

ARCADIA FILMS PARIS, LES FILMS DE L'AVENIR OUAGADOUGOU, THELMA FILM AG. ZURICH PRESENTENT
UN FILM DE IDRISSE OUEDRAOGO



Y A A B A



COLLIER

AVEC SANCA FATIMATA / NOUFOU OUEDRAOGO / ROUKIETOU BARRY / RASMANÉ OUEDRAOGO
EN COPRODUCTION AVEC LE BURKINA FASO, LA TELEVISION SUISSE-ROMANDE, ZWEITES DEUTSCHES FERNSEHEN, LA SEPT, LE CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA CINEMATOGRAPHIE, LE MINISTERE DE LA COOPERATION, L'OFFICE FEDERAL DE LA CULTURE, C.O.E. MILAN

XXIst DIRECTORS' FORTNIGHT

OPENING FILM - CANNES - 1989

YAABA

by IDRISSA OUEDRAOGO

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Synopsis

To Watamou

Watamou Lamien had constantly and assiduously fought for the production of films in Burkina Faso.

On June 19, 1988 he died in a car accident on his way to visit and encourage me on the shooting of YAABA which had just begun

I dedicate this film to his memory.

“YAABA” means grandmother in the Mooré-language.

YAABA also denotes the name Bila, a twelve year old boy, gives to Sana, an old reclusive woman who has been rejected by the entire village.

YAABA is first and forever the story of a friendship which begins and grows between two members of a rural society, in which we see man as he is : good, evil, generous, intolerant.

YAABA is based on tales of my childhood and on that kind of bedtime story-telling we hear just before falling asleep..., if we are so lucky as to have a grandmother.

Idrissa Ouedraogo

Credits

Written and directed by.....	Idrissa OUEDRAOGO
Director of photography.....	Matthias KÄLIN
Photographer.....	Jean MONSIGNY
Sound Supervisor.....	Jean-Paul MUGEL
Music.....	Francis BEBEY
Editing.....	Loredana CRISTELLI
Sound Mixer.....	Dominique DALMASSO
Technical Advisor.....	Sekou OUEDRAOGO
Assistants to the Director.....	Paul ZOUMBARA Ismaël OUEDRAOGO
Script.....	Virginie BARBAY
Camera Assistant.....	Moussa DIAKITE
Sound Recordist.....	Laurent POIRIER
Gaffer.....	André PINKUS
Best boy.....	Kibly Dembawélé DIALLO
Key Grip.....	Urs BÜHLER
Make-Up.....	Nathalie TANNER Aminata ZOURÉ
Production Managers.....	Baba OUEDRAOGO Aouba DRISSA Karim SAWADOGO
Producers.....	Pierre-André THIEBAUD Freddy DENAES Pierre-Alain MEIER Idrissa OUEDRAOGO

© 1989 35 mm - 1:1,66 - Color - 1 h 30

Cast

YAABA.....	Fatimata SANGA
BILA.....	Noufou OUEDRAOGO
NOPOKO.....	Roukietou BARRY
KOUGRI.....	Adama OUEDRAOGO
TIBO.....	Amadé TOURE
POKO.....	Sibidou OUEDRAOGO
RAZOUYOU.....	Adama SIDIBE
NOAGA.....	Rasmané OUEDRAOGO
FINSE.....	Kinda MOUMOUNI
KOUDI.....	Assita OUEDRAOGO
PEGDA.....	Zenabou OUEDRAOGO
TARYAM.....	Ousmane SAWADOGO

Idrissa Ouedraogo

Idrissa Ouedraogo was born in Banfora (Burkina Faso) in 1954. After studying at the African Film School in Ouagadougou (I.N.A.F.E.C.), he worked for the Government Agency for Filmproduction and shot his first short film, POKO, in 1981.

After a stay in Kiev in the Soviet Union, he enrolled at the IDHEC, where he graduated in 1985.

1981

POKO. 20', 16 mm, colour. This film has won two awards at the Festival of Ouagadougou (Fespaco) in 1981.

1983

LES ECUELLES. 11', 16 mm, colour. First prize for the best short film at the festivals of Nevers and Melbourne. Kodak-Prize in the "Musée de l'Homme" in Paris.

LES FUNERAILLES DU LARLE, 30', 16 mm, colour.

1984

OUAGADOUGOU, OUAGA DEUX ROUES. 16', 16 mm, colour.

1985

ISSA LE TISSERAND. 20', 16 mm, colour. Three prizes at the 1985 Festival of Ouagadougou as well as the First Prize for the best short film at the Festival of Amiens 1986.

1986

YAM DAABO. 1 h 20, 16 mm/35 mm, colour. Several prizes at the Festival of Ouagadougou. It was selected for the Semaine de la Critique in Cannes, 1987.

On Yaaba

YAABA tells the story of Bila, a child who plays hide-and-peek in the expanses of the desert surrounding his native village ; some dry brush is all he needs to have fun with his girlfriend Nopoko. The place is of no importance. What really matters is the perspective. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Just close your eyes, count to ten, measure time, and then open your eyes again to rediscover the world and its ever so minute changes : YAABA is the fruit of this desire which is the root of the beauty of cinema.

This spontaneous amazement and sweet fascination are the background Idrissa Ouedraogo has chosen for the encounter between Bila and Yaaba, an old and lonely woman who has been rejected by the villagers. With the rhythm of the boy's adventures and as if seen through his own eyes the film time and again bridges the gap of fear and superstition that estranges the intriguing, mysterious Yaaba from the villagers.

The film draws its interest from opposing currents, from a heightening of the senses and from the love and the confidence the director shows towards his protagonists. It is touching too to find in YAABA traces of a family drama : the death of a child which marked the destiny of the persons in the first film by Idrissa Ouedraogo, YAM DAABO. Here too, the power of life and of cinema stems from the certainty of its constantly being endangered. By giving Yaaba the power to save little Nopoko, Idrissa Ouedraogo opens his film to the cycle of life and to a mysterious world-order sustained by the wordless love of the old woman for Bila. An irrational magic mixture of feelings and seduction, discovery of hidden meanings, respecting their freedom to distil the truth. This exacting, yet delicate way of viewing is the strong quality Idrissa imparts to his personalities. The film is a song of praise to human nature with all its many facets and frailties. It ends as it began, with the joy of running in the desert toward untold marvelously novel discoveries and the imagery of the make-believe, combined in a symbiosis of vitality and inspired directing.

Frédéric STRAUSS

**Produced
by**

ARCADIA FILMS, Paris, Freddy DENAËS and Michel DAVID,
LES FILMS DE L'AVENIR, Ouagadougou, Idrissa OUEDRAOGO
THELMA FILM AG, Zürich, Pierre-Alain MEIER.

In coproduction with Burkina Faso, TSR (Geneva), ZDF (Mainz), La SEPT (Paris),
Centre National de la Cinématographie (Paris), Federal Office of Cultural Affairs
and Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (Bern), COE (Milan).

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