

FASA

Screened to much acclaim at a number of international film festivals, Laza Razanajatovo's latest offering is having its Ottawa premiere Friday, October 16 at The Inaugural Africa Film Festival of Ottawa. *Fasa* is the newest short film from Madagascan director Laza Razanajatovo. The film, which runs for sixteen minutes, follows Fasa as she attempts to reconnect with her ancestors through poetic meditation. Razanajatovo uses the image of the Zebu cattle as a symbol for the spiritual connection between both life and death. *Fasa* explores the matter of Zebu cattle poaching and the accompanying consequences of this unsavory act through the eyes of a young girl. Fasa is struggling with the loss of her father who dies protecting his herd from thieves. The narrative of Razanajatovo's film draws attention to the hundreds of deaths that have occurred throughout Madagascan history as a result of cattle theft. *Fasa* is the cinematic depiction of the ways in which the conflict over zebu cattle in Madagascar has affected various aspects of society. The film evokes themes of loss and innocence through the point of view of this young woman who can only communicate with her father through her authoring of poems.

Fasa has had a lengthy festival circuit throughout the past year and has premiered at The Africa Conference in Berlin and screened at The Off-Short Film Festival in France, and at the 13th Annual Film Meetings Bejaia in Algeria.

Laza Razanajatovo is a filmmaker working from his native country of Madagascar. He has often used the cinematic medium as a platform to address and emphasize social issues and change within his country. Aside from his aforementioned 2014 film *Fasa*, Razanajatovo has also directed the 2012 full-length documentary *Odyaina - Fragments of Lives*. The film follows popular Malagasy musician Rajery as he teaches musical therapy at a psychiatric hospital in the

nation's capital of Antananarivo. He has also acted as producer on the 2014 Malagasy film *Song of Tlou* directed by Luck Razanajaona.

Outside of the cinema, Razanajatovo has acted as a jury member for the Interfilm Festival in Berlin as well as FESPACO, which is Africa's largest and most prolific film festival. He has also created the Recontres du Film Court, Madagascar's sole film festival in 2006. Razanajatovo is co-founder of Rozifilms, a Madagascar based production company through which he has released a slew of Malagasy films including both *Odyaina – Fragments of Lives* and *Song of Tlou*. It is evident that Laza Razanajatovo is one of the most influential filmmakers to emerge from Madagascar as he has acted as a pioneer for the filmic industry within his country.

AFRICA PARADIS

Synopsis:

Sylvestre Amoussou *Africa Paradis* is a parody of eurocentrism. In this witty satire, Amoussou inverts notions of Europe as a political and socio economic powerhouse by placing the United States of Africa in the centre of the world. Africa becomes the hub of prosperity whereas Europe dwindles into poverty. A mass European exodus to Africa begins. Olivier and Pauline, an engineer and teacher from France, upon being rejected a visa, decide to cross over illegally to Africa and find their lives in ruins. While comedic, *Africa Paradis* overturns the "Black Invasions" of postcolonial Europe and offers biting social commentary on the plight of immigrants, the policing, racialization and devaluing of certain bodies over others, and immigration policies that are death traps.

Initially, the film was released in France in 2006 at the Amiens International Film Festival and is 86 minutes long. The film has been showcased in other film festivals such as The Ouagadougou Panafrican Film and Television Festival (Burkina Faso 2007), Morelia Film Festival (Mexico 2007) and Edinburg Africa in Motion (UK 2007).

Director's Profile:

Born in Benin in 1964, Sylvestre Amoussou is a African film director based in France. Amoussou begins his film career as an actor, but finds the French film industry to be limiting in its portrayal of blacks in France. Hence, he turns to directing as a means of creating films that address this lack while realizing his own cinematic vision.

Filmography (as director):

1997: *The Scorpionnes* (Short)

1999: *Achilles* (TV series)

2001: *Africa Paradis* (Short)

2007: *Africa Paradis* (feature film - 35MM)

2011: *One Step Forward* (feature film - 35MM)

SOUNDIATA KEITA LE REVEIL DU LION

Soundiata Keita, le reveil du lion (Soundiata Keita: The Lion's awakening)

dir. Abel Kouamé

Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), 2013, 70 minutes

In this family-friendly adaptation of one of Africa's greatest epics, Abidjan-based Africatoon studio offers a feature 3D animation biopic on the founder of the Mande Empire. They recast the major stages of the life of great Soundiata Keita from sibling rivalry and his conquest of physical disability to his exile and return to save the Mande from the dominance of the terrifying, megalomaniac and putatively invincible Soumangourou Kante. The film ends with the proclamation of the Mande Charter, considered by UNESCO as one of the oldest human rights documents and part of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. A must-see for children and family!!! English sub-titles

NINAH'S DOWRY

NINAH'S DOWRY Dir. Victor Viyuoh

Cameroon, 2012, 95 mins.

Ninah is, at only 20 years old, a destitute wife of seven years to the violent Memfi, and mother to three children. Trapped in an abusive relationship, her family survives off her minimal earnings, while her husband, Memfi, drinks away his own paltry salary. Hearing news her father has fallen ill, she defies Memfi's orders and runs away, determined to speak her mind to the man who traded her happiness for a sum of \$100. After her father's death, Ninah – ignoring warnings from her family to return home and fulfill her wifely duties – stays, opening a small restaurant. Memfi, hearing that Ninah is pregnant, comes to either recover the dowry he paid, or to violently take back ownership of Ninah.

A tale of survival, the film is based on the brutal true-life experiences of Victor's cousin Evelyn. Fighting against what is known in Cameroon as the 'bride price,' it offers a nuanced, penetrating commentary on a culture that emphasizes tradition over humanity.

Speaking to Filmmaker Magazine, writer/director/producer Victor Viyuoh states: "African films have done their time in universities and public libraries [...] [t]he push now should be for films aimed at the arthouses and multiplexes."

Filmed over three years, Viyuoh's debut feature, *Ninah's Dowry* began production in 2007 and eventually turned to Kickstarter to raise funds to finish the film. Premiering at the Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival in 2012, it received the Jury Award for Best Film. It has since played at numerous festivals worldwide including Cannes and the New York African Film Festival at Lincoln Centre, receiving awards at the 2013 Phoenix Film Festival, the Big Muddy Film Festival, and the African Movie Academy Awards. In 2014, it was one of 10 films selected by the Global Film Initiative for its Global Lens Film Series, distributed by New York-based FilmRise.

Born and raised in Cameroon, Victor Viyuoh pursued studies in math at Louisiana State University before following his passion to pursue Fiction at the University of Miami; he is an alumnus of USC's School of Cinema/Television and IFP/LA's Directors and Screenwriters labs. Named one of Filmmaker Magazine's 25 New Independent Filmmakers to watch in 2003, his short film, Mboutoukou (2003) played at over 100 festivals including Venice in Italy, New Directors/New Films, and Rotterdam. Nominated for a Student Academy Award in 2002, Mboutoukou won over 20 awards including Best Short at SXSW, Best Short at Urbanworld, and the Rights of the Child Award at the Chicago International Children's Film Festival. Ninah's Dowry (2012) is Viyuoh's debut feature.

ZAKARIA

Zakaria
dir. Leyla Bouzid
Tunisia, 2013, 27 minutes

Middle-aged father and titular character Zak lives with his family in a Southern France village in the Gard. His peaceful life with his wife and two children is disturbed when news of his father's death in Algeria reaches him. After deciding to take his family home with him, Sarah, his daughter, refuses to go. Through her film Bouzid offers insight into life in France as an immigrant and the various pressures and scrutinies faced as well as touching on the subject of how these pressures can affect a father/daughter relationship, like the one between Zak and Sarah. ZAKARIA has been screened at the 36th Durban International Film Festival, Abu Dhabi Film Festival (United Arab Emirates, 2013), FESPACO 2015, Clermont- Ferrand International Short Film Festival, Dubai Film Connection, and the 26th Festival Premiers Plans (Angers, France 2014) where it took home the Grand Jury Prize for French short films.

Leyla Bouzid was born in Tunis and grew up between Paris and Tunis. She studied French literature before going on to study film at La Femis, the French National Films School in Paris. Her graduation film, *Mkhobbi Fi Kobba*, won the Jury prize at Premiers Plans 2012 in the student film category and has since been screened all over the world. Zakaria was Bouzid's first film produced and was shot in Southern France. Bouzid is currently hard at work promoting her first feature film *As I Open My Eyes* released mid-September of this year.

PRICE OF LOVE

Price of Love is an Ethiopian feature film directed by Hermon Hailay. The film was released in 2015 and it is 99 minutes long.

The film revolves around the life of a young Addis Ababa taxis driver who gets caught up with a beautiful, young prostitute. As they grow close, they find themselves stuck in the dark side of love. The story unfolds as she tries to escape the dark prostitution networks with his help.

The making of the film *Price of Love* faced the challenge of working with a small budget, specifically ten thousand dollars. This meant that the filmmaker had to make many compromises on both the script and shoot. Another challenge was making the right compromise while still delivering an engaging film that reflects the filmmaker's perspective. Above all, being a sensitive topic, presenting the topic of prostitution in Ethiopian society through film was a difficult task.

Here is a quote by Hermon Hailay on the challenges she faced making this film: "After making 2 successful DVD feature films in Ethiopia I wanted to make a film that could break out into the international market. Due to limited budget I had to focus on a story that was simple but had themes that were universal. Growing up close to prostitutes, I knew them as young beautiful women, mothers, sisters, friends. I always wanted to make a story about them, showing the sensitivity of human beings".

The film *Price of Love* won multiple awards in important film festivals. It was the winner of special prize award in FESPACO in March 2015 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. It was also the winner of best film, best actor, and best actress awards in Festival International Du Film Panafrican in April 2015, Cannes, France.

Price of Love was viewed in the following international festivals:

- Filmfest Hamburg in October 2015
- Festival International Du Film De Femmes De Sale, September 2015, Sale, Morocco in the Official Competition category
- Toronto International Film Festival, September 13, 2015

-Hermon Hailay' biography:

Hermon Hailay is one of the leading female independent filmmakers in Ethiopia. She was born in Mekele, Ethiopia. Without any training or education in filmmaking she became one of Ethiopia's leading film writer/directors, with several critically and commercially successful domestic DVD films to her name. These include *Balaguru*, *Yaltasebew*, and most recently, her first international feature film, *Price of Love*. Hermon Hailay works to present important contemporary Ethiopian stories that are addressed to both a local and international audience to break the stereotypes of both Ethiopian and African society and culture.

SISTER OYO

Filmmaker: Monique Mbeka Phoba

Country: Democratic Republic of the Congo/Belgium

Year: 2014

Running Time: 24 min.

Language: Lingala, Kikongo and French with English subtitles

The title of this short film, carries a hint of deprecation, the Lingala title *Sister Oyo* (2014), loosely translates to: "That sister there". Hence, there is a subtext of inauthenticity or perhaps even false identity. The question of identity is central to the plot of the film. Using her caméra-stylo, the filmmaker, Monique Mbeka Phoba expertly crafts this film, drawing from the experiences of her mother, grandmother, and the expertise of her aunt Yvonne Mabiala.

When interviewing Phoba for the film, Beti Ellerson summarizes the film as such: God, the Devil, the Virgin Mary, angels, the colonial order and the hymns in the background; all in the heart of darkness of a rainforest. A compelling short drama about the politics of history, this film, tells the story of Godelive: a young Congolese girl taken out of her comfortable village life and thrust into unknown terrain. Godelive, educated in the traditional customs of her 'Koko' (grandmother), is sent by her parents to a Catholic boarding school in Mbanza-Mboma—in what was the first French school for Congolese girls—to receive westernized education, and finally join the class of les évolués. In spite of all of this, Godelive's fiery character, the memory of her grandmother and former life, give rise to a spirit of opposition. Set in Belgian Congo, during the colonial epoch of the 50s, this is a story of mirages; tradition versus modernity; black versus white; religion, God, rebellion; memory and belonging.

The film has played at FESPACO 2015: Women at the 24th Edition, African Film Festival New York, 7th Annual Congo in Harlem Film and Event Series, and will play at the inaugural edition

of the African Film Festival of Ottawa, in partnership with Carleton University's Film Studies and African Studies departments, and the African Group of Diplomats in Canada.

Bibliography:

Filmmaker, writer, actress, poet, Monique Mbeka Phoba has been in the field of cinema for over 20 years. Born in 1962 in Brussels, the daughter of a Congolese diplomat, Phoba frequently visited the DRC during school holidays. Phoba's first introduction to cinematography came through an introductory course in documentary video created by Jean Rouch at the Ateliers Varan in Paris. Since 1995, she has lived in Benin, where she works on the production, distribution and promotion of African cinema locally and internationally. It was during this period that she founded a festival focusing on film, television, and documentary in Benin, called Laguimages TV and Documentary Festival. Her training as a filmmaker (she earned a master's degree in scriptwriting) led her to start making documentaries. However, recently, with films like *Sister Oyo*, she has shifted to fiction filmmaking and has launched several script projects. Her films have won a number of awards, among them: her film *Rentrer?* (1993) which received the South/North prize of the European Council in Geneva, and *Un rêve d'indépendance* (1998) which received the "Images of Women" award at the Vues d'Afrique Festival in Montreal.

Filmography:

Her works include:

1991: *Revue En Vrac* (Director, writer)

1993: *Rentrer ?* (Director, writer, actress)

1997: *Deux Petits Tours Et Puis S'en Vont...* (Director, writer)

1998 : *Un Rêve D'indépendance* (Director, writer)

2001 : *Anna L'enchantée* (Director)

2006 : *Sorcière, La Vie!* (Director, writer, actress)

2007 : *Entre La Coupe Et L'élection* (Director, writer)

2010 : *Tout Le Monde A Des Raisons D'en Vouloir À Sa Mère* (Actress)

2014 : *Soeur Oyo* (Director, producer, writer)

OJUJU

Winner of the award for Best Nigerian Movie at the 2014 Africa International Film Festival, *Ojuju* is only the second film from director C.J. "Firey" Obasi, whose first film *Jim & Joan* was lauded as "the most daring film" in the Eko International Film Festival of 2012 and who would go on to win Trailblazer of the Year at the 2015 Africa Magic Viewer's Choice Awards. *Ojuju* has been shown around the world, at the Pan African Film Festival in Los Angeles, Shockproof Film Festival in Prague, New Voices in Black Cinema Film Festival in New York, Nollywood Week Festival in Paris, and the Fantasia Film Festival in Montreal. Set in a Lagos slum with only one source of potable water where a strange infection causes people to turn into zombies, this no-budget horror thriller stars Gabriel Afolayan, Omuwunmi Dada, and Kelechi Udegbe as three friends trying to survive the night.

KWAKU ANANSE

Kwaku Ananse (2013)

Echoing the traditional Ghanaian fable, *Kwaku Ananse* tells the story of Nyan Koronhwea's journey to the truth behind the essence of our personal relationships. Nyan's father led two separate lives with a family in both the United States and his native Ghana. Revisiting her estranged father's indigenous land for his funeral, Nyan finds herself dealing with her feelings regarding her father's double life. She bears this puzzlement and retreats to the deep woods in the metaphysical search of Kwaku Ananse.

Directed by avant-garde filmmaker Akosua Adoma Owusu, the short film was released in 2013. This film initiated as a personal project as Owusu dealt with built up frustration in relation to her own father and his death. Relying on a low budget, Owusu learned to tell her stories in a short, quick and raw manner. The U.S. born director went to Ghana for two years to produce this film as it offered her a way to simultaneously make peace with her own grief. The semi-autobiographical film was nominated for the 2013 Golden bear prize at the Berlinale and won the Best Short Film award at the 9th Africa Movie Academy Awards.

"Kwaku Ananse is an effort to preserve a fable my father passed on to me, and in turn to preserve a dying yet immensely rich cultural heritage."

Akosua Adoma Owusu's films have been internationally presented in prestigious film festivals, museums, galleries, universities and microcinema since 2005. As one of Art Forum's top ten artists and The Huffington Posts 30 contemporary artists under 40, her works explore her reality as a woman and a first generation Ghanaian-American,. She has M.F.A. degrees in Film/Video and Fine Art from California Institute of the Arts and received her BA degree in Media Studies and Art with distinction from the University of Virginia.

PEGASUS

The mind-boggling synopsis of the movie *PEGASUS (Pegase)* by Mohammed Mouftakir featuring Majdoline Drissi, Saadia Ladib amongst others, encompasses the plot of an inwardly upset psychiatrist who is assigned a rare case: one which will awaken her emotional repression.

She is faced with a pregnant woman named *Rihana* who is brought off the street, murmuring “The lord of the horse”. With a reminiscence of her past it is revealed that she was brought up as a son as the legacy of her dictator father demanded. This mind-twisting movie takes you into the thrilling present and past of Rihana and Zineb. Ultimately, it is a multilayered mental secret/thriller with solid suggestions of loathsomeness and neo-noir and even the Gothic.

The drama was released in December 2010 in Morocco. It was released in Arabic with English subtitles as an option. With contemporary photography as well as audio technology, it made use of the Dolby Digital audio compression technology. It was showcased in several festivals including The Mediterranean Film Festival of Brussels, the Dubai International Film Festival, the Festival du Film Francophone de Namur. The cast also won awards such as Grand Prize at the Critics Award for Best Actress, Best Music and Special Mention (for child actors) at the Tangier National Film Festival.

An enlightening and very honorary review of the film by the director of the Africa in Motion film festival was “Pegasus is a stunning film with great acting, amazing photography and very strong storyline – a must watch film from a director who is quickly becoming one of the main voices of the New Moroccan cinema wave”. Considered one of the great hopes of cinemas Moroccan, the producer Mohammed Mouftakir studied English Literature at the University of Casablanca. He is experienced as having being under the tutelage of film directors both national and international in countries such as France and Germany where he lived for some time. Prior to this first feature film, Mouftakir produced a short film in 2009 titled *Dirge*

TWAAGA

Twaaga (2013) is a short film directed by French/Burkinabe director Cedric Ido. The film takes place in Ouagadougou, 1987, in the throes of a revolution headed by Thomas Sankara. Manu, a solitary eight-year-old boy in the slums of the city relies on his older brother, Albert and his two friends Kaboré and Ibou, for fun and social interaction, but his true interest lies in the newspaper comic books that he reads religiously. When his brother decides to be marabouted (a magic ritual that will make him invincible), Manu realizes that true powers to rival his comic book heroes may in fact exist in the real world.

Director Cedric Ido has expressed his interest in making *Twaaga* from a young age, speaking about his time living in Burkina Faso, he says, “ I knew of (Thomas) Sankara, but I was not aware it was a revolution...I wanted to recount the big story as a short story, the words of Sankara are universal, they speak of human rights and liberation from hegemony, I have a profound respect for him and the cinema allowed me to express that.”

The film has a total running time of 30 minutes; it was produced in conjunction with Arte and Bizibi with funding from both Burkina Faso and France, and was recognized internationally upon its release. It won best live action short film at the Dubai and Seattle International Film Festivals, and was nominated for best short film at the Trophées Francophones du Cinéma festival.

Director Cedric Ido was born October 22, 1980 in the suburb of Stains, in Paris, France. At the age of three, he and his family moved back to their native country of Burkina Faso, which was at the time entering a period of revolution and would have a considerable effect on Ido's later work, including *Twaaga*. Later in life, Ido returned to Stains where he demonstrated an

interest in comic book art and theatre, and was eventually recognized by an acting agent who booked him several small film roles. Ido studied English at the university of Paris, but was also involved extensively in cinema classes and later continued his filmic education at Purchase College, New York. Cedric Ido is currently working as both an actor and director, and has helmed several small productions and starred in many others. His films have been recognized in Europe, as well as at FESPACO and the Dubai International Film festival.

Filmography

Twaaga (2013)

Hasaki Ya Suda (2011)

NAIROBI HALF LIFE

Moving to the big city Nairobi to chase his dream, Mwas discovers the harsh realities of life early on in the new unfamiliar city. After arriving in the new city Mwas is mugged by a group of thugs, stealing all of his belongings leaving him stranded and alone. Befriending a group of local thieves Mwas begins to live a double life of a petty criminal while chasing his dream to be an actor. In an act to clear a friend's debt he steals a car with his new friends. In order to continue making money Mwas convinces his new gang to transition from petty stealing to big time carjacking pulling in higher payouts. While committing to the dangerous criminal lifestyle Mwas continues to audition for several acting jobs. This dual lifestyle leads him into climatic events with an unexpected twist at the end of the film. The 96 min Kenyan film was directed by David Tosh Gitonga and was released in the United States December 8th 2012. Running on a budget of 500,000 Euros the film was able to receive 2 award nominations and 5 wins including "African film Festival" Breakthrough award.

Kenyan born director David Tosh Gitonga, also known for his work of directing Changes 3 television series. Nairobi Half Life is his first feature film that he has produced. In previous years David Tosh Gitonga can be recognized for being the assistant director for films such as "All That way for Love" (2011), First Grader (2010) and short film "The Knife Grinder's Tale (2007).

OF GOOD REPORT

- **Film details**

- Country Released: South Africa
- Length of the film: 109 Minutes
- Release Year: 2013
 - Directed by – Jamil. X. T.Qubeka
 - Written by – Jamil . X. T. Quebeka

Of Good Report represents an exciting shift previously observed on this blog, in the kind of films currently being made in sub-Saharan Africa (in this case, South Africa) by and about black Africans; who appear to be getting more adventurous with genres shedding preconceptions of what it means to be a black filmmaker from the continent. It's not often that we see *genre* feature films by black African filmmakers, starring black Africans, and by all accounts, thus far this year, this is certainly one of the strongest and most ambitious to come my way. (Africa In Motion 13 Review)

- **Festivals**

- London film festival 2013
- African in motion film festival, UK, 2013
- Old German club, 2013
- Durban International Film festival (it was banned from showing in this festival)
- Toronto International film festival, 2013

- **Theaters**

- Scotia Bank Theatre

Future projects

For the future, I have about ten films in development. However, the one that is closest to my heart is called 'First Man'.

Biography

This self-taught filmmaker of South African descent who has been in the industry for over 15 years; he started off making documentaries, then commercials and slowly transitioned into the art of filmmaking.

Filmography

Writer (5 credits)

2015 *The White Devil* (filming)

2013 *Of Good Report* (writer)

2010 *A Small Town Called Descent* (story)

2008 *uMalusi*

2006 *Shogun Khumalo Is Dying!* (Short) (Screenplay)

Director (4 credits)

2015 *The White Devil* (filming)

2013 *Of Good Report*

2010 *A Small Town Called Descent*

2006 *Shogun Khumalo Is Dying!* (Short)

LUMUMBA

The true story of the rise to power and brutal assassination of the first Prime Minister of independent Congo, Patrice Lumumba. Using newly discovered historical evidence, Haitian-born and Congo-raised writer and director Raoul Peck renders an emotional and tautly woven account of this mail clerk and beer salesman with a flair for oratory and an uncompromising belief in the capacity of his homeland to build a prosperous nation independent of its former Belgian overlords. Lumumba emerges here as the heroic sacrificial lamb dubiously portrayed by the international media and led to slaughter by commercial and political interests in Belgium, the United States of America, the international community, and Lumumba's own administration; a true story of political intrigue and murder where political entities, captains of commerce, and the military dovetail in their quest for economic and political power. (CFI website)

Lumumba (Haiti, 2020) was made in three months on location in Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Belgium with four million dollars and funding by French, German, and Belgian consortium. It premiered at the 2000 Cannes Festival, and was screened at the African Film Festival of New York among others. The film was well acclaimed in reviews, compared visually and substantially to the value of impactful films like *The Battle of Algiers* by Gillo Pontecorvo. The film won international acclaim with awards including Best Film at the Pan African Film Festival, the Audience Prize Santo Domingo International Film Festival, and in 2002, two years after Peck's film was released, the Belgian government apologized to the Congolese people for its responsibility in his murder.

Raoul Peck is a Haitian filmmaker of documentary and feature films, and a political activist. He is of an educated Haitian bourgeois family, with two younger brothers. In his teenage years in the 1960s, his family fled to the Congo to escape the Duvalier dictatorship. His father was living there and had a position as professor of Agriculture in the UN and UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization). Raoul studied and lived in Berlin in the 1980s, had a brief taxi-driving career in New York, after which he returned and trained at the Berlin Film and Television Academy. From March 1996 to September 1997, he was Haiti's Minister of Culture. He detailed his experiences as Minister of Culture in a book, *Monsieur le Ministre... jusqu'au bout de la patience*. Peck and Bonitzer essayed Lumumba's life in an hour-long documentary in 1991, which served as a critically acclaimed "warm-up" to the film. Since

the film, Peck was named a member of the Jury for the Main Competition at the 2012 Cannes Film Festival and received the Honor and Merit Order in Haiti and the Order of the Arts and Literature in France.