

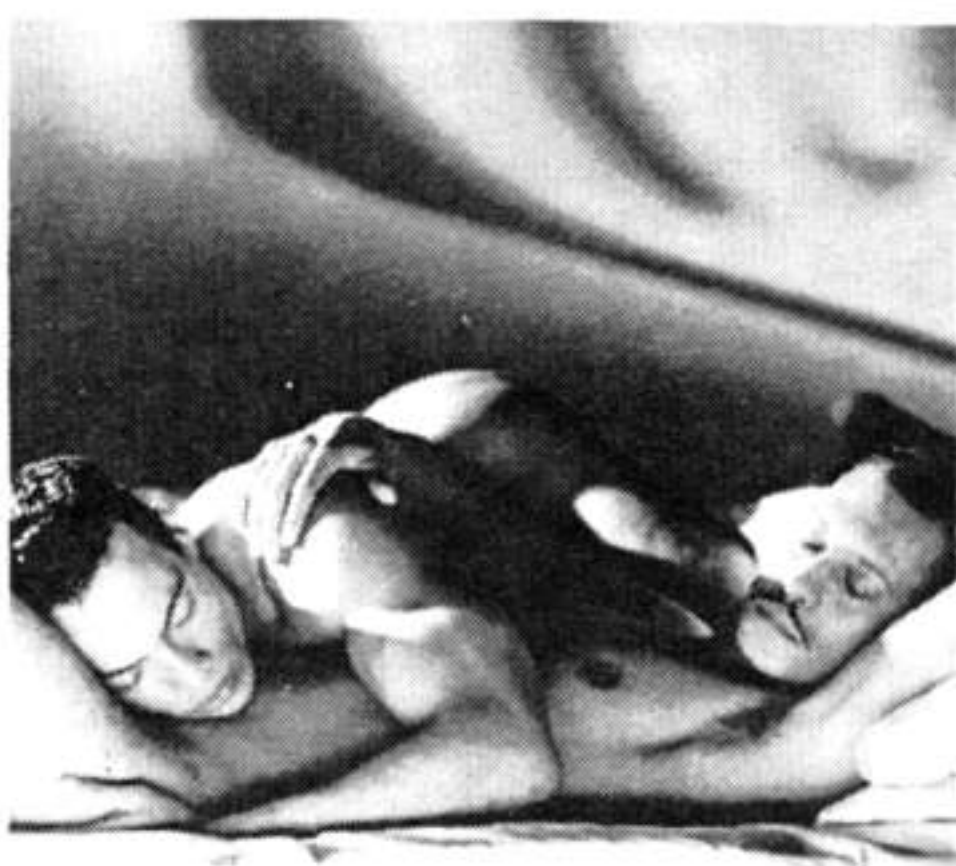
Document Citation

Title	Looking for Langston
Author(s)	Mark Finch
Source	<i>San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film and Video Festival</i>
Date	1989 Jun 20
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Looking for Langston, Julien, Isaac, 1988

S.F. Lesbian/Gay F.F. '89

TUESDAY

JUNE 20TH *Castro*



9:30 pm

LOOKING FOR LANGSTON

Great Britain, 1988

U.S. Premiere

You've never seen anything like LOOKING FOR LANGSTON—honestly. On paper, a collage of archival footage illuminating the 1930's Harlem Renaissance and a reconstruction of Black gay life, then and now. But to the eye, Isaac Julien's essay is a quite different, dreamy thing. You'd have to go back to CHANT D'AMOUR to match his lyricism and erotic imagery, but what's so fresh about LANGSTON is the libidinal tussle between analysis and ardour. This film moves like some men dance. Separately commissioned by Channel Four, but screened as part of their lesbian and gay series OUT ON TUESDAY, Julien's black-and-white fillip focuses on Langston Hughes, gay artist of the Renaissance. Poems by Hughes and by Essex Hemphill play against a plethora of poses—men naked, lazing, lounging, cruising. Imagined scenes from a 30s black gay club are book-ended by moments from the late eighties equivalent. Julien tries to dramatize James Baldwin's words—"A person does not lightly elect to oppose his society"—and gets beyond a gay greeting card aesthetic to something else. On the one hand, unashamed to be erotic; on the other hand, angry enough to be deeply affecting.

—Mark Finch

Director: Isaac Julien

Camera: Nina Kellgren

Editor: Robert Hargreaves

Music: Blackberri, Wayson Jones

Text: Essex Hemphill, Langston Hughes

Producer: Nadine Marsh-Edwards

Cast: Ben Ellison, Matthew Baidoo, John

Wilson, Akim Mogaji, Dencil Williams

16mm, 40 minutes

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