Dandridge, Dorothy (1924-1965) Encyclopedia Article

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Contents

Dandridge, Dorothy (1924-1965) Encyclopedia Article.....1

Contents.....2

Dandridge, Dorothy (1924-1965).....3

Dandridge, Dorothy (1924-1965)

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, actor-singer-entertainer Dorothy Dandridge was smart, immensely talented, and alluringly beautiful. In her three-decade career in Hollywood she endured the bittersweet distinction of being the first sexy black woman film artist of the postwar period. Dandridge attempted to forge a career in Hollywood when the only roles for black women were as servants, or in brief, non-speaking cameo roles. Dandridge claimed a number of "firsts": she was the first African American woman to grace the covers of *Life* magazine; the first black woman to showcase the posh, all-white Waldorf-Astoria; and the first black woman to receive an Oscar nomination for a leading role. Dandridge's film credits include *Bright Road* (1953), *Carmen Jones* (1954), *Tamango* (1957), *Island in the Sun* (1957), *The Decks Ran Red* (1958), *Porgy and Bess* (1959) and *Malanga* (1959). Dandridge's tragedy-filled life and her mysterious death on September 8, 1965, resulted in exposés, film biographies, and a major biography.

Further Reading:

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