender roles. The film Toxi is now available on DVD from the DEFA Film Library.