

DARATT

A FILM BY
MAHAMAT-SALEH HAROUN



France | Belgium | Chad | Austria 2006 | 95m | 1.85 |

Distributed in the UK by Soda Pictures

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Cert: PG

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SYNOPSIS Chad, 2006. The government has granted amnesty to all war criminals. Atim, 16 years old, is given a revolver by his grandfather so that he may kill the man who killed his father... Atim leaves his village for N'djamena, seeking a man he does not know. He quickly locates him: former war criminal Nassara is now married and settled down as the owner of a small bakery... With the firm intention of killing him, Atim gets closer to Nassara under the guise of looking for work, and is hired as an apprentice baker... Intrigued by Atim's attitude toward him, Nassara takes him under his wing and teaches him the secrets of making bread... Over the weeks, a strange relationship evolves between the two. Despite his disgust, Atim seems to recognise in Nassara the father figure he has always needed, while Nassara sees the teenager as a potential son. One day, he suggests adoption...

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT The civil war in Chad has been going on since 1965, claiming countless victims. I knew a great many of the 40,000 killed or missing under the reign of Hissène Habré. One of my uncles was amongst them... He was abducted, we never saw him again. I myself was wounded - I had to leave my country, travelling the paths of exile in a wheelbarrow. This tragedy I have suffered in the flesh... Every time I return to Chad, I am faced with this post-war reality; it is there, omnipresent, like a story unresolved, never finished, always another page left to turn... I know many of the players in this tragedy, and have even rubbed shoulders with a few. They have killed, raped, burned, sacked and brought sorrow... attacking the most vulnerable who, ultimately, are society's rejects. Yesterday's executioners have become today's men of power, strutting about with impunity. The terrible thing about civil wars is that they legitimise all manner of atrocities and crimes and, when all is said and done, pardon them. It is this feeling of injustice that feeds the desire for

revenge, which, basically, is a desire for justice. DARATT does not deal with the civil war, rather its consequences. What interests me is the landscape after the storm. Life forging on stubbornly amidst fields of ruins and ashes. How can people carry on living together after so much hate and violence? How do you react, faced with such impunity? Resign yourself to it or choose to mete out justice? And if you take the latter path, what does it mean to kill a man?

BIOGRAPHY

Born in Abéché, Chad, in 1960, Mahamat-Saleh Haroun studied at film school in Paris then journalism school in Bordeaux. In 1999 he signed his first feature-length film, 'Bye Bye Africa', awarded Best First Film in Venice Film Festival. In 2002, he directed 'Abouna', selected for the Directors' Fortnight at Cannes. 'Daratt' is his third film.

This film is part of the New Crowned Hope festival
produced by Wiener Festwochen
Vienna Mozart Year 2006

The New Crowned Hope festival was initiated and funded within the Wiener Mozartjahr 2006 by the City of Vienna who gave artistic director Peter Sellars the freedom to create a celebration of a new kind for the 250th anniversary of the Austrian composer. Rather than creating work about or by Mozart, Sellars is commissioning completely new works from contemporary international artists in the fields of music, theatre, dance, architecture, the visual arts and film. The aim of the New Crowned Hope festival is to use Mozart's themes as both inspiration and springboard for contemporary works reflecting on issues at the heart of this new century. With executive producers Simon Field and Keith

Griffiths of Illuminations Films, Peter Sellars has commissioned seven film directors from non-western cultures to participate in New Crowned Hope, including Mahamet-Saleh Haroun with DARATT. The New Crowned Hope festival takes place in Vienna in November and December 2006. For full details : www.newcrownedhope.org

CAST

Atim : Ali Bacha BARKAÏ
Nassara : Youssef DJAORO
Aïcha : Aziza HISSEINE
Moussa : Djibril IBRAHIM
Auntie Moussa : Fatimé HADJE
Grand-father : Khayar Oumar DEFALLAH

CREW

Director & Screenplay : Mahamat-Saleh HAROUN
Photography : Abraham HAILE BIRU
Editing : Marie-Hélène DOZO
Sound : Dana FARZANEHPOUR
Original Soundtrack : Wasis DIOP
Producers : Abderrahmane SISSAKO / Chiquitty Films (France)
Mahamat-Saleh HAROUN / Goï - Goï Productions (Chad)
Co-producers : Diana ELBAUM & Sébastien DELLOYE / Entre Chien et Loup (Belgium)
Co-producers : Simon FIELD & Keith GRIFFITHS / Illuminations Films for New Crowned Hope (UK)
Associate producer : Léon PERAHIA / Araneo (Belgium)
Executive producer : Franck-Nicolas CHELLE - Chiquitty Films (France)

In co-production with Arte France Cinema - Entre Chien et Loup
New Crowned Hope Festival Vienna 2006 - Araneo Belgium
With the participation of Fonds Sud Cinema
Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication CNC
Ministère des Affaires Étrangères France
With the support of Fonds Images Afrique
and of La Coopération belge au Développement - DGCD
Service public fédéral Affaires étrangères Belgique
City of Vienna / Department for Cultural Affairs (Austria)
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With the participation of Canal +
In association with Sofica Soficinéma 2 and Télé-Tchad