



Harlem in Havana Project

A multimedia documentary work by artist
and filmmaker **Leslie Cunningham**

harleminhavana.com

Harlem in Havana Project

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About

Embark on a riveting journey through time with [The Harlem in Havana Project](https://harleminhavana.com), a compelling multimedia documentary work by artist and filmmaker **Leslie Cunningham** that pays homage to one of America's most triumphant traveling girl shows that significantly impacted American entertainment in the 1940s, 50s and 60s.



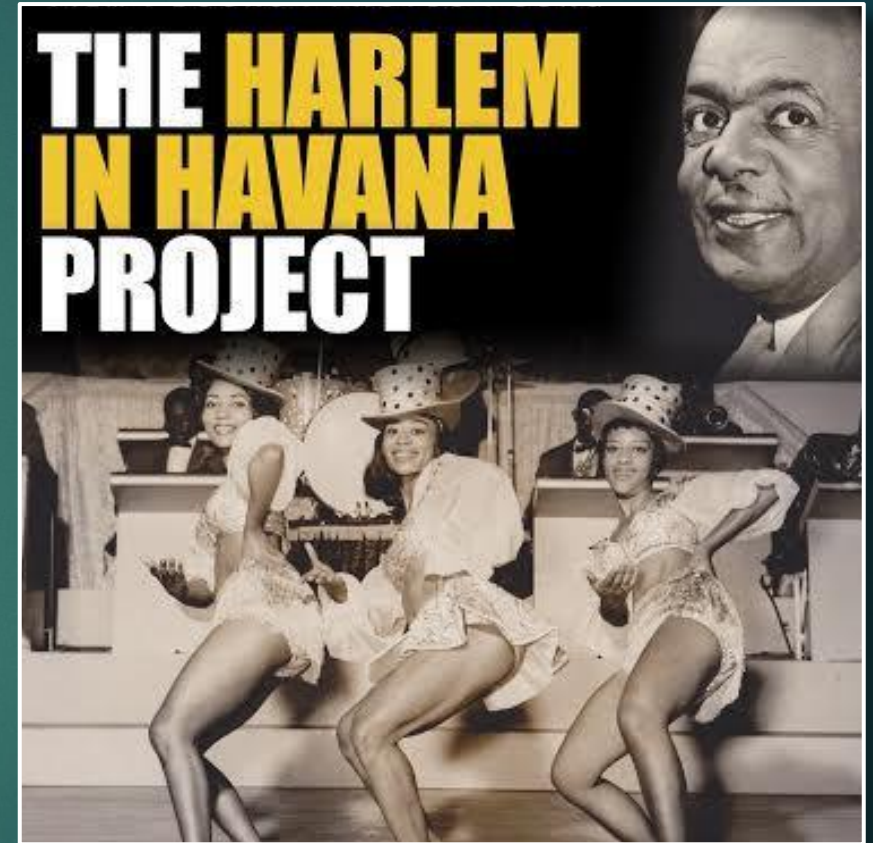
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About

This expansive documentary work delves into the untold story of producer [Leon Claxton](#), a courageous African American showman, and one of the father's of modern American entertainment, who, against the backdrop of the oppressive Jim Crow era, pioneered a spectacular fusion of Black and Cuban entertainment that still resonates with wonder today.



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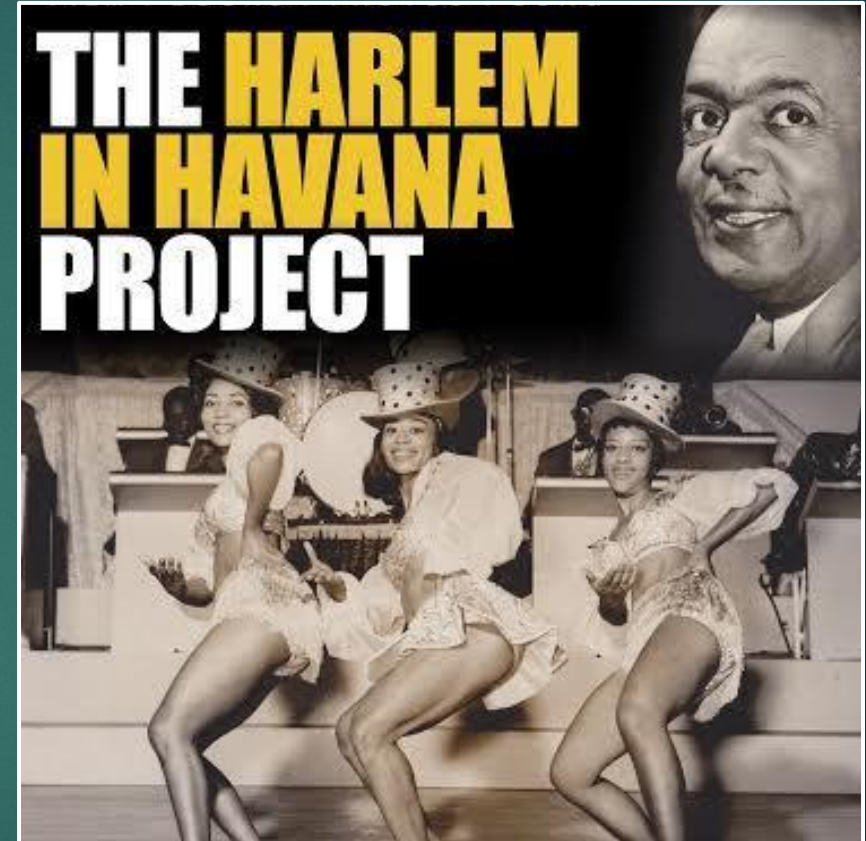
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About

The multimedia documentary work includes:

- ▶ Documentary film
- ▶ Burlesque Education Series
- ▶ Live Events
- ▶ Photography Books
- ▶ Poem
- ▶ Digital Collector's Magazine
- ▶ Music Playlist
- ▶ Website Home: harleminhavana.com



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About

[Leslie Cunningham](#), a Durham-based storyteller and the creative force behind TRIBES Entertainment. A graduate of the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University, Leslie's passion for storytelling extends to the silver screen. Her engaging documentary films have graced public television, online platforms, and film festivals across the U.S. and beyond. [Learn more.](#)





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Documentary Film

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JIG SHOW | Leon Claxton's Harlem in Havana by filmmaker Leslie Cunningham.

Brown-skin showgirls, whites-only audiences, and the brave African American showman who pioneered Black entertainment during the era of Jim Crow. (1hr:43min | 2023). Visit jigshow.com.



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Books

[Brown Skin Showgirls, Vol 1](#) is a captivating black-and-white photographic collection showcasing Black and Cuban women who redefined entertainment through burlesque, exotic dance, and more in Leon Claxton's Harlem in Havana Revue. Explore the profound impact of these performers on American popular culture.

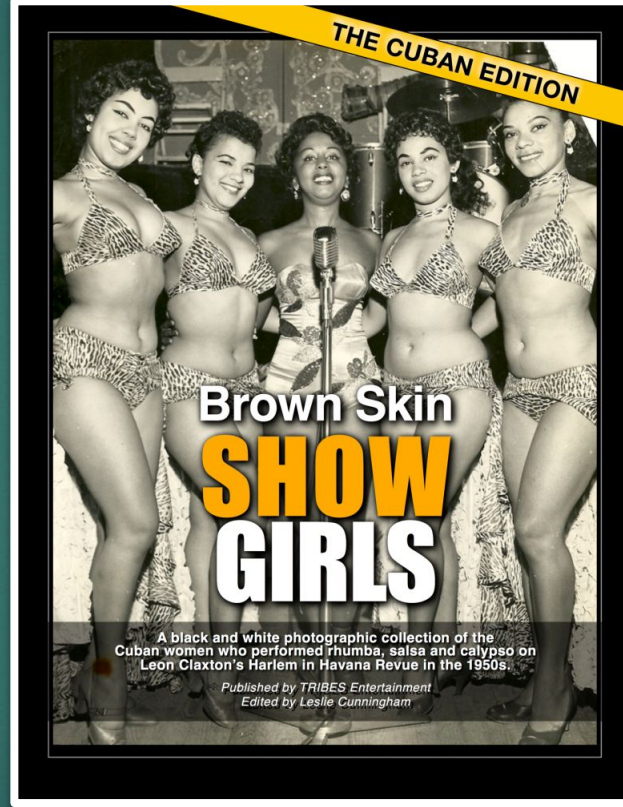
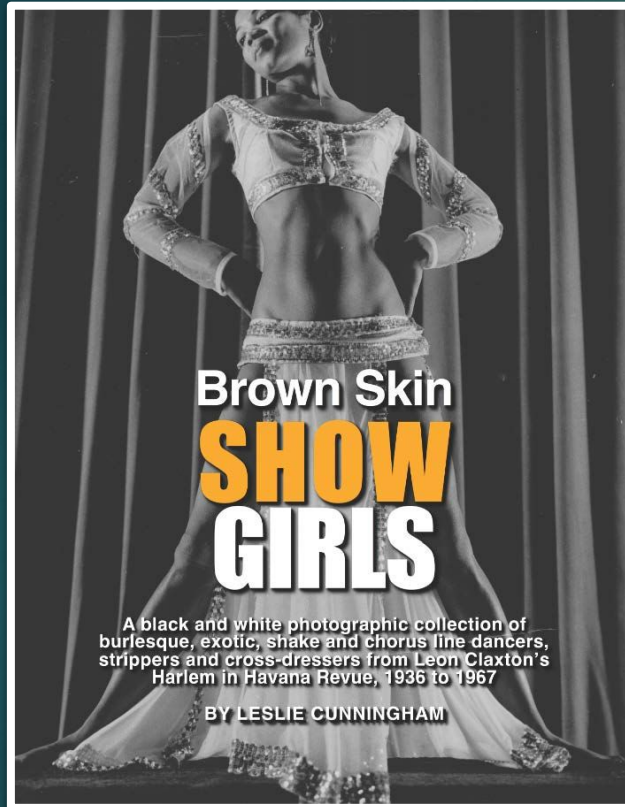
[Learn more.](#)



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Books

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Burlesque Education Series

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Join us for an exploration of American burlesque history, specifically from the traveling carnival stage. Class include:

- ▶ [My Grandma Was an Exotic Dancer?!](#)
- ▶ [Girl Shows!](#)





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Brown Skin Showgirls Live Events

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Brown Skin Showgirls is an electrifying weekend filled with spectacular shows, photography exhibits, riveting films, and a deep dive into Black Burlesque history. This is a collaboration between Harlem in Havana, The Atlanta School of Burlesque, and Black Burlesque Atlanta. [Learn more.](#)



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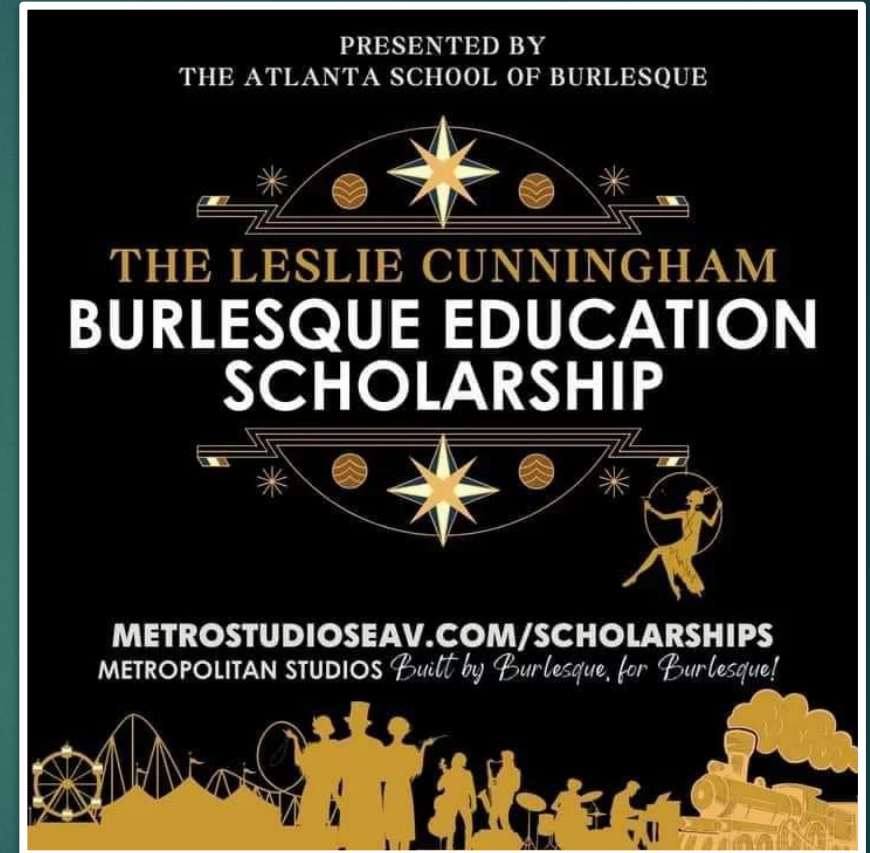
Education Scholarship

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[The Atlanta School of Burlesque: Leslie Cunningham Burlesque Education Scholarship](#)

The Atlanta School of Burlesque: Leslie Cunningham Burlesque Education Scholarship will directly impact the lives of talented Black burlesque dancers by providing them with the tools and resources they need to flourish.

[Learn more.](#)





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Contact

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- Learn: Harlem in Havana Project at harleminhavana.com.
- Watch: JIG SHOW documentary film at jigshow.com.
- Email: Leslie Cunningham at info@harleminhavana.com or lesliecunninghamfilms@gmail.com.

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