INDOCHINA
TRACES OF A MOTHER

OFFICIAL SELECTION
16TH BUSAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
(SOUTH KOREA 2011)

A FILM BY IDRISSOU MORA KPAI
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY IDRISSOU MORA KPAI
PRODUCERS JEANETTE JOURI & IDRISSOU MORA KPAI
CO-PRODUCER ANUBHA S. MORA KPAI
PHOTOGRAPHY JACQUES BEESE
SOUND FABIO SCHOEMBAER, T. THUY HOANG
MUSIC WARIO DISY
EDITING RODOLPHE MOLLA & AGNES CONTENOU
MKJ FILMS - NOBLE FILMS CO-PRODUCTION

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Third World Newsreel
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Between 1946 and 1954, more than 60,000 African soldiers were enlisted by France to fight the Viet Minh during the First Indochina War. Pitted against one another by circumstances, African and Vietnamese fighters came into contact, and a number of African soldiers married Vietnamese women. Out of these unions, numerous mixed-race children were born.

At the end of the war, the French colonial army gave orders to bring all Afro-Vietnamese children to Africa. While some children left with their mothers and fathers, others were simply taken away by their fathers, leaving their mothers behind. Children that had neither mother nor father were abandoned in orphanages and put up for mass adoption by African officers.

INDOCHINA: TRACES OF A MOTHER follows Christophe, a Beninese-Vietnamese orphan, as he returns to Vietnam to look for his mother. Christophe long avoided facing the scars and identity complexes left by this abrupt separation from his mother and homeland. By encouraging him to undertake a journey into his own past, this film documents a little-known chapter in African, Vietnamese and French colonial history. (2011, 72 min, France/Benin, French with English subtitles, 16/9)

Third Prize, Documentary Film, FESPACO, Burkina Faso

Best Documentary, Algiers International Film Festival

Born in Benin in 1967, Idrissou MORA-KPAI is an independent documentary filmmaker and producer who graduated from Konrad Wolf University of Film and Television Art in Potsdam-Babelsberg, Germany. Mora-Kpai’s socially and politically engaged documentary films have been screened throughout the world and received numerous international prizes and awards. From 2011 to 2012, Mora-Kpai was an Artist-in-Residence at the Institute for Comparative Modernities at Cornell University and from 2012-2013 he was a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Art of the Moving Image program at Duke University. In 2013, Mora-Kpai received the prestigious Prince Claus Award for outstanding achievements in the field of culture and development.
INDOCHINA
TRACES OF A MOTHER

Credits and Technical Information
DIRECTED BY: Idrissou Mora-Kpai
PRODUCERS: Jeanette Jouili & Idrissou Mora-Kpai
CINEMATOGRAPHY: Jacques Besse
EDITORS: Rodolphe Molla, Agnès Contensou
SOUND: Lardia Tchiombiano, Thuy Hoang Thu
MUSIC: Wasis Diop
CO-PRODUCER: Arouna Sacca Mora-Kpai
PRODUCTION COMPANIES: MKJ FILMS - NOBLE FILMS
LENGTH: 1H10’41” 18i
FORMAT: 16/9
LANGUAGES: African languages/French with English subtitles
COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION: France/Benin
YEAR: 2011
INDOCHINA
TRACES OF A MOTHER

AWARDS
Third Prize, Documentary Film, FESPACO, Burkina Faso
Best Documentary, Algiers International Film Festival

SCREENINGS
New Directions in African Cinema, New York University
   New Orleans Loving Festival
   Finger Lakes Environmental Film Festival
   Africa World Documentary Film Festival
   Luxor African Film Festival, Egypt
   Film Africa, London
   Africa in the Picture, Amsterdam
   Festival International du Film d’Afrique et des Iles, Iles de Réunion
   African Film Festival in Cordoba-FCAT, Spain
   Namur International Film Festival, Belgium
   Guadeloupe Documentary Film Festival
   Les Escales Documentaires de Libreville
   Les Rencontres Cinématographiques de Hergla, Tunisia
   Algiers International Film Festival, Algeria
   Busan International Film Festival, South Korea

Available Formats: DVD, BetacamSP