1. Record Nr. UNINA9910815163803321 Autore Delson Susan Titolo Soundies and the changing image of Black Americans on screen: one dime at a time / / Susan Delson Pubbl/distr/stampa Bloomington, Indiana: ,: Indiana University Press, , [2021] ©2021 **ISBN** 0-253-05855-4 Edizione [1st ed.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (405 pages): illustrations Disciplina 791.43652996073 Soggetti African Americans in motion pictures Soundies (Motion pictures) - History and criticism Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Part I: Follow the money. Introduction: Turning on a dime; 1. Circa Nota di contenuto 1940 : race and the pop-culture landscape : 2. Risky business : 3. Starting in Hollywood, heading to Harlem -- Part II: Follow the music. 4. Going to war; 5. Encounter and improvisation: reimagining the city; 6. Rural reverb; 7. Romance, relationships, legs; 8. One performer, ten soundies: another look at Dorothy Dandridge; 9. Visual music: big bands, combos, solo musicians; 10. Backing into integration; 11. Unplugged, with an afterlife -- Part III: Following up. Appendix 1. Directory of black-cast soundies; Appendix 2. Performers and their films; Appendix 3. Makers and their films. Sommario/riassunto "In the 1940s, folks at bars and restaurants would gather around a Panoram movie machine to watch three-minute films called Soundies, precursors to today's music videos. This history was all but forgotten until the digital era brought Soundies to phones and computer screensincluding a YouTube clip starring a 102-year-old Harlem dancer watching her younger self perform in Soundies. In Soundies and the Changing Image of Black Americans on Screen: One Dime at a Time,

Susan Delson takes a deeper look at these fascinating films by focusing

highlights the women performers, like Dorothy Dandridge, who helped shape Soundies, while offering an intimate look at icons of the age, such as Duke Ellington and Nat King Cole. Using previously unknown

on the role of Black performers in this little-known genre. She

archival materials-including letters, corporate memos, and courtroom testimony-to trace the precarious path of Soundies, Delson presents an incisive pop-culture snapshot of race relations during and just after World War II. Perfect for readers interested in film, American history, and Black entertainment history, Soundies and the Changing Image of Black Americans on Screen and its companion video website (susandelson.com) bring the important contributions of these Black artists into the spotlight once again"--