Painter, professor, and blues man, Mike Henderson is far too little known for his remarkable body of 16mm film work. The Marshall, Missouri-born Henderson set out for California in 1965 to study at the San Francisco Art Institute, where he graduated with a BFA in painting and a MFA in filmmaking in 1970. He joined the faculty at University of California-Davis as a professor of art, teaching painting, drawing, and filmmaking until his retirement in 2012.

Radically inventive, often hilariously funny, and very rarely shown, Henderson’s “talking blues films” reflect an unusual synthesis of his music and painting backgrounds, spanning compositional experiments, absurdist musings on creativity, and blues-driven pieces about Black identity, all rendered in a powerful, unadorned DIY directness.

Films include:
- Dufus (1970/73)
- The Last Supper (1970/73)
- How to Beat a Dead Horse (1983)

Program curator: Mark Toscano. All 16mm prints provided courtesy of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Film Archive. Screening is free, but ticketed.

JUST ANOTHER NOTION is co-presented by the Black Film Center/Archive, the Underground Film Series, and the Afrosurrealist Film Society. Sponsored by the BFC/A with the College of Arts and Sciences, the Media School, the Film and Media Studies Program, the Department of American Studies, the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies, and the Indiana University Cinema. For more information, visit cinema.indiana.edu and indiana.edu/~bfca.