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PRESS KIT · 40TH ANNIVERSARY, 2026

Skin and Coal

A documentary by Claudine Boothe

1986 · 52 minutes · United Kingdom · Produced by Social Film and Video Ltd · Distributed by Concord Media

Logline

Two generations of Black British coal miners in Doncaster, Leeds and Nottingham tell their own story, in the only known film record of Caribbean people's presence in Britain's coal industry.

Synopsis

“Skin and Coal” is Claudine Boothe’s first independent documentary. It tells the story of two generations of coal mine workers of African and Caribbean descent, living and working in Doncaster, Leeds and Nottingham during the final years of Britain’s coal mining industry.

Through first-hand testimony from the miners and their families, the film records how Black workers moved up from the lowest-paid and most dangerous jobs to most roles underground, the conditions they worked in, and the discrimination they went on meeting outside the pits.

Filmed in 1986, “Skin and Coal” stands as the only known audio-visual record of Caribbean people’s presence in this historic British industry: a story of resistance and resilience, and a call to address the racial and labour injustices that outlived the pits.

Why this film matters

- **A unique record.** No other film documents the presence of Caribbean workers in the British coal industry. The pits it was filmed in have since closed.
- **In use in teaching and research.** The film is listed and used as educational material by the University of Nottingham and is frequently sourced by academic researchers. It is catalogued by the Black Miners Museum, the archive of Black British coal mining heritage.
- **Forty years on.** 2026 marks the film’s 40th anniversary, as interest in the history of Black British miners grows through new research, screenings and community projects.
- **The miners speak for themselves.** The film is built on first-hand testimony from the workers and their families, across two generations.

Images for publication

High-resolution files are available from press@bukimage.com. Please credit: *Still from Skin and Coal (1986) © Claudine Boothe / Social Film and Video Ltd.*



Still from Skin and Coal (1986) © Claudine Boothe / Social Film and Video Ltd



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Technical details

Title	Skin and Coal
Year	1986
Running time	52 minutes
Produced and directed by	Claudine Boothe
Production company	Social Film and Video Ltd, an independent Black production company
Country	United Kingdom
Language	English
Filmed in	Doncaster, Leeds and Nottingham
Genre	Documentary
Distribution	Concord Media — DVD, USB and video on demand (48-hour rental or purchase)
Web	bukimage.com/skin-and-coal-2/

About the director

Claudine Boothe is passionate about Africa-centred history, politics and creativity. She pioneered an academic and industrial “contextual decolonial discourse”, which promotes Africa-centric perspectives on global affairs and continues to inspire the post-George Floyd media and academic diversity ethos, particularly in Britain, where she lives.

Her graduation drama documentary *No Virginity, No Nationality* (1981), about the virginity tests carried out on South Asian women by Britain’s Home Office in the 1960s and 70s, is one of only two known audio-visual records of that practice and is available free on BFI Player. *Skin and Coal* (1986) was her first independent documentary. Her two-part television programme *The African History of Sport* (2018) is streaming on Kush Cinema, Britain’s Black edutainment platform. She has also made several hours of current affairs programmes for Channel Four. Her independent films include *No Virginity, No Nationality*, *Skin and Coal*, *Lessons from Nairobi* and the *African History of Sport* series.

Where to watch and how to license

Individual copies and streaming

Concord Media: DVD, USB, 48-hour online rental or purchase.

concordmedia.org.uk/products/skin-and-coal-628/

Screenings, broadcast and education

Public screenings, broadcast, institutional licences, conference and classroom use, and interviews with the director: projects@bukimage.com. A study guide for schools and universities is available at bukimage.com/education/.

Press enquiries

Interviews, screeners, stills and further information:

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About Best UK Images Production Ltd

Best UK Images Production Ltd is a London-based film and television production company founded by filmmakers Claudine Boothe and Steve Sklair. It develops and produces original documentary series and feature films, with a special focus on African heritage, Black history, sport, music and the cultural questions that shape the modern world. Finished work available now includes *No Virginity, No Nationality* (BFI Player), *Skin and Coal* (Concord Media) and *The African History of Sport* (Kush Cinema). The company is a member of PACT, the Producers' Alliance for Cinema and Television.

Press kit issued September 2026 for the 40th anniversary of *Skin and Coal*. Text and images may be reproduced for editorial coverage of the film with the credits shown.



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