



For Immediate Release
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Festivals Acadiens et Créoles Partners With Southern Screen to Present “Belizaire the Cajun”
Internationally acclaimed film celebrates its 30th anniversary.

Lafayette, LA, Nov. 3 2016 – Festivals Acadiens et Créoles is partnering with Southern Screen Film Festival for a special event on Nov. 9 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of “Belizaire The Cajun.” Filmed in Acadiana, “Belizaire” offered a positive portrayal of Cajun culture and helped launch both the 1980s all-things-Cajun craze and the independent film movement. Breaking the ceiling of regional popularity, the film went on to find national and international acclaim at Cannes, Sundance and the Toronto International Film Festival.

Released in 1986, directed by Glen Pitre and starring Armand Assante in the title role, along with Robert Duval, “Belizaire the Cajun” tells the story of a wily 1859 root doctor who must save his friend’s life, win a woman’s heart, outfox a crooked sheriff, stop marauding vigilantes, expose an evil villain, rescue the inheritance of three orphaned children, heal the sick, play music for the dance and, of course, keep himself off the gallows.

Of the film, Siskel & Ebert wrote, “A wonderful movie! Two thumbs up!” *Los Angeles Weekly* called it “Beautiful and exhilarating,” and the *Hollywood Reporter* decreed it as “Superbly paced. Rich and often explosive.”

“Southern Screen is super excited about teaming up with Festivals Acadiens et Créoles to bring Glen Pitre and 'Belizaire The Cajun' back to Cajun Country for this special event kicking off the sixth-annual Southern Screen Film Festival,” says Southern Screen Executive Director Julie Bordelon. “We are proud of our home and our heritage and look forward to sharing this film with our out-of-town guests who will be in Lafayette for Southern Screen Nov. 10-13.”

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“Festivals Acadiens et Créoles has been wanting to do additional programming outside our normal October dates that celebrates our way of life,” explains Vice President of Programming and Development Patrick Mould. “With 'Belizaire the Cajun' celebrating its 30th anniversary, it seemed like an excellent opportunity to continue the celebration of our Cajun lifestyle, especially with a film that portrays it so authentically on the big screen.”

“Belizaire the Cajun” will be screened from 6-9:30 p.m. Nov. 9 at Vermilionville. As a special treat, writer and director Pitre will introduce the film and answer questions after the screening. Tickets to the screening are limited and on sale for \$10 or \$5 with a Festival Pass. Visit southernscreen.org for more information; tickets are available via Eventbrite.

Festivals Acadiens et Créoles presented by Capital One can trace its roots back to the first Tribute to Cajun Music Festival organized by CODOFIL in 1974. Festivals was officially established in 1977 with components of music, food and crafts. Since then, it has grown into a multi-day event taking place during the second full weekend of October each year in Lafayette, La. Festivals operates as a nonprofit corporation and is run by a community board and volunteers.

Every November in Lafayette, Louisiana, Southern Screen Film Festival presents four days of film screenings, panels, red carpet events, parties and workshops. Southern Screen moves beyond the traditional film festival and works to open up the community to the widespread possibilities of storytelling. The festival offers a hands-on experience, where the creativity in filmmaking mixes with a landscape of the local Louisiana culture to inspire and ignite the local community and visiting filmmakers.