



MAGNUM OPUS

The Lenoir Plantation

Laws of Mississippi

"What are you here for, if not
to maintain white supremacy?"

— Delegate Will T. Martin of Adams County

MAGNUM OPUS FILMS

Presents

secure to the State of Mississippi, 'white supremacy.'"
— Delegate George P. Melchior of Bolivar County

"What are you here for, if not to maintain white supremacy?"
— Delegate Will T. Martin of Adams County



Laura Lenoir



WHERE I GOT MY NAME

Down In Mississippi

SLAVES, FREE NEGROES AND MILLITERS.

Nine lashes

and any justice of the peace of the county or corporation wherein such assembly shall be
unlawful and to either from his own knowledge or information of others
of such unlawful assembly.

apprehending or dispersing such assembly.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Over 20 years ago, I began researching where I got my name. Then, in June of 2023, my sons, Jamana and Jesse, and I made a life-changing journey to Mississippi and Louisiana to find out about our ancestors. We traveled to the sites of the plantations on which our family members were enslaved. There we began making a documentary film about our experience—but we need your help to finish the project. The YouTube video below is a 13-minute documentary on our Lenoir family's history that we made before we embarked on our journey. We are currently making a full length documentary on our family history. While this story is of immeasurable significance to our family, it is also vital for everyone to learn how the history of slavery shapes our society today.

Through our small family-owned company, Magnum Opus Films, we launched the project to tell the story of our people who were enslaved on the Lenoir plantation in Morgantown, Marion County, Mississippi and the Darenbourg plantation in St. Charles Parish, Louisiana. So far, we have gone south four times to research, document and film the story of our family's journey from enslavement to emancipation.

We launched this project on Juneteenth 2022, a national celebration of Black emancipation! In 2026, Part I: "Where I Got My Name (Down in Mississippi) will be released. Part II: "Where I Got My Name (Down in Louisiana) will be completed in 2027. Together, they are the story of our family and millions of other African American families.



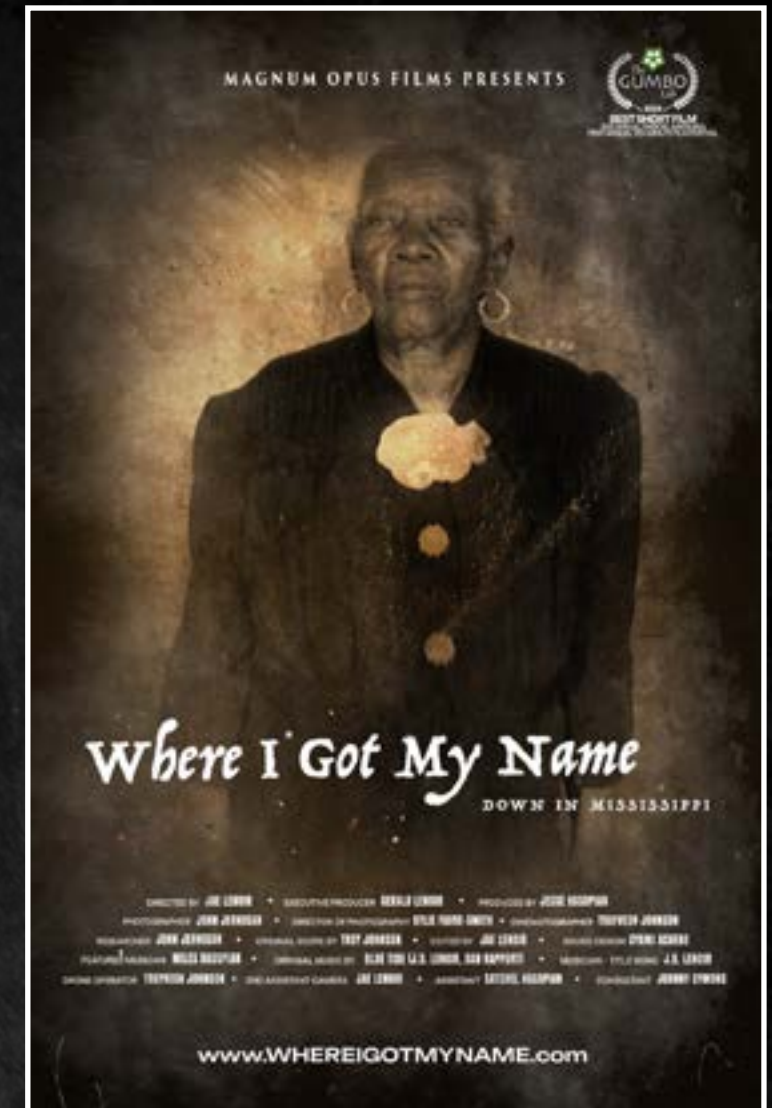
FILM SYNOPSIS PART I: DOWN IN MISSISSIPPI

Where I Got My Name: Down in Mississippi is an intimate, investigative documentary following Gerald LeNoir as he traces the lives of his enslaved ancestors in Marion County, Mississippi. Traveling to former plantations, courthouses, archives, and historic sites, Gerald confronts the silences and erasures embedded in the historical record while reflecting on how slavery's legacy continues to shape identity, memory, and family lineage.

Told primarily through Gerald's perspective, the film places a living descendant at the center of history. His journey is guided by archival discoveries, oral histories, and conversations with family members, local historians, and community elders. As records surface and often disappear, the film embraces uncertainty as part of the narrative, revealing how gaps in documentation reflect the systemic dehumanization of enslaved people while underscoring their resilience and humanity.

Blending on-location cinematography, interviews, drone footage, animation, poetry, and an immersive, in-house soundscape featuring harmonica and trumpet, the film connects past and present through layered storytelling. Personal reflection expands into broader questions of reparations, reconciliation, and historical accountability, inviting audiences to consider how ancestral history informs contemporary life.

Part I of a two-film series, Where I Got My Name: Down in Mississippi establishes the foundation of the LeNoir family story while offering a powerful, accessible entry point into America's unfinished reckoning with slavery. The film serves as both a personal act of remembrance and a communal invitation to confront history, honor lineage, and reclaim narratives long denied.





Thomas B. Sewin

FILM SYNOPSIS PART II: DOWN IN LOUISIANA

Where I Got My Name: Down in Louisiana is an intimate, imaginative and investigative documentary following Gerald LeNoir as he uncovers the lives of his ancestors in Louisiana from enslavement to emancipation and beyond. Traveling along the Mississippi River to Orleans Parish, St. Charles Parish, and St. John the Baptist Parish, the story unfolds at plantations, courthouses, libraries, and historic sites. Gerald confronts the silences and erasures embedded in the historical record while exploring how slavery's legacy continues to shape identity, memory, and family lineage.

Told primarily through Gerald's perspective, the film places a living descendant at the center of history. Taking in archival discoveries, oral histories, and conversations with family members, local historians, and community elders, the journey takes him to the German Coast of the Mississippi River, Le Côte Des Allemands, where colonists of German descent enslaved his ancestors and millions of African peoples.

The film reveals the untold story of the 1811 Slave Revolt on the German Coast. It documents the systemic dehumanization of enslaved people while highlighting their resilience, creativity, and humanity. Gerald traces his families' origins and their positions in the French, Spanish and American color-coded societies that divided humans into antagonistic categories: slave master vs. enslaved peoples; Whites vs. "Mulattoes" vs. Blacks.

Highlighting Louisiana culture, the filmmakers blend on-location cinematography, interviews, drone footage, animation, poetry, and an immersive, in-house soundscape featuring harmonica, trumpet and regional musical textures. The film connects past and present through layered storytelling. Personal reflection expands into broader questions of reparations, reconciliation, and historical accountability, inviting audiences to consider how ancestral history shapes contemporary life in the Deep South.



MAGNUM OPUS





MAGNUM OPUS FILMS PRESENTS

Where I Got My Name

DOWN IN MISSISSIPPI

www.WHEREIGOTMYNAME.com



MAGNUM OPUS FILMS PRESENTS



Danielle Bourgeois
mm

Where I Got My Name

DOWN IN LOUISIANA

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Director/Editor Jae LeNoir
Executive Producer Gerald LeNoir
Producer Jesse Hagopian aka JD LeNoir
Director of Photography Kylie Favre-Smith
Camera/Sound Operator Trayveon Johnson
Music Composer Troy "R8dio" Johnson
Researcher/Photographer John Jernegan

Music by

Miles Hagopian
J.B. Lenoir
Blue Tide

Cast

Jesse Hagopian
Ivan LeNoir
Gerald LeNoir
John Jernegan
Jae LeNoir

Interviewers with

Mary Alice Jefferson
Louis Morgan
Ruth May
Robin D.G. Kelley

With Appearances by

Paulette Robey Conerly
Juanita Rushing
clara Williams

LeNoir



MOORISH FAMILY
COAT OF ARMS