Contents

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS	XI
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	xv
PART ONE. MADE IN AMERICA	
1. Uncle Sammy and My Mammy	3
2. Two Declarations of Independence: The Contaminated Origins of American National Culture	19
3. Nationalism, Blackface, and the Jewish Question	45
PART TWO. THE JOLSON STORY	
4. Blackface, White Noise: The Jewish Jazz Singer Finds His Voice	73
5. Racial Masquerade and Ethnic Assimilation in the Transition to Talking Pictures	121

X CONTENTS

OF CIVIL RIGHTS	
6.	
New Deal Blackface	159
7.	
"We Could Cross These Racial Lines":	
Hollywood Discovers Civil Rights	209
8.	
Conclusion: Abington Township	251
· ·	
NOTES	269
LIST OF FILMS CITED	317
INDEX	323

PART THREE. "DEMOCRACY AND BURNT CORK":

Illustrations

1.1. Al Jolson sings "My Mammy" in The Jazz Singer	5
3.1. Jonny spielt auf poster, Nazi version	59
3.2. The Jazz Singer poster, original version	60
4.1. The Lower East Side	82
4.2. "Stop!"	84
4.3. "The Cultural Guilt of Musical Movies"	88
4.4. The blackface shadow	92
4.5. "The Jazz Singer" Souvenir Program cover	93
4.6. Jakie Rabinowitz sings ragtime	96
4.7. Kol Nidre	97
4.8. "My Mammy!"	98
4.9. The mirror image of Jack Robin	103
4.10. Melancholy in blackface	106
4.11. Jack Robin, Mary, and Sara	107
4.12. Mary above Jack	108
4.13. Sara with Jack in blackface	109
4.14. "May McAvoy teaches Jolson the art of movie makeup"	110
4.15. The blackface minstrel troupe	
5.1. Chris Buckwell seizes Dolores in Old San Francisco	120
5.2. Warner Oland as Jewish patriarch and Mongol villain	130
5.3. Dolores menaced by the yellow peril in <i>Old San Francisco</i>	132
The state of the yellow peril in Ola San Francisco	134

5.4 The Deal William 1.11 10	
5.4. The Paul Whiteman band in redface	143
5.5. Molly between Al Stone and Marcus in The Singing Fool	144
5.6. Al, Molly, and Sonny Boy in The Singing Fool	140
5.7. Al supported by Grace and the stage manager in	
The Singing Fool	149
5.8. Henry in redface in Whoopee!	152
6.1. Judge Priest with Jeff Poindexter	172
6.2. The acquittal in Judge Priest	173
6.3. Bing Crosby as Dan Emmett in Dixie	175
6.4. Al Jolson publicity photo	176
6.5. The open blackface mouth in <i>Dixie</i>	177
6.6. Al Jolson in a <i>Mammy</i> plantation production number	178
6.7. Bing Crosby celebrates Lincoln's birthday in Holiday Inn	179
6.8. Judy Garland in blackface in Babes on Broadway	180
6.9. Larry Parks as Jolson entertains the troops in	
Jolson Sings Again	181
6.10. Eddie Cantor blacking up	182
6.11. Al Jolson as E. P. Christy in Swanee River	186
6.12. Al Jolson sings "Swanee" in Rhapsody in Blue	187
6.13. Al Jolson and his black chorus in Big Boy	188
6.14. Life compares Bing Crosby in blackface to Bill Robinson	189
6.15. Larry Parks as Jolson in Jolson Sings Again watches	
Parks play Jolson in The Jolson Story	200
6.16. Parks as Jolson meets Parks as Parks in Jolson Sings Again	202
7.1. Charley's mother asks for charity in <i>Body and Soul</i>	215
7.2. Charley visits the injured Ben in Body and Soul	218
7.3. Pinky and Dicey do Miss Em's laundry in <i>Pinky</i>	222
7.4. Pinky nurses Miss Em	223
7.5. Kristallnacht in Tennessee	229
7.6. Home of the Brave's doctor injects Mossie	230
7.7. The doctor forces tears from Mossie's eyes	231
7.8. The doctor impersonates T. J. and Finch	232
7.9. The doctor gets Mossie to walk	233
7.10. Phil decides to pass as a Jew in Gentleman's Agreement	236
7.11. Phil, his mother, and his Jewish friend in Gentleman's	
Agreement	237

	ILLUSTRATIONS	XIII
7.12. James Edwards plays mammy to Llo	yd Bridges	
in Home of the Brave		240
7.13. Sidney Poitier plays mammy to Tony	y Curtis	
in The Defiant Ones		241
7.14. Pinky and her granny in <i>Pinky</i>		242
7.15. Mossie cradles Finch in Home of the	Brave	243
7.16. Mossie loses the use of his legs		244
7.17. The amputee and the healed black n	nan in <i>Home</i>	
of the Brave		245
8.1. Mossie with his best friend in Home of	f the Brave	258
8.2. Mingo comforts Mossie in Home of the	ie Brave	259