



Ramatou Hyenas Djibril Diop Mambety

Senegal, 1992, 110 minutes
Colour/35mm

Production Company: **Thelma Film AG**
Executive Producer: **Pierre-Alain Meier,**
Alain Rozanes

Screenplay: **Djibril Diop Mambety**, adapted from
the play "The Visit" by **Friedrich Dürrenmatt**

Cinematography: **Matthias Kälin**

Editor: **Loredana Cristelli**

Sound: **Maguette Salla**

Music: **Wasis Diop**

Principal Cast: **Mansour Diouf, Ami Diakhate,**
Mahouredia Gueye, Issa Ramagelissa Samb,
Kaoru Egushi, Djibril Diop Mambety, Omar Ba

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To the dusty heat of Colobane, a once charming village now shattered by poverty, Linguère Ramatou returns with fabulous wealth and a promise to save her people. But, attached to this promise is a deadly bargain: Draman Drameh — the lover who had betrayed a 16-year-old, pregnant Linguère — must be executed. The announcement comes during a celebratory banquet in honour of her return; villagers, who had long forgotten the incident, are at once horrified, astonished, and indignant. While appearing to maintain a good moral conscience, the villagers are unable to resist the dazzling array of consumer goods at their fingertips, and so they begin to purchase on credit. While Linguère remains unshakable in her pursuit of justice, Draman's initial self-interest and fear for his life soon give way to resignation and disdain for his fellow villagers. Adapted from a German play by Friedrich Dürrenmatt, Mambety forges his cautionary tale with humour, compassion, and sumptuous colour. Linguère's train of bejewelled servants, her artificial limbs gained from a cut-throat street life, the sporadic appearances of elephants and hyenas, and the magnificence of a golden desert give the film its inviting sense of place. Also, Mambety playfully takes us back and forth in time, with shots of 19th century pomp followed by 20th century appliances, stressing the enduring, almost mythic status of the conflict between avarice and dignity.

Djibril Diop Mambety was born in Dakar, Senegal in 1945. After studying drama, he worked as an actor at the Daniel Sorano National Theatre and in a number of Senegalese and Italian films. Films include: *Contras' City* (69), *Badou Boy* (70), *The Hyena's Journey* (73), *Parlons Grand-mère* (89), *Hyenas* (92).

Helga Stephenson