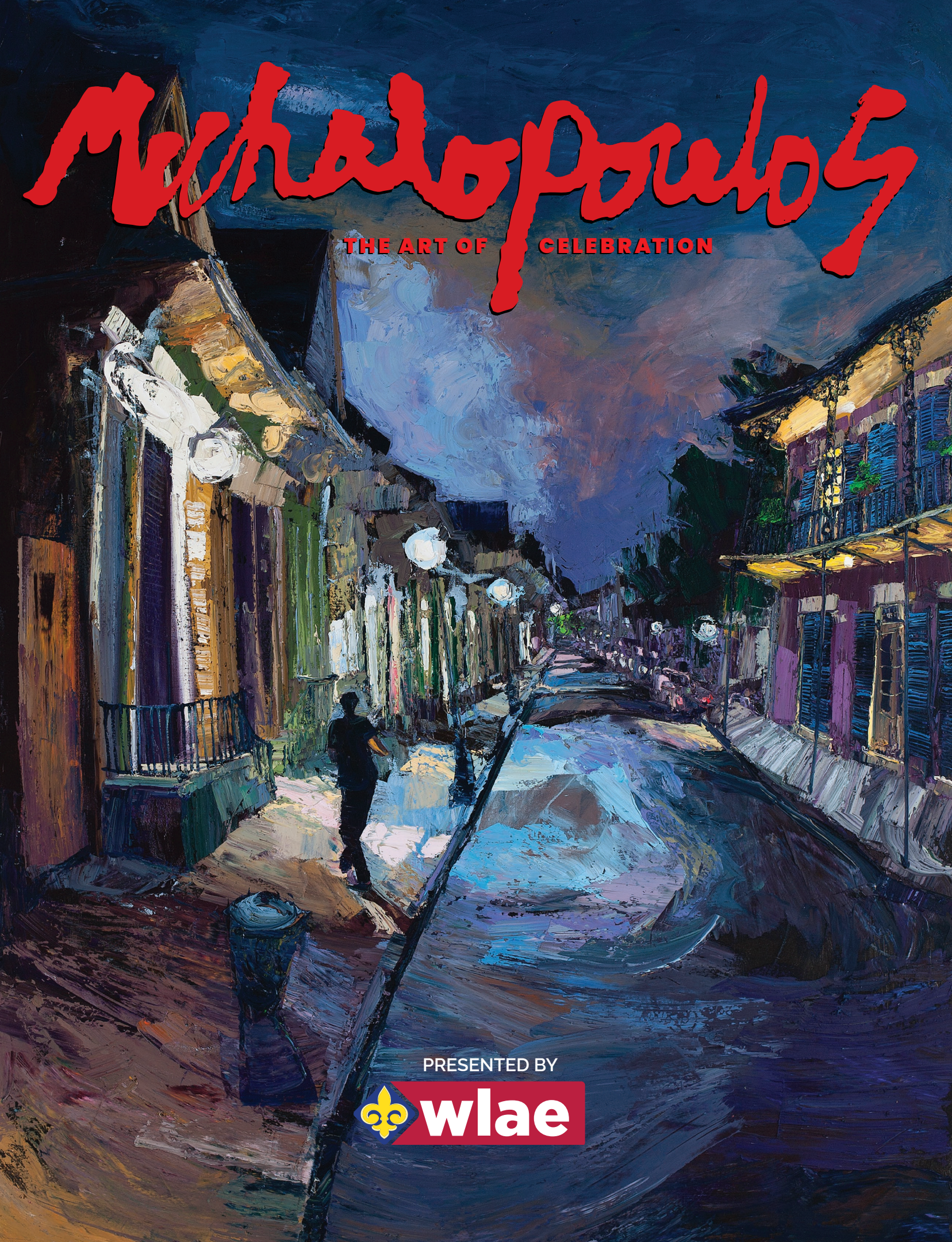


# Michalopoulos

THE ART OF CELEBRATION



PRESENTED BY



# Michalopoulos

## THE ART OF CELEBRATION

"I like a picture to dance and I think of painting in mystical terms. I'm listening for the inspirational and I express it as a visual lyric. Life is a pulsating, vibrational riot. I snip cuts of this and serve it up."

— James Michalopoulos

**F**rom the award-winning team and executive producers of *Blue: The Life and Art of George Rodrigue*, *George Dunbar: Mining the Surfaces*, *A Tribute to Toussaint*, *Irma Thomas: The Soul Queen of New Orleans*, and *Fats Domino: Walking Back to New Orleans* comes the latest film by WLAE-TV and 6th Street Studios: *Michalopoulos: The Art of Celebration*.

No artist has captured the heartbeat and spirit of New Orleans like James Michalopoulos. This film follows him to never-before-seen locations where he creates his masterpieces: from an eccentric chateau in Burgundy to his cattywampus New Orleans home and rambling funeral home turned fantastical studio pulsating with the beat of Frenchman Street.

His vibrant paintings of the city with their distinctive and colorful skies luminate the color and character of the Crescent City's lush neighborhoods. He paints the way New Orleans feels. Every brushstroke brims with reverence for the city's people and places and their unmistakable rhythms. Illustrating his pioneering style, *Michalopoulos: The Art of Celebration* captures the evolution and depth of his oeuvre—from his iconic architectural paintings and celebrated portraiture to French landscapes, and large-scale sculptural works.

This is the extraordinary story of a remarkable self-taught artist. The son of a Greek immigrant and prominent architect, whose modernist buildings redefined downtown Pittsburgh, Michalopoulos' wanderlust led him to New Orleans four decades ago. Fascinated with the duality of beauty and decay, he began a life-long love affair with the city that became his muse. From his early days as a New Orleans street artist to becoming the most influential artist in the region today, this documentary explores his epic journey including his impact as a preservationist and his time as a trail-blazing restaurateur and rum maker.

Michalopoulos' burgeoning popularity in the 90s swiftly elevated him to international acclaim. From his base in the French Quarter, he exhibited in New York, London, Geneva, and Venice and operated galleries in San Francisco, Boston, Maui, and France, drawing collectors from across the globe. His role as art director for House of Blues Productions further broadened his reach, creating imagery that influenced set design worldwide. His portraits represent all segments of the musical stratosphere and have been featured on the coveted New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival poster seven times, more than any other artist in the festival's history.

Despite his international prominence, he chose to anchor his life and work in New Orleans, a city whose fragile existence is perpetually under threat from environmental issues, severe storms, and a rising cost of living, yet remains America's last bastion of Bohemia. Here he found his mission: championing the singular culture of the city and its artists and communities by building affordable workspaces and homes. In doing so, preserving New Orleans' culture of celebration became as much a part of his legacy as his paintings.

Join WLAE-TV for a film that illuminates the enduring legacy and vibrant creations of James Michalopoulos, an artist open to the world, possessed by the muse, and with a will toward transcendence.



**E**xecutive Producers Jim Dotson and Ron Yager are the power team responsible for dozens of award-winning films and series for WLAE. Their individual and collaborative careers include extensive experience and expertise producing entertaining and informative content for television audiences.

Their Telly award-winning films, *Fats Domino – Walkin' Back to New Orleans*, *Leah Chase: The Queen of Creole Cuisine* and the Emmy-Award winning *A Tribute to Toussaint* and *Irma Thomas: The Soul Queen of New Orleans* have enjoyed national distribution through American Public Television and NETA (National Educational Telecommunications Association), and *Blue: The Life and Art of George Rodrigue*, *George Dunbar: Mining the Surfaces* and *Battlegrounds: The Lost Community of Fazendeville* are receiving statewide distribution through all Louisiana Public Broadcasting affiliate stations. Most of these films are also available worldwide on WLAE's YouTube Channel, [@WLAETV](#).

Other highly acclaimed releases include *Fitz! The Life and Political Legacy of Jimmy Fitzmorris* and their multi-Emmy Award-winning travel series *Go Coast: Louisiana* which celebrates Louisiana music, food and culture and runs locally on WLAE and statewide on LPB.



**E**xecutive Producer and Director of Legacy Projects Bruce Lee Smith has a 25-year career in art, collectible assets, TV and radio, and funding enterprises. His most recent credits include Executive Producer for *Blue: The Life and Art of George Rodrigue*, *George Dunbar: Mining the Surfaces*, and Coordinating Producer for the Season 4 episodes of *Driven*, LAE Productions' Emmy Award-winning series on YurView. As a business owner and director of high profile institutions within the world of fine art and world class rare objects, published author and storyteller, radio host, frequent commentator and guest on nationally recognized shows, Bruce is passionate about the mission of education and service through public television and is a great fit for our legacy projects at WLAE.

**P**roducer, Writer, and Director Sean O'Malley established O'Malley Productions in 2005 in Los Angeles, California. He has written, directed, and produced series and specials for Food Network, Cooking Channel, Animal Planet, Travel Channel, Univision's streaming platform ViX, and Discovery+, including over 175 hours of *Food Paradise*, one of Discovery's longest running food series. Sean served as Executive Producer and Producer for LAE Productions' nationally distributed, award-winning, PBS documentary, *Fats Domino: Walkin' Back to New Orleans*. Sean most recently produced *Blue: The Life and Art of George Rodrigue*.



For more information, please contact:

Bruce Lee Smith  
Executive Producer  
WLAE-TV Director of Legacy Projects  
985.502.4071 or [bruce@wlae.com](mailto:bruce@wlae.com)

Educational Broadcasting Foundation, Inc.  
(DBA WLAE-TV) is a 501(c)(3) organization.  
Tax ID #72-0920100

WLAE is available on these services:

- Cox Ch. 14 & 1014
- Spectrum Ch. 11 & 711
- AT&T Ch. 1032
- Satellite and over the air Ch. 32
- Comcast (Houma) Ch. 3
- Vision Comm. (including Grand Isle)
- Ch. 32 & 1032
- RTC (Reserve) Ch. 2

For more information, visit [wlae.com/michalopoulos](http://wlae.com/michalopoulos) or scan the code below





# Michalopoulos

## THE ART OF CELEBRATION

### BECOME A PARTNER

#### **Waltzing Muse** \$100,000+

Patrons at the \$100,000 level will receive a one of a kind original painting of their home or a portrait sitting with the artist. Our highest-funding partner will receive "Presented by" credit with logo/name and optional tagline, premiere signage with step and repeat wall inclusion, photos at premiere, tickets to premiere, framed documentary poster, social media tags and more.

#### **The Art of Celebration** \$50,000

A private dinner with the artist for up to 10 people, a signed poster print, mixed media on canvas, and an original oil on canvas. Icon level credit with logo/name and optional tagline, premiere signage with step and repeat wall inclusion, photos at premiere, tickets to premiere, framed documentary poster, social media tags and more.

#### **Rhythm and Movement** \$25,000

A private dinner with the artist for up to 10 people or a private party at the artist's residence on Frenchman Street, signed poster print, mixed media on canvas, and a signed *Bookalopoulos*. Diamond level credit with logo/name and optional tagline, premiere signage with step and repeat wall inclusion, photos at premiere, tickets to premiere, framed documentary poster, social media tags and more.

#### **We Groovin** \$10,000

An original mixed media work heavily embellished in oil paint by the artist will be offered to the first 10 donors at this level. Platinum level credit (logo or donor name), premiere signage, photos at premiere, tickets to premiere, framed documentary poster, social media tags and more.

#### **Collector** \$5,000

*Yellow Charmer*, a signed, numbered 36"x24" silkscreen, premiere signage, a signed *Michalopoulos: The Art of Celebration* documentary poster, a signed *Bookalopoulos*, photos at the premiere, listing in the closing rolling credits and 2 tickets to the premiere.

#### **Orleanian** \$2,500

A signed *Michalopoulos: The Art of Celebration* documentary poster, a signed *Bookalopoulos*, photos at the premiere, listing in the closing rolling credits and 2 tickets to the premiere.

#### **Jubilation** \$1,000

A signed *Bookalopoulos*, a *Michalopoulos: The Art of Celebration* documentary poster, listing in the closing rolling credits and 1 ticket to the premiere.

#### **Festivity** \$500

A *Michalopoulos: The Art of Celebration* documentary poster, listing in the closing rolling credits and 1 ticket to the premiere.

#### **Friendalopoulos** \$250

A high-quality *Michalopoulos: The Art of Celebration* documentary poster, suitable for framing.