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PHOTO: SUNIL GUPTA

# LOOKING FOR LANGSTON



### 1988 SYNOPSIS:

BLACK

SOUND

AND WHITE 45 MINUTES 16mm OPTICAL

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 Rennaisance 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

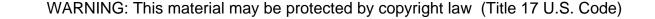
GRIP Gary Romaine

CONTINUITY Julia Britton

ART DIRECTOR Derek Brown

COSTUME DESIGNER Robert Worley

MAKE UP Hilary Steinberg



## 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

LTD

DISTRIBUTION

- Film -Sankofa Film & Video Ltd Unit K 32-34 Gordon House Road, London, NW5 01-485 0848

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