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Looking for Langston/Testament



Thanks to the the Sankofa and the Black Audio Film Collectives, Black British Cinema is now as alive and multicultural as London's music and arts scene. This program features new work by the collectives' leading personalities, Isaac Julien and John Akomfrah. *LOOKING FOR LANGSTON* (1989, 45 min) is both a meditation on the poet Langston Hughes, and a voluptuously erotic film on Black Gay Desire: Julien evokes film noir, Cocteau, and Genet as well as the Harlem Renaissance in lush visual poetry. Akomfrah's *TESTAMENT* (1988, 80 min) is equally rich aesthetically. Striking visuals and a complex soundtrack of modern and African music, percussive sound effects, and voice narration enhance the film's exploration of myth and memory in the story of an exiled woman's return to Ghana after 20 years in England. She meets an old friend who has taken a vow of silence since the last military coup. *In person: Isaac Julien and John Akomfrah*

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