

GLEN PITRE

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Born November 10th, 1955 at Cut Off, Louisiana, Glen Pitre worked his way through Harvard by fishing shrimp each summer. By age 25, American Film magazine dubbed him “father of the Cajun cinema” as his low-budget, French dialect “gumbo westerns” broke house records in bayou country theaters. With the help of the Sundance Institute, his internationally-lauded 1986 *Belizaire the Cajun* became his first English-language production. Since then Pitre's works in a variety of media, frequently in collaboration with wife Michelle Benoit, often about life in his native Louisiana wetlands, have earned him numerous awards, including an honorary doctorate and a knighthood from France. In 2003, Chicago Sun-Times film critic Roger Ebert acclaimed Pitre “a legendary American regional director.”

SELECTED WORKS

2006

TV DOCUMENTARY: *American Creole: New Orleans Reunion*. PRODUCER, DIRECTOR. Issues of identity take center stage as the post-Katrina diaspora of New Orleans musicians gathers from around the country. Hi-Def, 56 minutes. Funded, in production.

IMAX FILM: *Hurricane on the Bayou*. WRITER, CO-DIRECTOR, LINE PRODUCER. Louisiana is ravaged by killer hurricanes, as seen through the eyes of a talented bluesman, a pretty young fiddler, pianist Allen Toussaint, and a mother alligator. MacGillivray Freeman Films/Audubon Nature Institute/State of Louisiana. 70mm. In post.

2005

TV DOCUMENTARY: *Willie Francis Must Die Again*. PRODUCER. In the 1940s, the US Supreme Court weighs whether 16 year-old Willie Francis should go to the electric chair... twice. Beta-SP, 56 mins. Winner, Best Documentary, Memphis Int'l Film Fest.

MUSEUM: La. State Capitol Visitors Center. Interactive components, exhibit text, walking trail signage and orientation film.

2004

BOOK CHAPTER: *Pays volant, pays volé*. In French. Universite de Montreal, Montreal, Quebec.

2003

IMAX FILM: *Heart of India*. WRITER. Musical love story about the building of the Taj Mahal. Indian Lotus Films.

MUSEUM: La. State Marine Fisheries Museum. Designed 6 rooms of exhibitry on natural and economic history.

BOOK CHAPTER: *Mardi Gras Chase in Mardi Gras, Gumbo, & Zydeco*, University Press of Mississippi, Jackson.

2002

IMAX FILM: *Top Speed*. WRITER (with Jack Stephens). Comedian Tim Allen hosts an exploration of speed with Olympic medalist Marion Jones and others. International release. MacGillivray Freeman Films. 70mm, 40 mins.

MOVIE: *The Scoundrel's Wife*. (aka *Home Front*) WRITER / DIRECTOR. Period drama starring Oscar-winner Tatum O'Neal, Julian Sands, Tim Curry, and Lacey Chabert. Grand Prize, San Diego Film Festival. Released theatrically by Miracle Entertainment. Foreign distribution by First Look Pictures. 35mm, 99 minutes.

2001

TV DOCUMENTARY: *Wings Over the Wetlands*. CO-WRITER, CO-PRODUCER. Migratory birds, birding, and habitat. For the National Estuary Program. 29 minutes.

BOOK CHAPTER: *La ou l'eau mord la terre* about cultural effects of coastal erosion in *Vision et Visages de la Franco-Amerique*. In French. Septentrion Press, Quebec.

2000

MUSEUM VIDEO: *The Story of Cotton*. CO-PRODUCER, DIRECTOR. For the Louisiana Cotton Museum.

1999

MOVIE: *Time Served*. DIRECTOR. Crime drama starring Jeff Fahey, Catherine Oxenberg, and Oscar-winner Louise Fletcher. 35mm. 96 minutes. Sold to HBO & Showtime.

MUSEUM: Waterlife Museum. Exhibit designer and general contractor for half-million dollar permanent exhibit with 60 interactive components. Also worked with architects planning building. Downtown Development District, Houma, LA.

1998

MOVIE: *In Quiet Night*. PRODUCER. Independent feature. Super 35mm, 102 mins. Blockbuster video release, sold to Lifetime cable network, numerous foreign territories.

TV DOCUMENTARY: *Good For What Ails You*. WRITER, PRODUCER, DIRECTOR. Root doctors and faith healers in Cajun, Afro-Creole, and Native American cultures. 56 minutes. Nationally broadcast.

MUSEUM: Tickfaw State Park. Designed 35' diorama, produced welcome video, co-authored walking trail signage.

1997

TV SERIES: *Bonjour*. HOST of oral history cable talk show in Cajun French for Louisiana television. 50 half-hr episodes.

1996

DOCUMENTARY: *Voodoo in New Orleans*. CO-WRITER / CO-PRODUCER. Rituals, beliefs, origins. 60 minutes.

BOOK: *Country Roads of Louisiana* (with Michelle Benoit) Travel book. Country Roads Press/McGraw-Hill, Chicago.

1995
SCREENPLAY: *Lou Garou*. Rock and roll horror tale for Trimark Pictures, producer Brandon Tartikoff.

TV DOCUMENTARY: *Rescuing the Treasure*. WRITER, PRODUCER, DIRECTOR Environmental call to action about wetlands loss. Winner, Coastal Stewardship Award. 28 mins.

MUSEUM: Bayou Lafourche Folklife Museum. Designed permanent exhibit, wrote master plan & did folklife survey.

1994
TV DOCUMENTARY: *Haunted Waters, Fragile Lands*. WRITER, PRODUCER, DIRECTOR Follows immigrants to the Mississippi River delta to show how history and ecology transform each other. 56 minutes. Nationally broadcast, national award-winner.

2-HOUR TELEPLAY: *House of the Rising Sun*. Mother tracks daughter to brothel. For ABC and Brandon Tartikoff.

BOOK: *The Crawfish Book*. A social history with recipes. Mississippi University Press, Jackson.

1993
SIT-COM: *Under New Management*. WRITER (two episodes) Topical humor in a bar. For PBS & Brandon Tartikoff.

NOVEL: *Great River* (with Michelle Benoit) Historical novel based on the author's teleplay. Pelican, Gretna.

FOLK FESTIVAL: Cheniere Hurricane Centennial. Co-founded, co-produced, wrote the Master Plan, booked and coordinated stages, etc., for this multi-site series of events.

1992
2-HOUR TELEPLAY: *Deadly Passion*. Gothic romance for ABC. Barry Weitz, executive producer.

BOOK: *Cajun Country* (with Drs. Barry Ancelet & Jay Edwards). A cultural survey. Mississippi U. Press, Jackson.

1991
MUSIC DOCUMENTARY: *Let the Good Times Roll*. As 1st A.D., coordinated 7 camera crews filming amidst huge crowds and multiple stages of the New Orleans Jazz Fest. Island Pictures. 16mm, 90 mins.

2-HOUR TELEPLAY: *Great River*. Explorer journeys the Mississippi in 1682. Carolco & TNT. Barry Weitz, exec prod.

1989-1990
DIRECTOR of the Louisiana Office of Film and Video.

MUSEUM: Acadian Culture Center. Authored exhibit text and consulted on design for regional interpretive center. National Park Service, Lafayette, La.

1988
SCREENPLAY: *Big Bad John*. Uncredited rewrite based on 1960s hit song. Red River Films, Jimmy Dean, exec producer.

DOCUMENTARY: *The Chitimacha*.. WRITER/DIRECTOR. For use in the tribe's reservation welcome center.

1987
NOVEL: *Belizaire the Cajun*. Based on film. Pelican, Gretna.

MUSEUM: Jean Lafitte Wetlands Center. Authored exhibit text. National Park Service, Thibodaux, La.

1986

MOVIE: *Belizaire the Cajun*. WRITER/ DIRECTOR. Romantic adventure starring Armand Assante and Will Patton, featuring Robert Duval. An 1850s medicine man outwits vigilantes. Numerous awards and worldwide release. 35mm, 103 minutes.

1985
MUSEUM: Acadian Prairie Center. Authored the exhibit text and consulted on content and design. Eunice, La.

1984
STILL PHOTOGRAPHY: Slide Show at New Orleans World's Fair. Side-bar presentation on bayou life. 20 minutes.

1983
AUDIO PRODUCTION: Audubon Zoo Swamp Exhibit audio component, later distributed as a children's record.

1982
ORAL HISTORY ARCHIVE: Memories of Terrebonne. Project Director for 140 hours of field recordings, cross-referenced and available for check-out. Produced with the Library of Congress.

MUSEUM: Southdown Plantation History Room. Designer, Gen'l Contractor. The exhibit won a national award.

1981
MOVIE: *Huit Piastres Et Demie!* WRITER, DIRECTOR, CAMERA. Award-winning recreation of the "Shrimp War of 1938." 16mm, in Cajun French. Theatrical release.

1980
RADIO SERIES: *Les Raconteurs de la Louisiane*. EXEC. PRODUCER, ON-AIR HOST. Thirty-one half-hours featuring Cajun, Creole, and Native American storytellers. Syndicated to numerous radio stations in Louisiana and Texas. In French.

1979
STILL PHOTOGRAPHY: *Projet Louisiane*. One man show of black & white photos toured U.S., Canada, and France.

BUSINESS: Louisiana Catalog. Founded and published national mail order (and eventually worldwide internet) catalog of Louisiana-related books, music, videos, gifts, foods, folk art, jewelry, maps, toys, etc. Typically 64 page catalogs, 2500 different items stocked and shipped from Cut Off, La. Also a walk-in store. Business sold in 1997.

1978
MOVIE: *La Fièvre Jaune*. WRITER/ DIRECTOR. Award-winning drama. 1897 family fights quarantine. 16mm, in Cajun French. International theatrical release.

GRADUATED HARVARD, B.A. cum laude in Visual and Environmental Studies. (Leverett House, Class of '77)

1977
STILL PHOTOGRAPHY: NY Times Magazine, Boston Globe, Harvard Lampoon, etc. Misc. free-lance editorial assignments.

THEATRE: *Vampires and the Rh Factor*, authored this one-act comedy staged as student production.

1976
DOCUMENTARY SERIES: *En Bas Du Bayou* WRITER, PRODUCER, EDITOR. NEA-funded "Bicentennial Film" chronicles Cajun life. 8 videos, each 30 minutes. In French.

1973
GRADUATED South Lafourche High School, Galliano, La. Track (cross country) and drama club. Go Tarpons!