



PRESS KIT - MAY 2026

BUILT ON ZYDECO

A FEATURE DOCUMENTARY - THE FIRST ZYDECO DOCUMENTARY DIRECTED BY BLACK CREOLLES

THE FILM

A documentary made from the inside.

LOGLINE

Two Grammy winners. Four founding families. The radio voices that carry the music. The venues that have held it since 1985. The tourism economy it drives. Built on Zydeco documents not just Zydeco's artists, but everything that keeps the music alive.

SYNOPSIS

Built on Zydeco is the first Zydeco documentary directed by Black Creoles. The film traces Zydeco from Amédé Ardoin's 1929 first recordings through the artists, families, and institutions sustaining it today – across stage, family kitchen, community hall, and the long drives between parishes where the music actually lives.

Featured artists include two-time Grammy Award winner Terrance Simien, Grammy Award winner Reginald "Buckwheat Jr." Dural, Zydeco legend Keith Frank, and members of four founding Zydeco families – Ardoin, Chavis, Dopsie, and Frank – across multiple generations.

The film captures the radio ecosystem keeping Zydeco on the airwaves, the venue legacy of El Sido's (founded 1985, run today by Michael Dugas, grandson of founder Sid Williams), and the direct economic case for Zydeco as a driver of Louisiana's \$17.5 billion visitor economy. Drawing on thirty-eight years of Zydeco Extravaganza archival footage appearing on screen for the first time, Built on Zydeco is a film about responsibility – to culture, to family, and to the future.

FUNDING

Funded in part by a \$25,000 #CreateLouisiana French Culture Film Grant (2025), awarded by the New Orleans Film Society and TV5MONDE. Supported by Lafayette Travel.

FESTIVAL CIRCUIT

Five festivals. One world premiere.

MARCH 2026

29th New Orleans French Film Festival

World Premiere · Prytania Theatre Uptown · New Orleans, Louisiana

MAY 23, 2026

REFRAMING Cinema Film Festival

VIP Exclusive Louisiana Premiere · LITE Center · Lafayette, Louisiana

2026

American Golden Picture International Film Festival

Official Selection

2026

Festival de Cine Antigua

Official Selection · Antigua, Guatemala

2026

American Motion Pictures Festival

Honorable Mention

PRESS COVERAGE

The Advocate · KLFY News 10 · OffBeat Magazine · NOLA.com / Gambit · The Current

CAST · THE THREE LEGENDS

Across home, stage, and community.

KEITH FRANK

ZYDECO ARTIST

The Prince of Zydeco. Opelousas, Louisiana. One of the most recorded and performed Zydeco artists of his generation, carrying the tradition from his father, Preston Frank.

TERRANCE SIMIEN

2x GRAMMY WINNER

Two-time Grammy Award winner. A bridge between Zydeco tradition and global audiences – without ever losing the cultural root. Born and raised in Mallet, Louisiana.

REGINALD "BUCKWHEAT JR." DURAL

GRAMMY WINNER

Grammy Award winner. Son of Stanley "Buckwheat Zydeco" Dural. Carrying one of the most recognized names in the music into the next generation on his own terms.

FULL CAST · CREDITS

Everyone on screen.

DIRECTORS

Milton Arceneaux · Dustin Cravins

PRODUCER

Robert Chevalier

CINEMATOGRAPHER

Milton Arceneaux

VFX & GRAPHIC DESIGN

Fernest Broussard

FEATURED ARTISTS / GRAMMY WINNERS

Terrance Simien (2× Grammy) · Reginald "Buckwheat Jr." Dural (Grammy)

ARDOIN FAMILY

Descendants of Amédé Ardoin (1929 first recordings)

Ronald Ardoin · Dexter Ardoin

CHAVIS FAMILY

Boozoo Chavis legacy

Leon Chavis · Wilson "Poncho" Chavis Jr. · Rellis Chavis · Mason Trail

DOPSIE FAMILY

Rockin' Dopsie Sr. legacy (recorded on Paul Simon's Graceland)

Rockin' Dopsie Jr. (David Rubin) · Anthony Dopsie · Alton "Tiger" Dopsie Jr. · Mike Dopsie

FRANK FAMILY

Multi-generational Zydeco lineage

Keith Frank · Preston Frank · Brad Frank · Jennifer Frank

CRAVINS FAMILY

Founders of Zydeco Extravaganza (38+ years, founded 1987)

Dustin Cravins

OTHER FEATURED ARTISTS

Jeffery Broussard (Creole Zydeco Farmers) · Rusty Metoyer · Corey Arceneaux · Wayne Singelton · Dopsie Adon

RADIO ECOSYSTEM

Herman Fuselier (Tourism Director, St. Landry Parish · host, Zydeco Stomp on KRVS 88.7)

John "JB" Broussard & Melvin "MC" Caesar (co-hosts, Zydeco Est Pas Sale, KRVS 88.7)

Darleen "Diva D" Wesley (29+ years on air · 107 JAMZ Lafayette)

VENUE LEGACY

Michael Dugas — grandson of Sid Williams, founder of El Sido's (Lafayette, 1985)

TOURISM & ECONOMY

Ben Berthelot — CEO, Lafayette Travel (2024 Louisiana CVB of the Year)

ADDITIONAL NAMED INTERVIEW

Kevin Mouton

ARCHIVE FOOTAGE

Ann Goodley · CC Adcock · Major Handy · Rosie Ledet · The Broussard Sisters

Bands: Buckwheat Zydeco · Zydeco Force · Rockin' Dopsie (Sr.)

Source: 38 years of Zydeco Extravaganza footage

PRESENTED BY

Vues de Culture · La Louisianne

DIRECTOR STATEMENT

Lived experience. Long-term relationship.

“Built on Zydeco comes from lived experience and long-term relationship, not observation from a distance. This film reflects a world we were raised around — where Zydeco exists far beyond the stage, living in family spaces, community halls, long drives between parishes, and the work required to keep the music alive.”

“Zydeco is sustained by labor, not nostalgia. It is carried through language, invention, family responsibility, and the commitment of artists and communities who continue to show up. At its core, Built on Zydeco is about responsibility — to culture, to family, and to the future.”

— MILTON ARGENEAUX & DUSTIN CRAVINS, CO-DIRECTORS

ABOUT VUES DE CULTURE

Vues de Culture is an independent Louisiana cultural nonprofit based in Southwest Louisiana. The organization documents and preserves the stories of Black Louisiana through film, photography, and cultural programming — for us, by us, no compromise. Vues de Culture also stewards Creole Culture Day, an annual public celebration of Louisiana Creole heritage, and powers the REFRAMING Cinema Film Festival.

THE FILE

Specs. Contact. Links.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Format: Feature documentary

Year: 2026

Country: United States · Louisiana

Languages: English · Louisiana French · Kouri-Vini

Premiered: March 2026 · Prytania Theatre, New Orleans

PRESS CONTACT

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LINKS

Trailer: vimeo.com/1150859562

IMDb: [imdb.com/title/tt38615350](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt38615350)

Facebook: facebook.com/builtonzydeco

Instagram: [@builtonzydeco](https://www.instagram.com/builtonzydeco)

Site: vuesdeculture.org/films

Screeener: Available on request