



# The Little Girl Who Sold the Sun

(La petite vendeuse de soleil)

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## Synopsis

**Once upon a time...**

**It may have happened!**

**When it happened, were you there?**

**You tell us the tale, we'll listen.**

**Well, listen then!**

**Once upon a time...**

For a very long time, the hawkers who sold newspapers on the streets of Dakar were, without exception, all boys.

But, this morning, their domination was challenged.

What happened?

Sili - for it is thus that the little girl is called - is between ten and thirteen years old. She lives on the streets and gets around with the help of two crutches. She begs next to the boys selling their newspapers.

But, this morning, she was violently pushed aside by the boys!

She rolled over onto the tarmac. Her skirt came open, revealing her fragile, intimate places. Her crutches ended up yards away. She had to struggle to stand up. She is deeply upset.

Her mind is made up. Starting tomorrow, she'll sell newspapers like everyone else. What's good enough for men is good enough for women.

The small world of the newspaper sellers is a merciless place.

She will discover pain, dreams... and finally, friendship.

This story is a hymn to the courage of street children.

**Thus, this story is thrown into the sea.**

**the first nose to breathe is**

**will go to heaven.**

## Author's note of intent

What do the "ordinary people" represent?

Ordinary people are important because they are the only ones who are consistent. They are the only people who are naïve, which is why courage is theirs...

So it is that these people will never have bank accounts; for them, every morning is marked by questions - they are frank people...

It is also a way of paying tribute to the courage of street children...

The love of children encourages me to defy the old, the corrupt and those who are rich without, for all that, being rich in their souls.

### **TALES OF ORDINARY PEOPLE:**

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Tale No 1 | <b>LE FRANC</b><br>1994, 35 mm, 45 min., colour  |
| Tale No 2 | <b>LA PETITE VENDEUSE DE SOLEIL</b><br>(The Little Girl Who Sold the Sun)<br>1999, 35mm, 45 min., colour |

## Credits

Title .....La petite vendeuse de soleil  
Format.....35 mm (1:1,85), colour  
Running time.....45 minutes  
Language .....Wolof with English subtitles  
Shooting .....July 1996, Dakar  
Duration .....3 weeks  
Written and directed by.....Djibril Diop Mambety  
Producer.....Silvia Voser  
Cast :  
Sili .....Lissa Balera (Senegal)  
Babou.....Tayerou M'Baye (Senegal)  
Director of photography.....Jacques Besse (France)  
Sound.....Alioune M'Bow (Senegal)  
Chief electrician /machinist.....Arona Camara (Senegal)  
Editor .....Sarah Taouss Matton (France)  
Mixer .....Massimo Pellegrini (Switzerland)  
Music.....Wasis Diop  
Graphic design .....Noyau  
ProductionWaka..... Films AG (Switzerland)  
.....Cephéide Productions (France)  
.....Maag Daan (Senegal)  
with the participation of .....Ministère de la Coopération et du Développement  
.....Centre National de la Cinématographie  
.....Agence de Coopération Culturelle et Technique (ACCT)

World Premier: Festival International du Film de Rotterdam 1999

## 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 .....**DIABUGU**, 9 minutes – 16 mm – colour  
**ASPEKTE** (TV ZDF, Germany)
- 1989..... **PARLONS ÇRAND-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 FRANÇ**, 44 min. - 35mm - colour
- Festival of Locarno : World Premiere on the Piazza Çrande.
  - Festival of Carthage : Tanit d'Or
  - Festival del cinema africano, Milan, AÇFA Award
  - Festival of Ouagadougou : Çrand Prix of FESPACO.
  - Film Festival San Francisco : Golden Çate 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