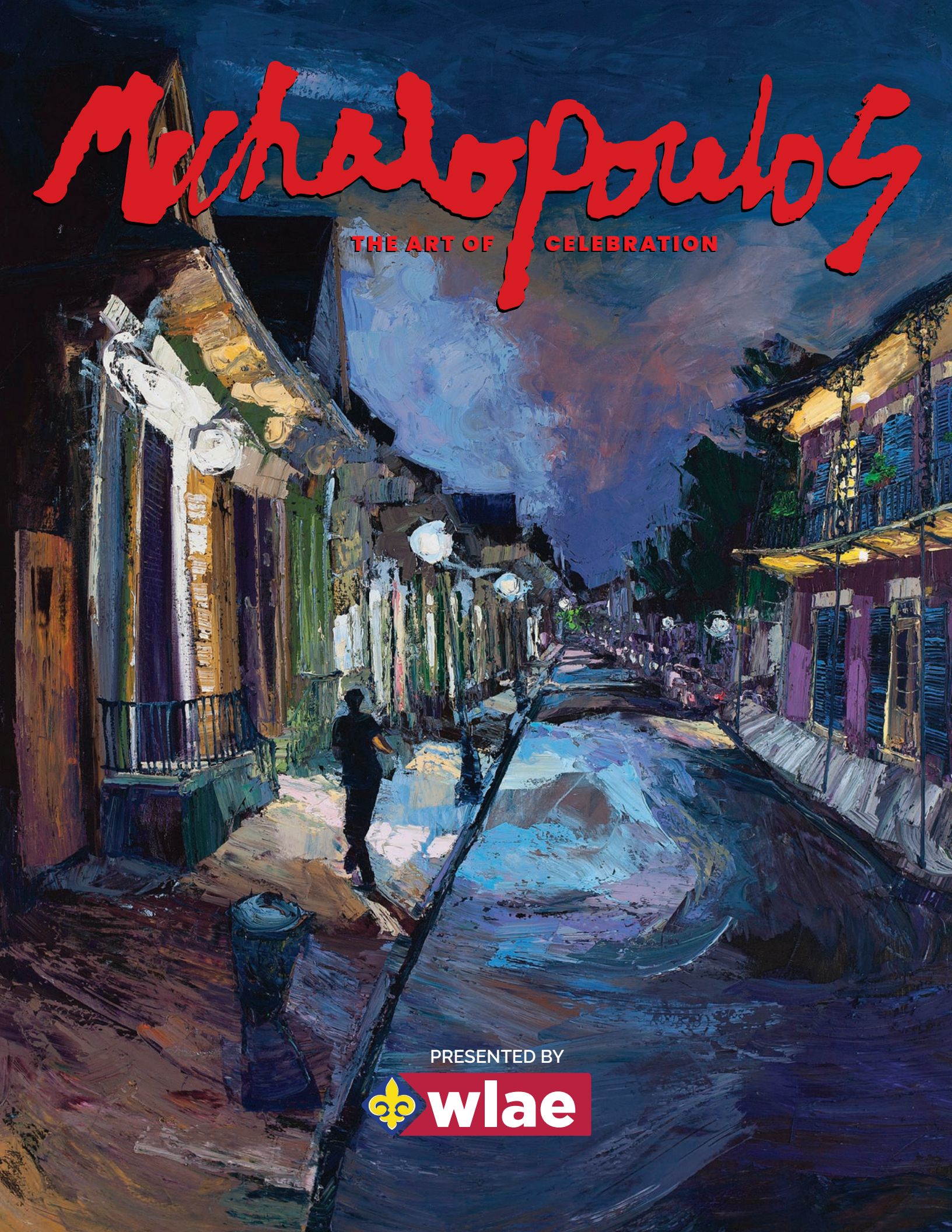


Metcalopoulou

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

From 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 eight 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.



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

Their most recent film, *Blue: The Life and Art of George Rodrigue*, has won more than a half-dozen Best Documentary awards at film festivals worldwide. *Blue*, and WLAE's Telly and Emmy award-winning films celebrating *Fats Domino*, *Leah Chase*, *Allen Toussaint*, and *Irma Thomas* have enjoyed national distribution through American Public Television and NETA (National Educational Telecommunications Association). *Battlegrounds: The Lost Community of Fazendeville* and *George Dunbar: Mining the Surfaces* receive statewide distribution through all Louisiana Public Broadcasting affiliate stations. Many of their films and series are also available worldwide on WLAE's YouTube Channel, [@WLAETV](https://www.youtube.com/@WLAETV)

Other highly acclaimed releases include *Fitz! The Life and Political Legacy of Jimmy Fitzmorris* and *Let's Talk With Keith Spera*. *Let's Talk* and the multi-Emmy Award-winning travel series *Go Coast: Louisiana* both celebrate Louisiana music, food, and culture, and air statewide on LPB.

Producer, 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*.



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For more information, visit
wlae.com/michalopoulos
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Michalopoulos

THE ART OF CELEBRATION

BECOME A PARTNER

The Art of Celebration \$50,000+

Swish, a signed, numbered 36" x 24" silkscreen, a signed *Michalopoulos – The Art Of Celebration* documentary poster, 2 signed *Bookalopoulos*, premiere signage, icon level credit (name/logo/tag line) at the beginning/ending of the documentary, step and repeat signage for all premiere red carpet photos, and 20 tickets to the premiere.

Rhythm and Movement \$25,000

Yellow Charmer, a signed, numbered 36"x24" silkscreen, a signed *Michalopoulos – The Art Of Celebration* documentary poster, 2 signed *Bookalopoulos*, premiere signage, diamond level credit (name) at the beginning/ending of the documentary, and 12 tickets to the premiere.

We Groovin' \$10,000

A signed *Michalopoulos – The Art Of Celebration* documentary poster, 2 signed *Bookalopoulos*, premiere signage, platinum level credit (name) at the beginning/ending of the documentary, and 8 tickets to the premiere.

Collector \$5,000

A signed *Michalopoulos – The Art Of Celebration* documentary poster, 2 signed *Bookalopoulos*, premiere signage, listing in the closing rolling credits, and 4 tickets to the premiere.

Orleanian \$2,500

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

Jubilation \$1,000

A *Michalopoulos – The Art Of Celebration* documentary poster, listing in the closing rolling credits, and 2 tickets 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