

The BunnFunn Collection - "Little Miss & Young Miss BunnFunn"
A Historical Fashion Photographic Essay - The Gullah Geechee Nation

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Last days of summer filled with baskets for Sunflowers. Let our sweet summer story unfold...

*#lowcountry #africanhistory #vintagebaskets
#fashionandhistory*



When we speak of the diaspora, we speak of a great people dispersed throughout the corners of the world. As we had ships that were carrying abducted africans arriving at shores bound for cotton plantations, other ships carried our ancestors to lands where rice was harvested. One such culture that derived from those southern shores were the Gullah. Peoples from West Africa and Western Sudan (to name only a few) adopted beliefs and practices from many tribes blending together as one. Languages based on African grammar evolved into distinct dialects such as our present day english based creole. Your Brer Rabbit stories come from this culture, as well as the magnificent baskets hand crafted by them from the sweet grasses of the islands. This image reminds me of the mystery of this culture and compels me to learn more...

*#[jamaicanpatois](#) #[barbadianialect](#) #[trinidadiancreole](#)
#[beliziancreole](#) #[krio](#)*



1991's "Daughters of The Dust", directed by Julie Dash, who was the first African American female to direct a film that had a wide theatrical release, based a story upon a family of women who were the product of slavery fall out. They were facing their turn at the crossroads of their lives in 1902. Strong women of Gullah, off to the mainland for a new beginning and a deep and spiritual break of the bond of their sea islands. Julie Dash brought the lives of these women to the film screen and shared a part of our heritage, many of us never knew existed.

#postcolonial #slaveryfallout #antebellum
#turnofthecenturywomen #blackisbeautiful
#knowyourhistory #knowledgeispower



A great day to rejoice and to be proud of who you are and where you come from...."The survival of African people away from their ancestral land is one of the great acts of human endurance in the history of the world" ...John Henrik Clark. BunnFunn pays homage to the Gullah people for the growth, development, and success of the Rice and Sea Island cotton industries. Organizations have been created to help keep this endangered culture's lands intact, especially the merchandising portion of the coast where sweet grass baskets still remains a viable and living piece of history.



As the sisters find a place to rest, they take some time to read. There are wonderful books for children that share the Gullah experience. "Lunnin de Chillen", by Queen Quet, Chieftess of the Gullah Geechee Nation; "De Gullah Storybook", by Ron Daise; and "Tryumsee's Wings", by Patrice Bee.





The Gullah people, once unchained, remained on the islands and lived off the mainland where nature abounded. They chose to remain reclusive, unto themselves. Children today need to have that kind of quality time with nature, with no distractions from the outside world. No noise, no electronics, no stress.... They need time to just breathe, relax, read, commune with family and truly - live, love, and be happy. The history of the Gullah people shows us how community is key.



Our story of the Gullah/Geechee people ends today with the hopes that we have enlightened a few of our followers along the way about the rich, and sometimes hauntingly, beautiful culture of only a mere part of our ancestral history.

Presently, the community is in dire straits. The continuing development and pollution of the natural lands of the islands which depletes the resources of the people living there on the land and now the added burden of higher taxation - due to the apparent bullish take over by said developers all points to a neglectful government of a once thriving self sustaining and still a proud cultural community. The community is already dwindling due to generations that have left the islands and only a small number of original ancestry survive.

My next essay is on Seneca Village. The land take over during the mid 1800s was under the laws of eminent domain. This is nothing new. We must continue the good fight.

—Sara Bunn