

Los Angeles Filmforum, Black Revivalist, and CaribbeanLens Film Festival present
A Night of Films by Julius-Amédée Laou
Wednesday June 24, 2026, 7:30 pm
At 2220 Arts + Archives

Los Angeles Filmforum is the city's longest running organization dedicated to weekly screenings of experimental film, documentaries, video art, and experimental animation. 2026 is our 51st year. www.lafilmforum.org

Black Revivalist- programming curated by Camm Harrison @slammdunx, w an emphasis on underseen and underrated black cinema. <https://www.instagram.com/blackrevivalist/>

CaribbeanLens Film festival celebrates the blending of the Caribbean and American cultures and talent to create unique and outstanding work and to raise global awareness of the new renaissance of film-making and music production that the Caribbean region is currently experiencing. <https://caribbeanlens.com/>



Los Angeles Filmforum, Black Revivalist, and CaribbeanLens Film Festival are proud to present a double feature of films by French-Martinican playwright and filmmaker Julius-Amédée Laou. We'll be screening Laou's 2003 film *French Wedding, Caribbean Style* along with his 1987 film *The Old Sorceress and the Valet*. Both films will feature a pre-recorded introduction by the filmmaker!

In *French Wedding, Caribbean Style*, a supposedly joyful interracial wedding descends into chaos when long-buried prejudices and family secrets rise to the surface. Shot on self-reflexive MiniDV by the bride's cocky younger brother, what begins as a lighthearted summer affair turns nightmarish as scandal threatens to destroy the unlikely couple's big day.

The Old Sorceress and the Valet follows Eugénie and Armand, an elderly couple who have lived in Paris since 1921 as part of the wave of post-war immigration from Martinique. Eugénie, a former dancer with Josephine Baker's Black Revue, has become a professional quimboiseuse, practising black magic for a white clientele. Armand, who had been a servant, is retired. Now, they are both old and bitter, still quarreling with each other. One day, they set out arm-in-arm for one last walk through the metropolis, confronting their past, their stifled dreams, and long-kept secrets.

Julius-Amédée Laou, born on February 9th, 1950, is a distinguished filmmaker, playwright, theatre director, and writer. Hailing from Paris with Martinican roots, Laou made his mark with the short films *Open Mic Solitaire* and *Mist Melodies in Paris*. He later expanded his cinematic vision with two notable feature films: *The Old Sorceress and the Valet* (1987) and *French Wedding, Caribbean Style* (2002).

A compelling voice representing the Caribbean diaspora, Laou masterfully blends sharp-witted comedy to unveil the stark contrasts of a Black individual's experience in France. His films, imbued with fervent outrage, range from the fiery and thought-provoking to the tranquil and comical. Laou has authored more than thirty stage plays, including *Never call me Negro!* (1982) and *Ordinary Madness of a Daughter of Ham* (1984). The latter was adapted into a film by Jean Rouch.

Program curated by Camm Harrison.

Thanks to Julius-Amédée Laou, Guillaume Launay of TALITHA, and Steve Macfarlane for their support in making this event possible.

There will be a 15 min intermission in between films.

Screening:

French Wedding, Caribbean Style (Zouk, Mariage et Ouéléélé)

2002, color, sound, 89 min. In French with English Subtitles

Directed by Julius-Amédée Laou

Starring Dieudonné, Loulou Boislaville

“Laou’s second feature film depicts an interracial wedding held in the summertime, shot on self-reflexive MiniDV by the bride’s cocky younger brother. Before long, a scandal emerges that threatens to tear the happy couple’s union apart, exposing the racism of the groom’s parents and the messy fissures beneath the ensemble’s happy façade. While the subject matter may sound familiar, Variety accurately called the film “a far cry from the ethnic feel-good wedding pics inundating domestic shores.” Indeed, Laou offers up an emotional roller-coaster, a no-holds-barred depiction of white racism and an acidic comedy of manners (and prejudices).” – BAM, <https://www.bam.org/film/2023/french-wedding-caribbean-style>

The Old Sorceress and the Valet (La vieille quimboiseuse et le majordome)

1987, color, sound, 88 min. In French with English Subtitles

Directed by Julius-Amédée Laou

With Jenny Alpha, Robert Liensol, Jacques Martial

Through the story of an old West Indian couple who arrived in Paris in 1921, this film reveals the existence and the discreet but lively presence of a West Indian community in metropolitan France between the two world wars.

“Laou’s feature debut follows Eugénie (Alpha) and Armand (Liensol), an elderly couple wandering the streets of Paris. Their bickering reveals long-kept secrets about Armand’s time as a majordomo and Eugénie’s life before she was a quimboiseuse, or practitioner of black magic. The result is an often-hilarious, ultimately breathtaking panorama of a relationship, a generation of immigrants, and an ever-changing city.” – BAM, <https://www.bam.org/film/2023/the-old-sorceress-and-the-valet-open-mic-solitaire>

Los Angeles Filmforum screenings are supported by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Department of Arts & Culture, the Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles. We also depend on our members, ticket buyers, and individual donors.

Coming Soon:

Friday June 26, 7:30 pm - Co-presenting Mare's Nest, by Ben Rovers, at the Philosophical Research Society

Sunday June 28, 4:00 pm - Co-presenting Mare's Nest, by Ben Rovers, at the Philosophical Research Society

Sunday July 5, 1:00 pm - Filmforum at 50: Star Spangled to Death, by Ken Jacobs. The 8 hour epic!

Sunday July 12 - Yoko Ono's film "RAPE" and a talk on it by Jennifer Doyle

Memberships available, \$40 Student \$75 Individual, \$125 Dual, or \$225 Silver Nitrate

Contact us at laofilmforum@gmail.com.

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