

A FILM BY IDRISOU MORA KPAI

# INDOCHINA

TRACES OF A MOTHER



A FILM BY IDRISOU MORA KPAI WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY IDRISOU MORA KPAI PRODUCERS JEANETTE JOUILLI & IDRISOU MORA KPAI  
CO-PRODUCER ARDUNA S. MORA KPAI PHOTOGRAPHY JACQUES BESSE SOUND LARDIA TCHIOMBIANO & THUY HOANG THU MUSIC WASIS DIOP  
EDITING RODOLPHE MOLLA & AGNES CONTENSOU • MKJ FILMS - NOBLE FILMS CO-PRODUCTION  
WITH THE HELP OF FONDS SUD CINEMA (MINISTÈRE DE LA CULTURE ET DE LA COMMUNICATION - CNC - MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES ET EUROPÉENNES) - FONDS  
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# INDOCHINA: TRACES OF A MOTHER

A FILM BY IDRISOU MORA-KPAI

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.

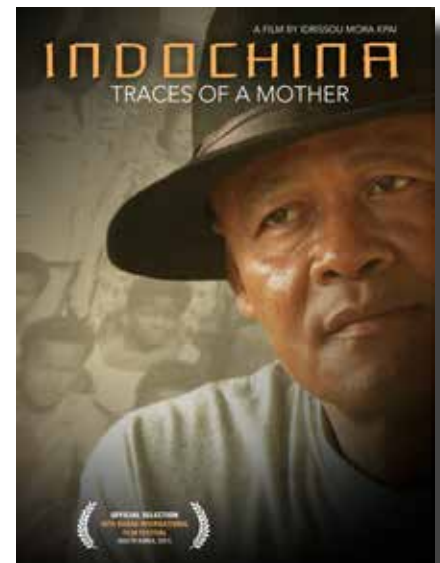
INDOCHINA: TRACES OF A MOTHER follows Christophe, a Beninese-Vietnamese orphan, as he returns to Vietnam to look for his mother. Christophe long avoided facing the scars and identity complexes left by this abrupt separation from his mother and homeland. By encouraging him to undertake a journey into 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 gives space for the grown Afro-Vietnamese orphans to tell their stories, but also to explore the contradictions of the colonial order.”**

-BLACK FILM CENTER/ARCHIVE BLOG

**“Heartbreaking... These men, oppressed by the French, were brought to Vietnam to fight a war which they had no part of, and which wasn't theirs to begin with.”**

-SHADOW AND ACT BLOG

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# 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