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**SAN  
KO  
FA**  
FILM • VIDEO

# LOOKING FOR LANGSTON

PHOTO: SUNIL GUPTA



1988  
BLACK  
AND  
WHITE  
45 MINUTES  
16mm  
OPTICAL  
SOUND

## SYNOPSIS:

LOOKING FOR LANGSTON is a visually beautiful and lyrical exploration of black and white gay identities. The film uses the life and work of Langston Hughes during the jazz/blues infused Harlem Renaissance of the 1930's and 1940's as one central motif for the representation of the black gay artist. The poetry of Essex Hemphill, the poetry and words set to blues music by Langston Hughes and other texts weave through the stylized dramatic sequences and archive material in a film which celebrates gay desire and laments the attitudes against these desires felt and expressed by contemporary society. In the words of James Baldwin: "A person does not lightly elect to oppose his society. One would much rather be at home among ones compatriots than be mocked and detested by them. And there's a level on which the mockery of the people, even their hatred is moving, because it is so blind. It is terrible to watch. People cling to their captivity and insist on their own destruction."

## **CAST:**

Alex...  
Ben Ellison  
Beauty...  
Matthew Baidoo  
Gary...  
John Wilson  
James...  
Akim Mogaji  
Marcus...  
Dencil Williams  
Dean...  
Guy Burgess  
Jez...  
Simon Fogg  
Carlos...  
James Dublin  
Leatherboy...  
Harry Donaldson

## **CREW:**

**DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY**  
Nina Kellgren

## **FOCUS PULLER**

Amanda Richardson

## **SOUND**

Martin Jackson,  
Ronald Bailey

## **GAFFER**

Nuala Campbell

## **GRIP**

Gary Romaine

## **CONTINUITY**

Julia Britton

## **ART DIRECTOR**

Derek Brown

## **COSTUME DESIGNER**

Robert Worley

## **MAKE UP**

Hilary Steinberg

1990

# LOOKING FOR LANGSTON

## **RUNNERS**

James Wolstenholem  
Malcolm Manning

## **STILLS**

Sunil Gupta

**RESEARCH AND PRODUCTION,  
NEW YORK - Mark Nash**

## **POETRY**

Essex Hemphill,  
Langston Hughes

## **MUSIC**

Blackberri,  
Wayson Jones

## **EDITOR**

Robert Hargreaves

## **ASSISTANT EDITOR**

Emma Matthews

## **PRODUCTION ASSISTANT**

Robert Crusz

## **ASSISTANT DIRECTORS**

Chris Hall  
Maureen Blackwood

## **PRODUCER**

Nadine Marsh-Edwards

**WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY  
Isaac Julien**

**A Sankofa Film and Video  
Production**

**(c) SANKOFA FILM AND VIDEO  
LTD**

## **DISTRIBUTION**

- Film -  
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