

INDIECOLLECT

Horace Jenkins' long-lost movie, *CANE RIVER*, to be seen for first time in 35 years.



A Long-Lost Gem

When the IFP showcased *CANE RIVER* in the fall of 1983, it was already an orphan. Director Horace Jenkins had died of a sudden heart attack just a few months before. This extraordinary movie – a labor of love and a film of great artistry – would lie abandoned in the DuArt vault for the next 35 years.

[Bring CANE RIVER to the Big Screen at Last!](#)

Horace Jenkins was a man of passion and vision. He made a fantastic movie but never got to see it released. You can right this wrong. We'd like to give Horace Jenkins the credit he richly deserves.

Ebert Foundation, Amistad Research Center, and Academy Film Archive

In 2017, Chaz Ebert championed the revival of this long-lost film by providing IndieCollect with a grant from the Roger & Chaz Ebert Foundation to scan the original 16mm film negative and the 35mm blow-up elements.

In 2018, the Amistad Research Center made a \$1,000 donation in partial support of sound capture & synchronization costs.

The Academy Film Archive made a new 35mm preservation print, which we scanned as an editorial and color reference.

IndieCollect's Restoration to Premiere at New Orleans Film Festival

IndieCollect is undertaking a restoration of the original 16mm version, which includes the complete musical numbers, and of the shorter 35mm version that will be released in theaters. Color correction for both will be in the painterly hands of African-American colorist Bill Stokes, who has worked with Barbara Kopple and other distinguished filmmakers.

[Another \\$24,000](#) is needed to complete this 2-part restoration and bring this wonderful movie back to life. With your support, it will premiere at the New Orleans Film Festival in October 2018, and then be released in a major New York City theater with a national roll-out to follow.

The *CANE RIVER* Story

Set in a "free community of color" that was established in Louisiana before the Civil War, Jenkins tells the story of a high-born son of Cane River who has come home from New York to fight for his land. He falls in love with a local beauty of much darker complexion. The color and class distinctions are not lost on either family, and both oppose the union.

With deft wit and a sure hand, Jenkins coaxes charming performances from his charismatic leads, Richard Romaine and Tommye Myrick. Myrick is convincing as a young woman caught between the man she loves and her family's disapproval. But neither is she ready to sacrifice independence for marriage.



This brew makes for a complex, modern and highly entertaining movie, proving that Jenkins was not only a talented writer/director but also a social commentator ahead of his time. The surprise ending is one of the film's many delights.

For more information about this historic community in Louisiana, read [The Forgotten People: Cane River's Creoles of Color](#).

The *CANE RIVER* Soundtrack

One can't make a movie in Louisiana without great music! Horace Jenkins secured the cooperation of local musicians, several of whom created original ballads for the movie. A separate vinyl soundtrack album was issued at the time.



A Glimpse of *CANE RIVER*

You can see a bit of the film's dynamic cinematography as you watch Richard Romaine dash on horseback across the Cane River landscape.



Rare interview with Horace Jenkins

On the eve of *CANE RIVER*'s 1982 New Orleans cast & crew screening, Jenkins was interviewed by Louisiana Public Television.



Please Make a Tax-Deductible Contribution to Restore *CANE RIVER*

We urgently need to raise \$24,000 to complete the restoration in time. Please help bring this film back to life. [All contributions are 100% tax-deductible!](#) Any amount will help. [CLICK HERE TO DONATE TODAY](#)

Donor Benefits

- Donors who contribute \$5,000 or more will be featured in on-screen presentation credits at the opening of the film and in the publicity materials, and will be invited to donor receptions at the New Orleans & New York premieres.
- Donors who contribute from \$1,000 to \$4,999 will be thanked in the on-screen end credits.
- All donors will be acknowledged on the IndieCollect website, and will receive certain memorabilia created for the film's release.



New York Times Coverage of Horace Jenkins & *CANE RIVER*

New York Times journalist John Anderson has followed the *CANE RIVER* story since 2014, when The Academy Film Archive agreed to provide a home for the original film elements and when curator Ed Carter began to investigate its origins:

- [The Movie Crypt at the Top of the Stairs](#) Aug. 20, 2014
- [This Movie Was Nearly Lost. Now They're Fighting to Save It.](#) Sept. 23, 2016

As documented in his New York Times [obituary](#) from December 1982, Horace Jenkins won four Emmy Awards and the Oscar Micheaux Award, and co-developed the ground-breaking PBS series, "Black Journal."

CANE RIVER is not only beautiful and entertaining, it is a really important film made by a man who could have gone on to make many more -- if only he'd had the chance.

Thank you so much for supporting this IndieCollect restoration!

Sandra Schulberg & the IndieCollect Team
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