

LES FILMS DU WORSO AND DUNE VISION  
PRESENT



OFFICIAL SELECTION  
COMPETITION  
FESTIVAL DE CANNES

# TIMBUKTU

A FILM BY  
ABDERRAHMANE SISSAKO

**SYNOPSIS** Not far from Timbuktu, now ruled by the religious fundamentalists, Kidane lives peacefully in the dunes with his wife Satima, his daughter Toya, and Issan, their twelve-year-old shepherd.

In town, the people suffer, powerless, from the regime of terror imposed by the Jihadists determined to control their faith. Music, laughter, cigarettes, even soccer have been banned. The women have become

shadows but resist with dignity. Every day, the new improvised courts issue tragic and absurd sentences.

Kidane and his family are being spared the chaos that prevails in Timbuktu. But their destiny changes when Kidane accidentally kills Amadou, the fisherman who slaughtered «GPS», his beloved cow. He now has to face the new laws of the foreign occupants.



**SHORT DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT** On July 29th, 2012 in Aguelhok, a small city in northern Mali – more than half of which was being occupied by men who were mostly outsiders – an unspeakable crime took place to which the media largely turned a blind eye. A thirty-something couple, blessed with two children, were stoned to death.

Their crime: they weren't married. The video of their killing, which was posted online by the perpetrators, is horrid. The woman dies struck by the first stone, while the man lets out a hollow rasp of a cry. Then silence. Soon after they were dug up only to be buried further away.

Aguelhok is not Damascus, nor Tehran. So nothing is said about all this. What I write is unbearable, I know this. I am in no way trying to use shock value to promote a film. I can't say I didn't know and, now that I do, I must testify in the hopes that no child will ever again have to learn their parents died because they loved each other.

## FILMOGRAPHY ABDERRAHMANE SISSAKO

FEATÜRES-FILMS, SHORTS and DOCUMENTARIES

- 1989 THE GAME (short)
- 1992 OCTOBRE (short)
- 1995 LE CHAMEAU ET LES BÂTONS FLOTTANTS (short)
- 1996 SABRYA (short)
- 1997 ROSTOV-LUANDA (documentary)
- 1998 LIFE ON EARTH
- 2002 WAITING FOR HAPPINESS  
*Un Certain Regard, Cannes Film Festival*
- 2006 BAMAKO *Out-of-competition, Cannes Film Festival*
- 2007 TIYA'S DREAM / 8 (short)
- 2008 STORIES ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
*(segment: N'DIMAGU- DIGNITY)*
- 2010 JE VOUS SOUHAITE LA PLUIE (short)



## CAST

Kidane Ibrahim Ahmed aka Pino  
Satima Toulou Kiki  
Abdelkrim Abel Jafri  
Fatou Fatoumata Diawara  
Jihadist Hichem Yacoubi  
Zabou Kettly Noël  
Issan Mehdi AG Mohamed  
Toya Layla Walet Mohamed  
Imam Adel Mahmoud Cherif  
Chief jihadist Salem Dendou

## CREW

Directed by Abderrahmane Sissako  
Screenplay Abderrahmane Sissako  
Kessen Tall  
Photography Sofiane El Fani  
Sound Philippe Welsh  
Roman Dymny  
Thierry Delors  
Editor Nadia Ben Rachid  
Music Amine Bouhafa  
1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Director Demba Dieye  
Set decoration/Prod. design Sébastien Birchler  
Costumes Ami Sow  
Location Manager Sekou Traoré  
Production Les Films du Worso  
Dune Vision  
Arches Films - ARTE France Cinéma  
Orange Studio  
Coproducers Canal+, Ciné +, ARTE France, Le Pacte,  
TV5 Monde et le Centre National  
du Cinéma et de l'Image Animée  
With the participation of  
In association with INDÉFILMS 2  
With the support of Doha Film Institute  
Distributor Le Pacte  
International sales Le Pacte

Duration 1h37 – France/Mauritania  
frame 2.35 – sound 5.1 – 2014

## INTERNATIONAL SALES

*Le Pacte*

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