



CPA - FilCoSpe - Università Roma Tre
DocFest Productions
Indyca

present

**LAND OF UPRIGHT PEOPLE
(IL PAESE DELLE PERSONE INTEGRE)**

a documentary film by Christian Carmosino Mereu

world premiere: September 4th, 2022
Mostra Internazionale d'Arte Cinematografica di Venezia
Giornate degli Autori
Venice Nights

Press office: Chiara Zanini
ufficio.stampa.zanini@gmail.com | +39 328 4574439

International Sales: Deckert Distribution www.deckert-distribution.com
info@deckert-distribution.com | +49 341 2156638 [facebook.com/DeckertDistribution](https://www.facebook.com/DeckertDistribution)

Press area: <https://tinyurl.com/64nc9se6>

www.landofuprightpeople.net
[@thelandofuprightpeople](https://www.facebook.com/landofuprightpeople)

www.deckert-distribution.com
info@deckert-distribution.com | +49 341 2156638
[facebook.com/DeckertDistribution](https://www.facebook.com/DeckertDistribution)



CHRISTIAN CARMOSINO MEREU, EMMA ROSSI LANDI e VITO ZAGARRIO
present

with the patronage of



LAND OF UPRIGHT PEOPLE

A FILM BY
CHRISTIAN CARMOSINO MEREU

with SAM'SK LE JAH, YIYÉ CONSTANT BAZIÉ, ASSANATA OUËDRAOGO, DIEUDONNÉ TAGNAN

Produced by Christian Carmosino Mereu, Emma Rossi Landi, Vito Zagarrìo,
Centro Produzione Audiovisivi - Università degli Studi Roma Tre, DocFest Productions, Indyca
first assistant director Luca Paradiso; editing Marco Minciarelli; original soundtrack Andrea Ciccarelli; sound editing Riccardo Spagnol
script, photography, production design Christian Carmosino Mereu; assistant directors Antonio Oliviero, Guido Nicolas Zingari, Michelle Malo
color editing Federico Falasca with the supervision of Fabrizio Mambro; additional editing Joe Lukey; editing assistant Souheila Soula
equipments and postproduction facilities Centro Produzione Audiovisivi, Dipartimento Filosofia, Comunicazione e Spettacolo - Università degli Studi Roma Tre



docfest
productions



DECKERT
DISTRIBUTION



**LAND OF UPRIGHT PEOPLE
(IL PAESE DELLE PERSONE INTEGRE)**

a film by

Christian Carmosino Mereu

with

Sams'k LeJah, Yiyé Constant Bazié, Assanata Ouedraogo, Dieudonné Tagnan (Ghost)

produced by

Christian Carmosino Mereu

Vito Zagarrio

Dipartimento Filosofia, Comunicazione e Spettacolo - Università degli Studi Roma Tre

DocFest Productions

Indyca

country

Italy / Burkina Faso

year

2022

duration

106 minutes

b&w, colour

under the patronage of

Amnesty International Italy

international sales

Deckert Distribution

media partner

Zalab

with (in appearance order)

Sam'sk Le Jah

Yiyé Constant Bazié

Assanata Ouedraogo

Dieudonné Tagnan (Ghost)

and with (in appearance order) Souleymane Ouedraogo

Moustapha Thiombiano

Aïdine Diallo

Mariame Ouedraogo

Safiata Ouedraogo

Alassane Ouedraogo

Soumaila Ouedraogo

Clarisse Anian

Mme Bazié

Jean Kaba

Abdoulaye Maïga

Daba Dakambari

Jean Hubert Bazié

Benewende Sankara
Smockey
Ousmane Sané
Hilaire Sawadogo
Jean Marie Bitibaly
Hyacinthe Ouedraogo
Bissa Gold miners

moreover with
Members of Tom Sams'k Band
guitar: Elizee
keyboards: Hamidou Ledoux, Arthur
bass: Elie
drums: Oussou
percussions: Yakou

original music
Andrea Ciccarelli

first assistant director
Luca Paradiso

director assistants
Antonio Oliviero
Guido Nicolas Zingari
Michelle Malo

photography
Christian Carmosino Mereu

editing
Marco Minciarelli

additional editor
Joe Lukey

editing assistant
Souheila Soula

script
Christian Carmosino Mereu

with the cooperation of
Marco Minciarelli
Luca Paradiso

shootings
Christian Carmosino Mereu
Antonio Oliviero
Guido Nicolas Zingari
Luca Paradiso
Mika

sound

Almamy-Ismael Sana
Antonio Oliviero
Guido Zingari
Michelle Malo
Luca Paradiso

production design
Christian Carmosino Mereu

production assistant
Luca Paradiso

sound editing and mix
Riccardo Spagnoli

color correction
Federico Falasca

with the supervision of
Fabrizio Mambro

equipments and postproduction facilities
Centro Produzione Audiovisivi
Dipartimento Filosofia, Comunicazione e Spettacolo
Università degli Studi Roma Tre



LOGLINE

Inside a revolution: the struggle of Burkina Faso

SYNOPSIS

The film recounts the quest for freedom of four Burkinabé citizens: a musician who led the revolution that began in October 2014 (reggae icon Sam'sk Le Jah, who won an Amnesty International Ambassador of Conscience Award), a candidate in the upcoming elections, a miner engaged in trade union struggles, and a mother with a poor and large family to care for. All united by the hope that their country may soon become authentically free and just: The “country of upright people,” as the revolutionary Thomas Sankara, whose memory is still very much alive in the population, called it.

CONTEXT

Burkina Faso became formally independent in 1960 after being a French colony for over sixty years. For a full twenty-seven years it was led by dictator Blaise Compaoré, one of the instigators of Thomas Sankara's assassination. In 2014 Compaoré tried to pass a constitutional amendment that would have removed the two-term limit on his presidency and allowed him to remain in office for another fifteen years. A popular uprising prevented this and forced Compaoré to flee the country. Two coups (in May 2015 and January 2022) challenged successive governments and today the political situation remains highly unstable. Though “The Country of Upright People” is rich in mineral resources (especially gold, which is exported to Europe, even illegally, and with the exploitation black market labour), it is plagued by a serious humanitarian crisis to which a multitude of factors, little explored by the Western media, contribute. A large part of the population is in a condition of poverty, which leads to malnutrition and disease, and all this aggravated by the consequences of attacks by armed groups linked to Al Qaeda and Isis.

There are some 1.9 million internally displaced persons (source: UNHCR – the United Nations Refugee Agency), and the country is host to thousands of refugees.

The most recent report by Amnesty International on the country focuses on issues such as the violence perpetrated by armed groups, also against women and minors (with cases of abuse in exchange for food parcels), media freedom, the right to health, children's rights in general (most importantly the right to education after thousands of schools were closed), and the rights to truth, justice and reparation. Inevitably, the crisis is environmental too. Burkina Faso also depends heavily on international aid and remittances from immigrants to make up the domestic deficit. The economic interests of other nations are also confirmed by the stable presence of military contingents.



STATEMENT BY RICCARDO NOURY, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ITALIA SPOKESPERSON

"Burkina Faso is a troubled country. The stories of activism and resistance told by this film tell us that it deserves a better fate".

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In 2015 I made a TV documentary to chronicle the uprising of the Burkinabé people and the subsequent transition to democracy. On that occasion I adopted a reportage style, simply choosing to describe the facts. At the same time, however, I began to follow four characters, who over the next five years became the voices and eyes of *The Country of Upright People*. As I entered their daily lives their first-person narrative replaced mine. This was because I realized that the point of view of an outsider such as myself would never have been sufficient to convey the changes taking place. The protagonists of this new film are people who as a norm are not given a voice, who end

up remaining numbers, data on which political debates in the West are based and that handle the issue of migration simplistically. I posed myself first as an "instrument" of the narrative and then as an interested "listener": a form of participation in the liberation struggle with my tools as filmmaker who attempts to avoid any stereotypes, showing instead what is methodically hidden by the mainstream media. Because changing point of view is a political act.



DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY



Christian Carmosino Mereu is a director, producer, lecturer and cultural operator who has been active in Europe and Africa for over twenty-five years. He has been the artistic director of documentary film festivals and exhibitions including [CINEMA.DOC], Doc/it Professional Award and The Documentary Month. Since 2022 he has been artistic director of the Rome International Documentary Festival and since 2006 technical supervisor of the Audio-visual Production Centre of Roma Tre University, coordinator of the Master's course in Documentary Cinema and lecturer of the Documentary Cinema Workshop.

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

2022 Il paese delle persone integre (doc)
2021 Une Famille (doc)
2020 Briser les Chaînes - Sam'sk Lejah on tour (doc)
2019 Kobarid (doc)
2016 La lunga strada gialla (doc)
2015 Pieds Nus (doc)
2013 Segni particolari: documentarista (doc)
2008 L'ora d'amore (doc)
2007 Gli Invisibili - Esordi nel cinema Italiano 2000-2006
(doc, with Enrico Carocci, Pierpaolo De Sanctis, Francesco Del Grosso) 2007 La zuppa di pietra
(short)
2005 ¿Quién es Pilar? (short)
2004 Pierino (doc)
2003 Gesù di Capocotta (short)

DIRECTOR'S WEBSITE

www.carmosino.com