

A photograph of two men in a kitchen setting, focused on butchering meat. The man in the foreground, wearing a grey long-sleeved shirt and a baseball cap, is holding a large piece of meat. The man in the background, wearing a teal polo shirt and a baseball cap, is also working with meat. The background is slightly blurred, showing shelves with various items.

LOUISIANA CREOLE CULTURE PRESENTS

THE OLD WAY STILL CUTS

A CREOLE BOUCHERIE

A MILTON ARCENEUX DOCUMENTARY FILM
IN ASSOCIATION WITH ENCODED NOIRE

PRESS KIT

THE FILM

FOUR CREOLE FAMILIES. ONE HOG. NOTHING WASTED.

Before daylight, the water is already heating. A 91-year-old pot sits over the fire. A case knife handed down from a granddaddy waits on the table, and a Winchester that has been in the family since 1885 leans close by.

TITLE	The Old Way Still Cuts: A Creole Boucherie
DIRECTOR	Milton Arceneaux
GENRE	Documentary
RUNTIME	41 minutes 21 seconds
LANGUAGES	English, Louisiana Creole French
COUNTRY	United States (Southwest Louisiana)
COMPLETED	October 1, 2026
PREMIERE	World premiere, October 1, 2026, Delta Grand Theatre, Opelousas, Louisiana
FORMAT	Digital, color, shot on Canon C70
PRESENTED BY	Louisiana Creole Culture, in association with Encoded Noire
WEBSITE	theoldwaystillcuts.com
SCREENER	Available through FilmFreeway or on request

SYNOPSIS

FROM THE NECK TO THE TAIL

The Old Way Still Cuts follows four Creole families in Southwest Louisiana, the Boagni, Jones, DeClouet and Cravins families, through the work of the boucherie. From the neck to the tail, nothing is wasted, and the hog feeds everyone who came to help.

The Old Way Still Cuts: A Creole Boucherie steps inside the world of four Creole families who carry on the demanding, communal tradition of the boucherie. Long before the first cut, the work begins in preparation, trust, and knowledge passed hand to hand across generations. Through cold mornings, sharpened blades, and shared responsibility, the film reveals a practice shaped by survival, land, and cultural memory.

They call it a coup de main, a helping hand. You help at my boucherie this week, I help at yours next week, and everybody leaves with something. These men learned it from their fathers and grandfathers, and they are teaching it to their sons. There are no shortcuts. If it is not passed on, it dies.

At a time when the boucherie is increasingly visible but rarely understood, The Old Way Still Cuts reframes the tradition as lived responsibility rather than spectacle. Grounded in family labor and oral knowledge, the film documents a cultural system that carries identity, obligation, and continuity, sustained by the people who refuse to let it be reduced, repackaged, or separated from those who live it.

*“You gotta hold a crown before
you can wear it.”*

JOCOREY HOUSTON, ON WHAT HIS GRANDFATHER TOLD
HIM



FEATURING

THE FAMILIES



SHANE BOAGNI

THE BOAGNI FAMILY / PLAISANCE

Shane Boagni works the boucherie with his family in Plaisance. Sherman Boagni, who appears on the cover of the premiere program, is featured in the film alongside him. The Boagni family boucherie was filmed on December 6, 2025.



BRICE DECLOUET

THE DECLOUET FAMILY / CARENCRO

Brice DeClouet of Carencro. The DeClouet family boucherie was filmed in December 2024. At the DeClouet boucherie the other men showed up to work it too: Shane Boagni on the fryer with an elder, Jocorey Houston stirring the cracklins.

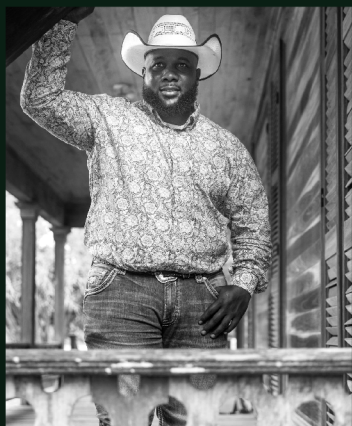
TOOLS SHAPED TO MEET THE WORK

These families are not simply participants. They are engineers, problem-solvers and teachers, building and adapting the tools the boucherie needs. Much of that metal work runs through Webster "Web" Robertson, a combo welder in Opelousas and owner of Robertsons Welding & Fabrication.



FEATURING

THE FAMILIES



JOCOREY HOUSTON

THE JONES FAMILY / CAMP BON TEMPS

Jocorey Houston carries the boucherie of the Jones family. Mr. Leonard Jones Sr. is his grandfather.



DUSTIN CRAVINS

THE CRAVINS FAMILY / MALLET

Dustin Cravins of Mallet. The Cravins family boucherie brings out the elders, the cracklin pot and the boudin machine.

SPECIAL APPEARANCES: THE NEXT HANDS

The Duhon and Zeno families make special appearances in the film. At the Zeno boucherie, the youngest hands are already at the pot.



A LIFE LIVED **INSIDE IT**

The Old Way Still Cuts: A Creole Boucherie comes from a life lived inside this tradition. The Creole boucherie is not something I encountered with a camera; it is something I understand through culture, language, work, and family oral history. In Southwest Louisiana, this knowledge has been carried by Creoles of Color through instruction, correction, and memory, where what is known lives in the hands as much as it does in words.

This film was made in relationship with the Boagni, Jones, DeClouet, and Cravins families, who continue this work across generations. Over the past year and a half, we followed what exists long before the day itself: preparation before the first cut, tools shaped or adapted to meet the work, and roles learned through repetition, trust, and responsibility. These families are not simply participants. They are engineers, problem-solvers, and teachers, inventing, refining, and sustaining a system rooted in care, necessity, and survival. Language moves through the process quietly and often untranslated, carrying instruction, humor, and authority across generations.

Each family approaches the boucherie in its own way, yet the purpose remains shared. The outcome is not performance or content, but provision, continuity, and responsibility. At a moment when the boucherie is increasingly visible yet frequently stripped of its meaning, this film insists on accountability. The Old Way Still Cuts exists to protect the system behind the practice and to document Louisiana Creole culture as living knowledge, shaped by land, tools, language, and the Creole families of Southwest Louisiana who continue to carry it forward.

Milton Arceneaux



THE DIRECTOR

MILTON ARCENEUX



PHOTO BY JAMES WILSON

Milton Arceneux is a storyteller, filmmaker and four-time global award-winning portrait photographer from Lafayette, Louisiana, who documents Creole Louisiana from the inside, as one of its own. His mother grew up in a French-speaking family. She bought him a ten-dollar Polaroid at a Saturday garage sale and kept National Geographic in the house so her children would know the world was big and its cultures many.

After eighteen years in Austin, Texas, and a high-level executive career, he came home. He and his wife Dawn settled in Grand Coteau, her hometown, and he put his full attention on his community and on Creole culture.

He co-directed *Built On Zydeco* with Dustin Cravins, the first zydeco documentary directed by Black Creoles, featuring two-time Grammy winner Terrance Simien, Grammy winner Reginald "Buckwheat Jr." Dural and Keith Frank. Funded in part by a \$25,000 #CreateLouisiana French Culture Film Grant from the New Orleans Film Society and TV5MONDE and commended by a Louisiana Senate resolution, it premiered at the 29th New Orleans French Film Festival, won at the American Golden Picture International Film Festival, was selected by South Arts for the NEA-supported Southern Circuit Tour, and screens October 17, 2026 at the 30th Urbanworld Film Festival in New York. His next film, *Parish Okra*, follows four Black farmers across four Louisiana parishes.

He co-founded Louisiana Creole Culture, whose page has passed 81,000 followers without paid promotion, and founded Creole Culture Day, which opens Creole Heritage Month and drew more than a thousand people to Grand Coteau for its fifth year. He presented Creole Culture Day and the Creole boucherie at Folk Alliance International in New Orleans.

A four-time Portrait Masters Bronze winner, he has created, curated and hosted three exhibitions, including *Monochrome Roots*, *Vibrant Rhythms* at the Acadiana Center for the Arts. He is the author of three books on Creole heritage, an ArtSpark Award recipient, President of Vues de Culture, the nonprofit behind the REFRAMING Cinema Film Festival, and founder of the creative agency Encoded Noire.

STILLS

FROM THE FILM



HIGH-RESOLUTION STILLS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

CREDITS

THE OLD WAY STILL CUTS

Directed by	MILTON ARCENEUX
Produced by	MILTON ARCENEUX
Written by	MILTON ARCENEUX
Cinematography by	MILTON ARCENEUX
Edited by	MILTON ARCENEUX
Executive producers	BRICE DECLOUET SHANE BOAGNI JOCOREY HOUSTON DUSTIN CRAVINS NICOLE A. THOMAS
Motion graphics by	FERNEST BROUSSARD
Music	STEP RIDEAU, "BACK TO THE WOODS" WAYNE SINGLETON, "BUILT CREOLE TOUGH"
Featuring	SHANE BOAGNI, SHERMAN BOAGNI BRICE DECLOUET, JOCOREY HOUSTON DUSTIN CRAVINS
Featured families	BOAGNI, DECLOUET, JONES, CRAVINS

CONTACT

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