



Connie Castille

Film – T-Galop: A Louisiana Horse Story

EQUUS Film Festival - Directors Panel



Connie Castille grew up in rural French South Louisiana. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy and a Masters Degree in Folklore from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, where she currently teaches. Over the past few years, she has directed, written and produced several award-winning documentaries on Cajun and Creole culture that have been financially supported by the Louisiana Division of the Arts and the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.

By using the everyday to convey universal meaning, her films tend to reveal something unexpected. Her hope is that audiences leave with a new point of view, not just about Cajun or Creole culture, but about the power and worth of everyday people doing everyday things. Her films include *I Always Do My Collars First* (2007), *Raised on Rice and Gravy* (2009), *King Crawfish* (2010), and *T-Galop: A Louisiana Horse Story* (2012). The films have shown at numerous film festivals including Cannes and

Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival, and have garnered awards including Best Feature Documentary, Humanities Documentary of the Year, and Louisiana Filmmaker Award.

Creole cowboys and Cajun jockeys, Cotton Knights and Mardi Gras revelers reveal the long history and blend between Creoles and Cajuns and the horses they love. This equine love affair began more than 250 years ago on the first ranches of South Louisiana. Creoles and Cajuns are some of America's first cowboys. Not only essential to hard ranch work, horses were often the focus of French Louisiana's renowned joie de vivre. T-GALOP romps playfully across South Louisiana through professional sports to community rituals bearing witness to a modern horse culture that was born many centuries ago. Funded in part by: Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, Louisiana Entertainment, Louisiana Economic Development Association, Louisiana Division of the Arts administered through the Acadiana Center for the Arts.

Director Statement

I like using the documentary medium to tell people's stories to reveal beauty, creativity, and cultural equity. Through my documentaries, my audiences come to realize the mundane doesn't seem so mundane.

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