I’m Trevor Schoonmaker
The chief curator and Patsy R. and Raymond D. Nasher Curator of contemporary art
at the Nasher Museum of art at Duke University
John Akomfrah is one of the pioneers of
experimental art cinema in the United Kingdom.
In 1982 he was the founder of the “Black Audio Film Collective”
and he is currently the director of “Smoking Dogs Films”
John is an artist I have known for a long time
and I knew his work would be perfect for
an exhibition I was organizing in New Orleans
a city-wide triennial called “Prospect.4: The Lotus in Spite of the Swamp”
John made this work specifically for that occasion
It premiered in fall of 2017 and the
Nasher Museum came on board to produce and commission the work
It has since then become part of our collection
here at the museum and we are very proud to have it in the collection
Hi my name is John Akomfrah
I’m an artist/filmmaker born in Ghana in Accra
I’ve lived and worked in London pretty much all my life
Behind me is “Precarity” which is my latest piece
It’s 46 minutes long
The central figure of “Precarity” is
jazz legend Buddy Bolden
He’s a legend because everyone
credits him with being the father of jazz
but actually no one knows a thing about
his life or his music
So “Precarity” is an attempt to try and make sense of what constitutes a legend