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Photo: Sandra Wavrick

The Jones Twins:

Bebop Souls in a Muzak™ World

A Documentary Memoir

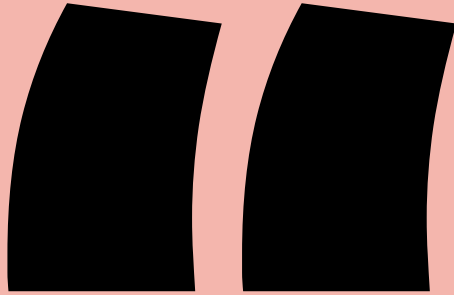
Directed by Stephanie L Jones
Written by Suzanne Y Jones

Pitchdeck as of October 31, 2025

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WHO WERE THE JONES TWINS?

The Jones Twins' work was a groundbreaking mix of spoken word, music, movement, and comedy. They provoked and hilariously entertained audiences, confronting societal myths about twins and sexual-political issues behind their biracial background. The Jones Twins' popular "hyper-real vaudeville" musical theatre performances, backed by a hot jazz and funk ensemble, found their own way to mix multiple musical styles, and explore race, sexual politics, the power of wigs, and Black theatre homages - while telling the story of their search for belonging.

The short documentary (11:34) highlights the mysterious backstory and influences of these dynamic twin sister artists formed in Black and white America.



Photo: Steve Lesnick

The Story

The current short film is highlighted by interviews with artistic compadres **Kim Wayans** (*In Living Color*, *Pariah*), **Alva Rogers** (*School Daze*, *Daughters of the Dust*), **Gabriel Tolliver** (*Dolla Van*, *Fleeing Led Zeppelin*), and original Jones Twins director **Celina Davis**. They reflect on the vibrant **community** of artistic Black Brooklyn in the 90s, a time of fertile Black creativity. Songs and narration playfully depict the JTs' emergence as artists. And intertwined with these are Kodak Moments giving a glimpse of their Midwestern, middle class upbringing by loving Black adoptive parents - and of a birth family they never knew, but could only imagine - *until the truth is shockingly revealed*.

The longform memoir doc, currently in development, will delve even more into their unique family background, the Jones Twins' influence on the experimental performance scene of the 90s, and the importance of the community who thrived there.

Highlights

- Interviews
- Archival footage
- Original songs
- Wigs!



The Jones Twins



Kim Wayans



Alva Rogers

The Impact

The early '90s were a seminal creative period for young Black artists in Brooklyn and beyond, memorialized in such doc films as "Brooklyn Boheme." **But like many experimental Black female artists**, they and their work faced marginalization at a time when Black male art, music, and films were becoming commercially viable.

What could they do? They created their own space, blowing up any bar, cafe, garage, rooftop or living room into their stage, until they landed in the Public Theatre, Lincoln Center and the Smithsonian Museum.

As we expand our film story to long-form, our intended audience is anyone who remembers, or wants to be introduced to the story of female creators working in an exciting time for Black creativity, the "Fort Greene renaissance" of the 90s, heralded by critics such as Greg Tate as the dawn of the "new Black aesthetic." (Look it up!) Finally, in a time when Black American stories are being erased, we put forth through our work the survival strategy of creating our own communities, delving into our own myths while simultaneously discovering who we are, sharing it with others., and inviting our communities to do the same.

- Stephanie L Jones, Director



Photo: Sandra Wavrick



Photo: Sandra Wavrick

The Style

“The Jones Twins: Bebop Souls in a Muzak World”

time-travels through a surrealistic filmscape featuring archival video of their performances along with Kodak moments of Midwestern Black middle class life, along with present day interviews, VO narration and animated images.

This creative **short doc** entertains audiences while leaving them with the feeling of experiencing the Jones Twins experimental work, with quick cuts, sound bites, surrealistic and comedic flourishes, historic family images and archival soundtrack.

Expect more of the same in our **feature-length version**, with more music, more archive, more interviews, and even more JT magic.

Distribution...and next iteration

The film is currently being developed into a **feature-length project**, with fundraising, research, script development, and interviews continuing through the first half of 2026.

“The Jones Twins: Bebop Souls in a Muzak™ World” short doc was made with the support of BRIC Arts Media’s Documentary Intensive program. The film will have its world premiere as an official selection at the **2025 Urban World Film Festival**, partnered with **Black Girls Rock!**



Photo: Steve Lesnick



Stephanie Lynn Jones is a multi-disciplinary creator based in New York City. Stephanie began her film production career working on production teams for Spike Lee. She then honed her own creative voice, producing, creating and performing many downtown NYC (and beyond) stage performances with her twin Suzanne, and their band, as the Jones Twins. The JTs were seen and heard at Dixon Place, Nuyorican Poets Cafe, PS 122, NYSF/Public Theatre, Smithsonian African- American History Museum and more. Stephanie earned an Emmy nomination as a Producer of the iconic kids musical TV program “Gullah Gullah Island” airing on Nickelodeon for four seasons. Her original musical *Lil Budda* (composer, Janice Lowe) was selected for development at the Eugene O’neill National Musical Theatre Conference. She is a graduate of Howard University and holds an MFA from New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts in music theatre writing. This is her first film.

The Director

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Suzanne Y Jones is a performer, writer and filmmaker.

She has co-created many live and animated series with Stephanie, and they received pitch, option or development deals from Universal, Time Studios, Sesame Workshop.

She was a producer for the FX comedy series “Totally Biased with W. Kamau Bell.” At PEOPLE Magazine TV, she was production liaison between PEOPLE and “Dateline NBC,” where she wrote an animated segment featuring Bugs Bunny in collaboration with Warner Bros. Classic Animation. At Fuse Media (FKA NuvoTV), Suzanne co-developed comedy and docu-series. She was a staff writer and voice actor for No Evil Animation Co. and has done national commercial voice overs as a voice artist represented by ICM agency. She received an MFA from TV Writers Studio, a graduate professional program housed at NY’s Steiner Studios.

As a performer, she has worked on stages across NY doing comedy and improv, and with Stephanie as The Jones Twins. Their critically acclaimed musical memoir, *The Jones Twins Do Bebop Muzak*, was presented in New York at The Public Theatre, and was Smithsonian Institute’s National African-American Museum Project’s opening performance.



The Writer

Until **Next Time!**

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A documentary memoir
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Directed by Stephanie L Jones
Written by Suzanne Y Jones

Executive Producer:
Sonya M Houston
Sonya Houston Productions
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Short film made with the
support of

