

THE UNITED STATES OF HOODOO

A film by **OLIVER HARDT** / Written by **DARIUS JAMES** and **OLIVER HARDT** / Original Music
by **ARTO**
LINDSAY & RABOTNIK

Returning from Germany to his childhood home in Connecticut USA, following the death of his father, African-American author Darius James finds himself faced with the remaining traces of his father's life. Sitting in the family home, surrounded by his father's collection of African masks, James starts to ponder his own life. In search of answers he hits the road.

The United States of Hoodoo focuses on the author's road trip as he crosses the continent. Along a route that moves seamlessly from New York to New Orleans and west, from Oakland to Chicago and beyond, James meets musicians, scholars, spiritual leaders, artists and writers, and slowly discovers the deep spiritual roots behind African-American creative practice. Both a personal journey and a cultural voyage, this film paints a multifaceted picture of contemporary African-American art and culture that draws upon everything from the Delta blues of Robert Johnson through to the art of Nick Cave (not the musician), and always against the background of the spiritual traditions of Africa and its diaspora.

International Press

"A fascinating documentary."
Shadow and Act

Synopsis

Last Updated Thursday, 16 January 2014 12:09

„A thoroughly absorbing and illuminating film, that - through the uniquely personal nature of Darius James’s own quest and Oliver Hardt’s careful and sensitive direction – stays with the viewer after the credits have rolled.“

Revelation Perth International Film Festival

“Surprising facts, fascinating places and people, great music – plus a rousing family story. That's the way to make a documentary film.”

Bild.de

“Food for the soul.”

Neues Deutschland

“Watch this documentary and prepare yourself for an unexpected journey into a side of the United States I guarantee you have yet to see!”

kinocritics.com

“An enlightening and wonderfully positive film about the black roots of American culture.”

Filmstarts.de

“The United States of Hoodoo has a deceptive quietness with a hidden power underneath it.”

Modern Griots Review

“Exciting topic – well worth seeing!”

Bayrischer Rundfunk

“A fascinating, almost hypnotic road movie.”

Nordkurier

“Leave your preconceived notions at the door and open your mind as you join Darius James on his journey to understand the roots of voodoo within

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the United States and how it connects with the African culture that would eventually lead to the Afro-American culture."

kinocritics.com

"A documentary road movie that carefully examines the roots of urban creativity without being academic."

Filmdienst

Onward into an invisible America! Darius James accompanies this remarkable road trip with great literary texts off and makes the documentary a pleasure in this respect as well. In short: Extremely successful.

brutstatt.de