

Marie Laveau, New Orleans's nineteenth century Voodoo Queen, has become a popular character of modern culture. Part of this can be traced to the depiction of her in the third season of American Horror Story. But even without the fictionalized tale, Laveau was already a force to be reckoned with. Despite the folklore that has snowballed into urban legends regarding what the Voodoo priestess did, most of her work was a combination of traditional medicine and spiritual practices. It's likely that her concoctions and potions were remedies based on plant and herbs, not unlike the \$20 under-the-tongue drops we find at our local organic grocery store now. For all the legends and representations this Voodoo Queen has had, her greatest legacy is one of compassion and care.