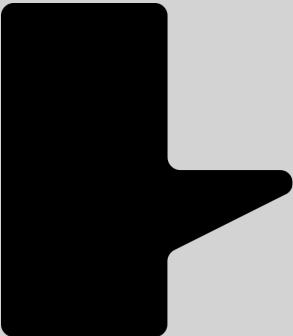


Samba Traoré

Idrissa Ouédraogo





1992 | Switzerland, France, Burkina-Faso | Fiction | 85 min

Synopsis Court:

Two men in the night. They commit a robbery at a gas station. One of them is killed. The other, Samba, escapes with a small suitcase filled with banknotes. He returns home and tries to forget...

Synopsis Long:

Two men walk into the night. They commit a crime in a petrol station. One of them is killed. The other, Samba, gets away with a small suitcase full of banknotes. Samba returns home and tries to forget... He meets Saratou, and finally, the nightmares that have haunted him since the night of the crime are fading. Saratou, too, has lived in the city and her ten-year-old son, Ali, belongs to this chapter of her past. She is burdened with the memory of a man still waiting for her.

Saratou and Samba fall in love under the gaze of Salif, Samba's childhood friend, and Binta, his wife. Both on their own, then together, they try to forget the city and the past. But can we ever shake off the nightmares that haunt us? Can we really escape our destiny? The past resurfaces for the first time when Ismaël, the man Saratou left, comes back to look for her. But Samba's threats eventually make him resign and leave. Life goes on.

The slow, monotonous rhythm of the village is disrupted by the changes brought about by Samba: a herd of cattle that he offers as a gift to the whole village; a bar that he opens with his friend Salif, his marriage to Saratou, the house that he has built for them on the edge of the village. Time passes. Saratou becomes pregnant. When she has to go to the city to give birth, the past resurfaces a second time: Samba refuses to go with her. He admits that he cannot set foot in the town. Seydou, his father, worried since his son's return by his strange attitude, discovers the money and the weapon that Samba was hiding at home. He disowns him.

Samba must pay dearly for his mistake: the house he built with the stolen money is burnt down by his father. Saratou, who no longer wants to see him, leaves with their son. Samba takes refuge by the river where he suffers the loneliness of an outcast. It is only thanks to the understanding of Ali, his adopted son, that he finds the strength to return to his wife with the promise to start again from

scratch, without money, without a home, forgetting the past. But as they return to Saratou and her new-born child, Samba, having atoned for his crimes, his past catches up with him one last time like a bolt from the blue to destroy the happiness he was finally hoping for.

Casting:

Bakary Sangaré - Samba
Mariam Kaba - Saratou
Abdoulaye Komboudri - Salif
Irène Tassembedo - Binta

Crédits:

Idrissa Ouédraogo - Directed by
Idrissa Ouedraogo, Jaques Arhex, Santiago Amigoréna - Screenplay
Pierre Laurent Chenieux - Cinematography
Joëlle Dufour - Editing
Oumou Sy - Costumes
Alix Comte, Sabine Boss - Sound
Hans Meier - Head electrician
Urs Bühler - Head stagehand
Jacques Arhex - Assistant director
Mathieu Vade pied - Assistant cameraman
Pierre Ducat, Rolf Büttikofer - Sound assistants
Faton Cahen - Music
Olivia Bruynoghe - Script
Yves Brover - Design
Zouré Aminata - Make-up
Christophe Cheysson - Stage Manager
F. Xavier Decraëne - Production Manager
Idrissa Ouedraogo, Silvia Voser, Sophie Salbot - Producers
Les Films de la Plaine (France), Waka Films (Suisse), Les Films de l'avenir
(Burkina Faso) - Production