



Inti Films presents

N

THE MADNESS OF REASON

a film by
PETER KRÜGER

text by **BEN OKRI** narrated by **MICHAEL LONSDALE** vocals **FATOUMATA DIAWARA**

CREDITS

ORIGINAL TITLE N – The Madness of Reason
DIRECTOR Peter Krüger
ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY Peter Krüger
TEXT Ben Okri
NARRATOR Michael Lonsdale
CAST Wendyam Sawadogo, Vieux Farka Touré, Hamadou Kassogue
PHOTOGRAPHY Rimvydas Leipus
EDITING Nico Leunen
STEADICAM OPERATOR Jules Debrock
SOUND Ludovic Van Pachterbeke, Benoît Bruwier
SOUND DESIGN & MIX Huybert Boon & Alex Booy
MUSIC Walter Hus
VOCALS Fatoumata Diawara

INFO

Inti Films
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FORMAT

ORIGINAL VERSION French, English, Bambara, Dioula, Sénoufo, Songhoy, Agni
RUNNING TIME 102'
FORMAT DCP - 1:1,85 - Scope - SRD 5.1 & 2.0 - Colour
YEAR 2014

PRODUCTION

PRODUCTION COMPANY Inti Films
FLEMISH PRODUCER Peter Krüger
CO-PRODUCERS Cobra Films, Dieptescherpte, Blinker Filmproduktion, Mollywood, ZDF/ARTE
SUPPORTED BY Flanders Audiovisual Fund (VAF), NFF, CCA, ZDF in cooperation with ARTE, Taxshelter of the Belgian Federal Government with thanks to Polydak, Corswarem Ramenconstructie NV, Herbeco NV, Dr Joris Penders, The MEDIA Programme of the European Union, Eurimages
IN COLLABORATION WITH Canvas, Sabam

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N is a story of an unusual obsession.

It recounts the story of the Frenchman Raymond Borremans, who left Europe for Africa in the mid-20th century. He devoted his life to the creation of the first encyclopaedia of this other world, dreaming of eternal recognition. He died, however, having only reached the letter N.

With his encyclopaedia incomplete, his restless spirit drifts around West Africa, caught between life and death, past and present. An African woman who helps restless spirits find peace, tries to lead him towards his destiny. When confronted with civil war, he is shattered. His encyclopaedic mind – bent on drawing borders, on definitions and categorizations – finds the contingencies of reality less easy to cope with. This is the story of how he tries to complete his unfinished task from beyond death.

N is, both visually and musically, a truly striking film. It is a multi-layered audio-visual symphony of great narrative richness. And it turns on the reason and the madness that inspired Borremans's monumental project. Hovering between dream and reality, this magical film plays on the confrontation between the Western mind and African spirituality.



DIRECTOR-PRODUCER PETER KRÜGER

Peter Krüger (writer, director and producer, °1970, Belgium) studied philosophy. In 1993 he set up his production company Inti Films, which focuses on the production of creative documentaries and art-house films for an international market.

Although Krüger's inspiration originally came from fiction, his first projects were documentaries including *Nazareth* (1997), *Poets of Mongolia* (1999), *The Eclipse of Sint-Gillis* (2011). In 2002 he also directed a short fiction film entitled *The Strange Man* (2002). Krüger's decision to explore the limits of fiction and documentary took off in 2011 with his first feature-length documentary-fiction *Antwerp Central* (winner of the Grand Prize at the International Festival of Films on Art in Montreal). He is currently working on his next feature film *Continental Drift*.

Krüger is also manager of the Film Directing Department at the RITS School of Arts in Brussels and script consultant for various feature films.



Writer **Ben Okri** (°1959, Nigeria) has published novels, poems, essays and short stories. He won the Booker Prize for fiction in 1991. He has written the text for *N*.

Actor **Michael Lonsdale** (°1931, France) has appeared in over 180 films and television shows. He is best known for his role in *Moonraker*, *The Remains of the Day* and *Munich*. In 2011 he won a César Award for best supporting actor in *Of Gods and Men*. He's the narrator in *N*.

Walter Hus (°1959, Belgium) is a pianist and composer. He mainly composes contemporary classical music but occasionally he also flirted with free jazz and rock. He has collaborated with painters, theatre and dance companies and video artists and he also wrote the film scores of *Suite Sixteen* and *The Pillow Book*.

Fatoumata Diawara (°1982, Ivory Coast) is currently one of the most famous Malian musicians. She has worked with renowned musicians such as Oumou Sangaré, Dee Dee Bridgewater and Herbie Hancock. Her most recent album *Fatou* was a huge success.