

WAKA FILMS



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Synopsis

What can a musician in trouble dream of? His instrument, of course.

Marigo dreams of his congoma, confiscated by his mean landlady, due to his chronic non-payment of rent.

Poor musician, poor Marigo. His congoma is his whole life.

But fate wants Marigo to buy a national lottery ticket.

A precious document that he will carefully and energetically glue to his door, then cover up with the poster of a childhood hero who was turning yellow above his rickety bed. The ticket must be protected at all cost, one never knows...

The evening of the draw. The wheel turns, turns. Fortune explodes in Marigo's eyes and ears. The winning number is 555. The very same number that is on the ticket.

But the problem is that Marigo did stick the ticket to his door. Never mind! He tears the door off its hinges and carries it over his head.

He sets off towards the ticket office of the national lottery, many kilometers away, downtown. Dreadful Golgotha. But no-one is more ready to suffer than Marigo (except Jesus Christ).

Marigo is a millionaire within a few hours. Thousands of congomas, an orchestra, a private jet. Just like James Brown. Yes, sir !

Yet, a last obstacle is revealed to him in the lottery office: He has indeed won the jackpot. But the control number essential for any payment is printed on the back of the glued ticket. Damn!

The ticket must be unglued without altering the control number!

There is the problem, but never mind! Marigo has a brilliant idea.

Sitting on a rock, facing the ocean, Marigo offers his precious door to the caresses of the waves. The sea can be dreadful at night on the West coast of the Atlantic.

Good luck Marigo, musician and martyr.

Djibril Diop Mambety

Author's note of intent

The ordinary people are those who will never have a bank account. The people for whom the break of day always brings a question mark.

Ordinary people have this in common: A pure heart in a handkerchief of ingenuity.

But no-one is braver than an innocent.

Let's get this straight.

The title of the film LE FRANC does not only designate the currency to be won or stolen - French franc, African CFA or Swiss franc - but also the frank man. LE FRANC was the first part of a planned trilogy, "TALES OF ORDINARY PEOPLE".

THE LITTLE SELLER OF THE SUN and THE APPRENTICE THIEF were to follow. Three short films more or less make a feature film.

August 1994

Credits

Format 35mm (1:1,85), color

Running time 44 minutes

Language wolof

year 1994

Written and directy by Djibril Diop Mambety

Producer Silvia Voser

Actors :

Marigo Dieye Ma Dieye

The landlady Aminta Fall

The lotery ticket seller Demba Bâ

Photography ande editing Stephan Oriach

Sound Alioune M'Bow

Chief electrician Arona Camara

Mixing Paolo Logli

Music Dieye Massamba Dieye

..... Issa Cissokho

..... Moussa Ndiayee

Productions : Waka Films AG (Suisse)

..... Scolopendra Productions (France)

..... Maag Daan (Sénégal)

Djibril Diop Mambety (1945 -1998)

Djibril Diop Mambety was born in 1945 near Senegal's capital city of Dakar in Colobane, a town featured prominently in some of his films. Mambety's interest in cinema began with theater. Having graduated from acting school in Senegal, Mambety worked as a stage actor at the Daniel Sorano National Theater in Dakar until he was expelled for disciplinary reasons. In 1968, at age 23, without any formal training in filmmaking, Mambety directed and produced his first short film, *Contras' City*. He died in July 1998.

Filmography :

- 1969.....**CONTRAS' CITY**, 27 minutes – 16mm – colour
- 1970.....**BADOU BOY**, 65 minutes – 16 mm – colour
- Médaille d'or at MIFED 1970, Milan
 - Tanit d'Argent 1970 at Carthage Film Festival
- 1973.....**TOUKI BOUKI** (The Journey of the Hyena), 95 minutes – 35 mm – colour
- Selection Quinzaine des Réalisateurs, Festival of Cannes 1973
 - International Critics Award, Moscou, 1973
 - Special Jury Award, Moscou 1973
- 1979**DIABUŒU**, 9 minutes – 16 mm – colour
ASPEKTE (TV ZDF, Germany)
- 1989.....**PARLONS GRAND-MÈRE**, 34 minutes – 16/35 mm – colour
- making of : « Yaaba » by Idrissa Ouedraogo
 - City Award of Perugia, Italy
- 1992**HYENES**, 110 minutes – 35 mm – colour
- after « The Visit of the Old Lady » by Friedrich Dürrenmatt
 - Official selection Cannes Festival, 1992
- 1994.....**LE FRANC**, 44 min. - 35mm - colour
- Festival of Locarno : World Premiere on the Piazza Grande.
 - Festival of Carthage : Tanit d'Or
 - Festival del cinema africano, Milan, AGFA Award
 - Festival of Ouagadougou : Grand Prix of FESPACO.
 - Film Festival San Francisco : Golden Gate Award for best short film
 - Award of the Ministry of Cooperation for the best production, France
- 1999.....**LA PETITE VENDEUSE DE SOLEIL**, 44 min. - 35mm - colour.
- Festival of Bellinzona : Special Mention for Lissa Balera
 - Festival of Namur : Special Jury Award / ACCT Award for Lissa Balera, PROCIREP Award
 - Festival of Nuremberg : Prix des Journées Internationale des Droits de l'Homme
 - Children's Film Festival de Washington : Ellen Award
 - Festival New Cinema of Montreal : Best Short Film Award
 - Quality Award of the CNC, France
 - Quality Award of the Federal Office of Culture, Switzerland