

INDIECOLLECT



Long-Lost *CANE RIVER* Commands the Screen 36 Years After the Tragic Death of Director Horace Jenkins

NEW 4K RESTORATION PREMIERES

Oct. 22 at New Orleans Film Festival

Oct. 25 at National Museum of African American History & Culture



New York, October 16, 2018 – After 36 years, *Cane River*, the 1982 movie written and directed by Horace Jenkins will be welcomed home by the **New Orleans Film Festival**. The Festival is hosting a Special Event screening of IndieCollect's new 4K restoration on **Monday, October 22 at 7:45pm**, at the **Contemporary Arts Center**. VIP guests include the three lead actors, Tommy Myrick, Richard Romain, and Barbara Tasker; crew members Joan Rhodes, Kathleen Rhodes Astorga, Debra Moore and others; heirs Sacha and Dominique Jenkins; restoration producer Sandra Schulberg; and Chaz Ebert. Tickets available [here](#).



On **Thursday, October 25 at 12:30pm**, the film screens in the **Oprah Winfrey Theater of the National Museum of African American History and Culture**, as part of the first **Smithsonian African American Film Festival**.

Ticket available [here](#).

The source material for the 4K restoration is a new 35mm print struck by the **Academy Film Archive**. Support for IndieCollect's digital restoration was provided by the **Ford Foundation**, **Roger & Chaz Ebert Foundation**, and the **Amistad Research Center at Tulane University**.

A Landmark of African American Cinema – Lost for 30+ Years

This story starts with the death of Horace Jenkins, reported December 7, 1982, in The New York Times:

Horace B. Jenkins, an award-winning film maker, died Friday in St. Luke's Hospital in Manhattan, where he had been admitted two days earlier, following a heart attack. He was 42 years old and lived in Manhattan. Mr. Jenkins won Emmy awards for his productions of segments of "The Advocates," "Sesame Street" and "30 Minutes," a youth version of "60 Minutes." And for "Sudan Pyramids: A Zandi's Dream," a documentary on public television, he won the 1978 Oscar Micheaux Award for best film and best documentary. As a producer who helped to develop the public-television series "Black Journal," Mr. Jenkins was one of those credited with creating the magazine format now widely used on television. The premiere of his newest work, a feature film, "Cane River," a love story filmed in rural Louisiana, has been scheduled for its New York premiere next February...

Although co-producer Carol Balthazar screened the film at the IFP Market in 1983, the film would never be theatrically released and would lie, still-born, in the vaults of DuArt's film laboratory for the next three decades.

In 2013, the IndieCollect team and curators from the Academy Film Archive found the original picture and sound elements there and moved them to the Academy Film Archive for safekeeping.

The Academy Film Archive Unravels the Story, Followed by The New York Times

The orphaned film piqued the curiosity of Academy Film Archive Curator Ed Carter. A breakthrough came when he identified the film's director and then located the film's original editor, Debra Moore, in Los Angeles. Reporter John Anderson picked up the thread, writing the first of two articles for The New York Times: [The Movie Crypt at the Top of the Stairs](#)

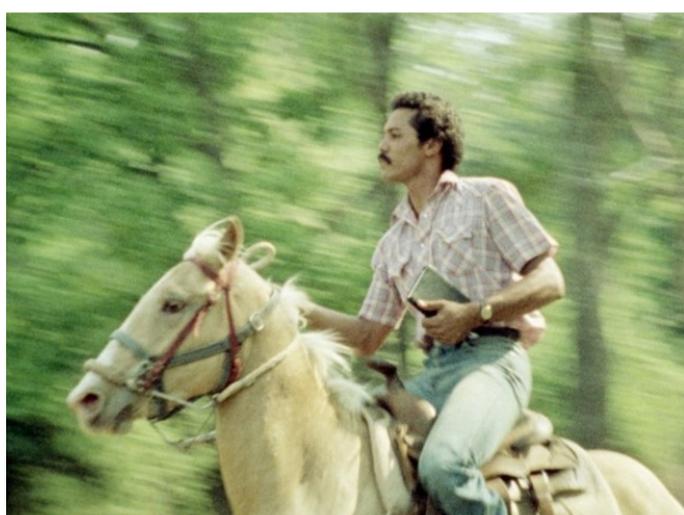
After son Sacha Jenkins saw the article and got in touch with the IndieCollect team in in 2016, Anderson wrote a follow-up: [This Movie Was Nearly Lost. Now They're Fighting to Save It.](#)

Little by little the *Cane River* family was being reconstituted, as reported most recently by John Wirt in The Advocate: [Rescued from a studio vault, 'Cane River' screened after three decades](#)



The Story of *Cane River*

Set in one of the first "free communities of color" in the South, *Cane River* is a love story that highlights painful differences of class and color. The would-be lovers Peter Metoyer (played by Richard Romain) and Maria Mathis (played by Tommy Myrick) rebel against their families, who disapprove of their union because it violates the traditional barrier between the light-skinned land-owning Metoyer creoles, and the landless and darker-skinned slave families from whom Maria is descended. This dynamic is the subject of a book that is featured in the film, [The Forgotten People: Cane River's Creoles of Color](#).



IndieCollect & Academy Film Archive Collaborate on the *Cane River* Restoration

The rescued and Academy Film Archive included the original 16mm A & B roll film negatives, plus two sets of 35mm negatives of two different lengths, indicating that the movie had been "blown up" to 35mm for theatrical release, and then edited (possibly after Jenkins's death) to make it shorter. The Academy Film Archive made a 35mm print of the 90-minute version, enabling the IndieCollect team to see the film for the first time. With seed money from the Ford Foundation, and subsequent support from the Ebert Foundation and Amistad Research Center, work began on the 4K digital version. The print was scanned using IndieCollect's Kinetica Archival Scanner by Omchand Gee and Adam Andre, and color correction was done in-house by Oskar Miarka under the supervision of Israel Ehrisman and Sandra Schulberg.

Horace Jenkins hoped to delight audiences with this movie nearly 40 years ago. Thanks to all our collaborators, we are finally making his wish come true.

All the best,

Sandra Schulberg, Kirsten Larvick Team

Lucy Ehrisman, Kirsten Larvick, Zenith Haas, Adam Andre, Oskar Miarka, Na'Imah Pope, Lucy Obispo, and Steve Blakely (Emeritus)

