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## Maroon: On The Trail of Creoles in North America



Written by Matthew Gregory Davis

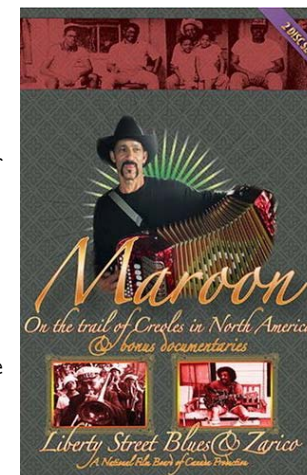
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### Maroon: On The Trail of Creoles in North America

Music Video Dist.

A lot of Americans don't know what "Creole" means. Even after all of the attention on New Orleans after the hurricane, somehow the majority of the country hasn't heard the word "Zarico." In fact, somehow, with all of our cultural awareness programs, even entire months dedicated to ethnic histories, nobody seems to realize that there are places in the continental United States where French is the native language.

André Gladu's recent documentary, Marron: la piste créole en Amérique (or [Maroon: On the Trail of Creole in North America](#)), begins with the true tale of an American people with a deeply rich, virtual estuary of an history, which originates from a fusion of almost every culture to have stepped onto the New World in the days of



its inception. Determined not to let this dying culture and these disappearing people be forgotten, this is the third documentary on the subject Quebecer Gladu has directed. And all three films are now available to purchase in one 2-disc DVD set, with both English and French language options.

All three documentaries are remarkably similar. Each begins with a factual and reverential history, which leads into performances of Creole music, which, if you've never heard any, generally sounds like a combination of country-western, southern blues, slave-songs, and traditional American folk, sung in French with a deep-southern accent, and usually accompanied by an accordion and a washboard. It has influenced just about every kind of American music that exists today, and has been celebrated and borrowed by some of the country's greatest musicians, such as Paul Simon. The films follow specific artists and bands to concerts, festivals, parades, rehearsals and recordings, and focuses on the musicians' perspective of what the music means and from where it comes.

As an historical tool, the films only go so far. Unfortunately, there is little else in the way of mainstream documentation of this vital, even fundamental ingredient to the American melting pot. Musically, the films are heartfelt, real, and inspiring. It is a shame that what may be the best available video on one of the most fascinating, absolutely boiling-over-with-culture peoples in the U.S. was funded by the National Film Board of Canada.



**Matthew Gregory Davis** owns his theatre degree from prestigious Bard College in upstate New York. He is a respected actor and director in the burgeoning theatre scene in Nashville, Tennessee.

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