



ENDEMIKA FILMS
presents

ZANAKA

Thus spoke Félix

A short documentary by Nantenaina LOVA



A film produced and distributed by Endemika Films & Autantik Films

SCREENPLAY: Nantenaina Lova & Eva Lova-Bely - DIRECTING: Nantenaina Lova - IMAGES: Nantenaina Lova, Maminihaina Jean-Aimé Rakotonirina, Eva Lova-Bely - ADDITIONAL IMAGES: Sophie Louÿs, Randriamanantsôa Rianando Ludovic, Aynah Tsiry Randrianarison - SOUNDS : Fifaliana Nantenaina, Nantenaina Lova - ADDITIONAL SOUNDS: Thomas Lesourd, Jean-Luc Raharimanana, Thierry Bedard, Mandimby Maharo - EDITING: Nantenaina Lova
POST-PRODUCTION MANAGER : Eva Lova-Bely - PRODUCTION : Eva Lova-Bely, Nantenaina Lova, Candy Radifera



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2019 / Madagascar / 29' / Color & BW / 16:9 / Stereo
DCP / Blu-ray / DVD / digital file
Language : Malagasy
Subtitles : French, English, Spanish

Produced by ENDEMIKA FILMS & AUTANTI K FILMS



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SYNOPSIS

«If some want to perpetuate colonization, Malagasy people must oppose a strong no, whoever the colonists are » ! Thus spoke Felix Robson, our grandfather to all. Like so many others, Felix fought during the March 29, 1947 uprising to reclaim freedom that had been stolen by the French colonists. Despite the suffering he endured, he did not let rancor invade his soul. According to him, «*the wrongs of parents are not the wrongs of children*». But what about the wrongs to all of us, his children (zanaka) ?

NANTENAINA LOVA

BIOGRAPHY

Lova Nantenaina was born in 1977 in Madagascar. Born into a modest family, he was nevertheless able to go to France at the age of 22 to study social sciences. In 2006, after a two-year return to the native country and a job as a print journalist, he discovered audiovisual in Reunion in mastery of Information-Communication before joining the Toulouse Film School (ESAV) . Attached to living on his island, he settled there for five years and currently divides his time between Madagascar and Reunion.

He directed many short and medium-length films including «*With Almost Nothing ...*» bought by France Televisions. His Feature Documentary, «*The Malagasy Way*» has been selected in such big festivals as IDFA (Amsterdam) and Hot Docs (Toronto), won two prizes and two special mentions. It was released in French theaters on 2015, with more than 14,000 entries and was screened at a parisian cinema of art and essay during 6 months.

His latest short documentary, ZANAKA, is coproduced by Eva Lova-Bely with their Malagasy production company and the Reunion association they lead. In Antananarivo, they work with Candy Radifera who is mainly in charge of distribution. Their company, Endemika Films, is one of the only companies dedicated to cinema in Madagascar.

His latest films and current projects address the future in a world and a country where keeping hope is a compelling necessity, and as in Madagascar it is said that what is sad that it is laughing, he likes the keys of humor, even dark.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

In 2010, I felt the urgency of telling the story of the 1947 anti-colonial insurrection, but I was faced with the mistrust of some surviving resistance fighters. I was made to understand that it was a «delicate» story because descendants of those who collaborated were still alive. Yet among these old men, one of them smiled at me, approached me and agreed to tell me his story. It was Félix Robson, an 86-year-old man who could still walk kilometers. Like me, he wanted the story to be told to young people, from Malagasy witnesses, so that the fight and the death of the resistance fighters of the time were not in vain. Our complicity was immediate, thus I called him, like all his relatives did, «Dadabe Felix» (grandfather Felix). I filmed his testimony several times and in 2014, he passed away before I find the way to tell his story in pictures. For a long time, I walked by his tomb when going home and at least once a day, I promised him to finish this film one day even without any institutional funding.



Building a narrative around today's images rather than archival footage and focusing on Dadabe Félix's «version of the History» was as much a result of choice as of chance and production constraints.

The challenge is to allow the new generation to make the link between the colonization of the past and the current neo-colonization that is maintained by the power of different multinationals.

I wanted this film to be a tribute to this great man and his message because I got attached to him and I found it unacceptable that history forgets it like so many others.



« To those who died so that the land of the ancestors will live forever. »



INTERVIEW WITH THE DIRECTOR

The testimony of the one you affectionately call Dadabe Félix (grandfather Félix), ends during his deportation, if we can say, to Diégo, what happened to him after that?

He returned to Antananarivo in 1949 and worked as a glazier: he could not work as a sailor as there are no ports in Tana, so he did small jobs. He gave up his life in Manakara, he got married and had many children. The colonists said back then, that all resistance fighters must be killed to the last.

When we organized a picnic with him, his family had a hundred members. He told me with a small smile that he had his «beautiful revenge to life» because not only was he not killed but he had many descendants.

Grand-father Félix used to tell me:

"HELOKY NY RAY, TSY HELOKY NY ZANAKA"

(The wrongs of the parents are not the wrongs of the children)

The film evokes insistently the lack of independence today, despite the sacrifice of the ancients to conquer freedom and sovereignty. But we do not have much information about the current neo-colonialism that is discussed in the film.

It is true that the film alludes to the neo-colonization situation that we see every day in newspapers, such as debts to global financial institutions. These same institutions impose a number of conditions for the granting of funds, namely the opening of borders, investment in agro-business and the establishment of major mining projects. These mining projects are fairly recent in the history of the country, Madagascar has become one of the new eldorado. There are oil and gas deposits sold to these mining companies. There is also the exploitation of the subsoil: cobalt, ilmenite, zircon, rare soils ... And that does not benefit the local population at all. There is



a human and ecological drama going on right now. And finally, the country is at a loss in general, but is encouraged to prioritize these foreign investments. In the accounts of these mining projects, Madagascar receives only 1% of declared profits. There are subsidiaries of Rio Tinto, of all the powerful countries that are here to exploit the resources of the land of our ancestors as they say here.

Why did you choose to draw the portrait of Felix rather than show him in front of the camera?

It's an artistic choice when writing the project. As during the production, the character passed away, it is also a tribute movie. I think it's important for us as an author to offer a sketch of the story of this character who tells, not the great History, but his personal story. And I looked for a way to get the viewer to listen rather than look at the pictures. Thus came the idea of involving artists in a drawing that evolves while the character speaks.



Who are these artists and how did you find them?

I found them on the Avenue of the Independence. They are street artists who have been working there for years and doing a wonderful job. I found it interesting that today's artists are also aware of this anticolonial struggle, that they redraw the history of Madagascar.

Why finally burn this drawing they took so long to do? How many hours for this drawing?

They spent at least 8 hours doing this drawing. Fana is the name of the artist who draws. The idea of burning the drawing, firstly it's a tribute story. The portraitists were very ceremonial with their candles when they burned Dadabe Felix's drawing in the film.



Secondly, the idea is also to make the viewer reflect on the history of the country. We tend to burn everything, to burn our story. In 2009, the country burned the national radio and all our audiovisual archives that were 60 or 70 years old. So for me, it's also to challenge our relationship to memory. It is important for me to burn this beautiful portrait at the end, to shock a little, the idea of

collective memory is important to not repeat the mistakes of the past.

There were resistance fighters who shed their blood to bring freedom to the country. The question is put to the younger generation: «What do we currently do with this freedom we have acquired?» In the end, the film thus questions in an open way the new generation: «What is our fight to free the country from the current neocolonial system which seems even more dangerous to me than colonization? At the time it was a country that was colonizing another. But now it's more like multinational corporations that do not have good nor bad values other than profitability and it's even more dangerous than what we knew before. So the generation of today has a heavy responsibility (perhaps too heavy): we should try to identify the enemies and the struggles, and carry out citizen actions to raise the voice of the oppressed ... before it's too late.



« In the camp, in Lazaret where we were kept, we realized we lost our name, our identity. Aluminum ID tags came a day after us, numbered from 1 to 10,000. No more names, only numbers. Mine was 271. » - Dadabe Félix

Madagascar: manifestation contre une société minière chinoise à Soamahamanina



Des mineurs travaillent dans la mine d'or de Soamahamanina.
© RFI/Marie-Audrey

La situation est toujours tendue à Madagascar entre les autorités et les habitants du village de Soamahamanina. Comme tous les jeudis depuis le mois de juin, cette semaine, une manifestation était organisée dans cette commune située à 70 km à l'ouest de la capitale Antananarivo. Les villageois demandent le départ d'une compagnie minière chinoise installée là depuis un an pour exploiter l'or du sous-sol. Les activités à la mine sont suspendues, le site est formellement interdit d'accès et ce jeudi, en fin de matinée, une centaine de gendarmes a fait face à un millier de manifestants.

Planète

Comment la pêche européenne lèse Madagascar

Alors que les quotas de pêche européenne dans les eaux malgaches ont augmenté de 30 % depuis 1986, les revenus perçus par le pays ont régressé de 90 %.



Pour la flotte de pêche européenne, les eaux poissonneuses des pays du Sud représentent un véritable eldorado. Mais, selon certains, l'Union européenne exploite ces ressources sans en payer le juste prix, notamment à Madagascar. C'est notamment l'accusation portée par des chercheurs de l'université canadienne British Columbia, de la Banque mondiale et de l'ONG britannique

TOLIARA SANDS : LE BRAS DE FER CONTINUE AVEC LES OPPOSANTS

Redaction Midi Madagascar 13 juin 2017 0 Comment



Les opposants à Toliara Sands

Tous les papiers de Toliara Sands sont en poche. La société australienne veut exploiter, enfin. Le cours mondial du cobalt et autres dérivés de l'ilménite est favorable en ce moment. Une opposition farouche tient les responsables de la ville en haleine. La Plateforme régionale de la Société civile s'inquiète. L'heure est grave : quel développement entreprendre quand il faut sacrifier la nature, l'environnement et la culture ?

« Le mètre carré est bradé aux chinois à sept ariary soit 35 Fmg du côté d'Antanimieva et Befandriana » affirme Théo Rakotovaio qui y a été, en personne, et tout enregistré. Ainsi 5000 ha sont déjà vendus. Ce qui contrarie les opposants, au projet des décideurs de ce pays, c'est la non transparence, la redevance de 1% alors que dans les autres pays d'Afrique, cette redevance est plus importante et met la population à l'abri des besoins, contrairement à Madagascar qui patauge dans l'éternelle pauvreté.

Une quarantaine de permis a été accordée dans la région Sud-Ouest depuis 2002. Plus la menace de la destruction de

l'environnement est grande, plus le nombre de sociétés civiles se multiplie. La région compte aujourd'hui 70 qui constituent l'architecture de Famary (Fatidra ny Ala Maiky sy ny RYaky) pour protéger, spécifiquement, la forêt et la mer autour de Toliara. Selon Théo Mikea, les gens du Sud vivent en symbiose avec la nature, la terre et la mer, leur mère.

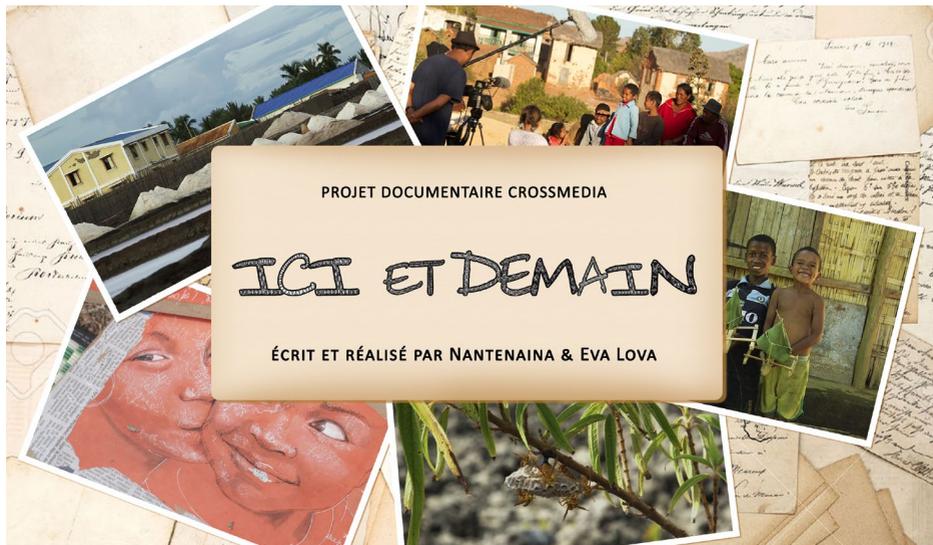
ENDEMIKA FILMS

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Endemika Films was created in 2008 by Nantenaina LOVA and specialized in the production of independent cinema in Madagascar. It is managed by Eva LOVA, graduated in «Documentary Creation Production» in France in 2012.

ONGOING PROJECTS



ICI & DEMAIN (Here & tomorrow) by Nantenaina & Eva Lova

Documentaries for all audiences - 2 x 52 min

State : development - Coproduction with a french company, Adala Films.

Today, it is already TOMORROW, HERE, in the islands of the Indian Ocean. Films for all ages, around the transmission of know-how against the logics of overexploitation and overconsumption of resources that affect us all.

In search of a broadcaster for a film in the form of a travel diary. Funding by the Franco-phone Images Fund (OIF) of the children's film « Lakana » (production completed) and other films (being rewritten). Winner of the artist residency « Heritage and creation » in Reunion.



SOUTE À BOMBES (Bomb shell) by Nantenaina & Eva Lova

feature documentary - state : rewriting - production

Like many others, the parents of Rabe accepted the challenge of the Ministry of Agriculture: taming the swamps of Antananarivo ... Rabe won the bet! But here he is, like the other villagers of Sitabaomba (bombshell) in the grip of the ferocious appetite of the city and its «crocodiles»: in question the presidential project of construction of a new road which crosses its rice fields. In all illegality, the state machine renounces its own rural development program in favor of land speculation. The only weapons we have for the victims of this spoliation and crocodiles' propaganda: small stories, puppets and a film.

The show that will be given to the village will be an excuse to revisit the story of Sitabaomba and the great history of the country but also to discover some of the many Malagasy words, carrying a vision of the world, opposed to the ideology of growth and of development.

Obtained the Scam «Brouillon d'un rêve» writing aid.

OUR CATALOG

« Tantara » by Yannick Andrianambonisoa & Fitahiana Randriamiharisoa

2018 - animation, 4 min - Subtitles FR/EN

After being accused of murdering a rich «business egg», will hungry little pebble suffer the judgment of the people?

In Madagascar, lynching is commonplace, people no longer trust justice.

* «Tantara» is a Malagasy game played mostly by little girls, which consists of making a story live by tapping stones.

Prize: Panafrican Animation at Rencontres du film court d'Antananarivo 2018 (Madagascar).

Selections : FESPACO 2019 (Ouagadougou)



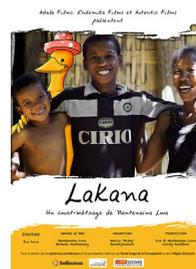
« Lakana » by Nantenaina Lova

2017, documentary for kids, 13 min - Subtitles FR/EN

A trip to meet Kenji and his family in Madagascar, the country of raffia.

From 4 years old.

Selections : Chicago International Children film festival (USA), Africajarc (France), Embarquement Immédiat (Reunion), Iles Court (Mauritius), FCAT (Tarifa & Tanger)...



« Longue live the dead » by Mamy Rakotonirina

2016 - documentary, 26 min - Subtitles FR/EN - Coproduction : SaNoSi Production (France)

In Madagascar, the dead have a place near the living. Marie, the dwarf, takes care of a royal burial entrusted to her and welcomes visitors who come to ask a favor from the ancestors ... Marie pleads for a respect for ancestor worship, often denigrated by Christianity and the new generation.

Selections : Festival Iles Court (Maurice), JCC (Tunisie), Luxor African Film Festival (Egypte), Etats Généraux du film documentaire (France)



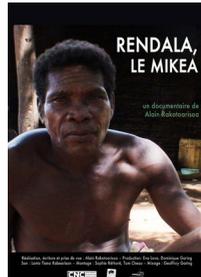
« Rendala the Mikea » by Alain Rakotoarisoa

2015, documentary, 62/52 min - Subtitles FR/EN - Coproduction : Vie des Hauts Production (France)

Attracted by the modern world, spit tobacco and the promise of a better future, they gave up their lives made of hunting and gathering. But five years later, the record is bitter ...

Prize: Lucien Kimitété at Festival International du Film Insulaire de Groix (France)

Selections : Luxor African Film Festival (Egypt), Rencontres Cinéma Nature (France), Festival 5 Continents (France/Switzerland), Etats Généraux du film documentaire (France)



« It's my road » by Nantenaina Fifaliana

2015, documentary, 11 min - Subtitles FR/EN

- Dadakoto, why do you often say "It's my road"?

- It's actually a game, replies the old man who seems to be a child inside. He's playing when he's working. But most importantly, working keeps him alive.

Prize: Public prize at the contest «Filme ton travail» of Poitiers (France), CUMSE Prize at Festival Cinéma d'Afrique, d'Asie et d'Amérique Latine (Italy).

Selections : Festival du Court-Métrage de Clermont-Ferrand (France), Norway international film festival, Festival Îles Courts (Mauritius), Festival Vues d'Afrique (Canada), Festival du film de Tripoli (Lebanon), Festival de Lasalles (France), FCAT Tarifa & Tanger, Festival Encounters (South Africa), Festival Off-Courts Trouville (France).



« The Malagasy way » by Nantenaina Lova

2014, documentary, 84 min - www.adygasy.com

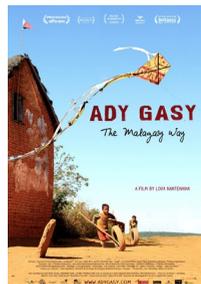
Theatrical release in France in April 2015 with +14.000 entries

52min version entitled « With Almost Nothing... »

« Les Chinois fabriquent des objets, les Malgaches les réparent. »

A Madagascar, artistes et artisans prennent la parole et redéfinissent le « ADY GASY » comme un art de vivre fondé sur la créativité et la fraternité. La trame de ce film est une sorte de satire douce-amère du système de surproduction et de surconsommation mondial, la forme est un jeu de miroir qui oppose aux discours insistants et bien rodés de certains agents de développement ceux des orateurs malgaches.

Prize: Fénèt Océan Indien Prize at FIFAI (Reunion), Grand Prix Eden Documentaire at Festival Lumières d'Afrique (France), Jury Special Mention at Festival Quintessence de Ouidah (Benin). Selections : HOTDOCS (Canada), IDFA (Amsterdam),...



« Counting leaves » by Nantenaina & Eva Lova

2011, fiction, 4min30 – French subtitles

A moment of dream, play and carelessness in the lives of three children.

Diaspora Prize at Rencontres du Film Court d'Antananarivo de 2012. Selections: « Regards d'Afrique 2012 » at Festival Clermont-Ferrand, Festival CinéSud 2013.



« Red Heaven » by Nantenaina Lova

2009, fiction, 18 min - Subtitles FR/EN

For Jeanne, life is not quite the socialist heaven that the government promise on the radio everyday...

Selections : « Regards d'Afrique 2009 » at the Clermont-Ferrand Festival, cinéSud 2011 and bought by TV5 (distribution Autantik Films).



« Little Men » by Nantenaina Lova

2008, documentary, 35 min - Subtitles FR/EN

For Julio and Lioka, it is time to be circumcised to become men ...

Selection « Regards d'Afrique 2008 » at the Clermont-Ferrand Festival.



« The Other Side » by Nantenaina Lova

2007, documentary, 17 min - Subtitles FR/EN

Europe is light and wealth... That is at least the image we see in the country.

Selection « Regards d'Afrique 2010 » at the Clermont-Ferrand Festival..



« 2€ in Madagascar » by Nantenaina Lova

2007, documentary, 6 min - Subtitles FR/EN

What could this poor boy gift to himself with the 2€ I am offering him ?

Special Jury Mention of the festival étudiant du film court. Official selection at the Expression en Corto de Mexico Festival 2008, Cabinet curiosité at the Paris Tout court Festival 2008, official selection Cine Possible 2009 in Spain, sélection FIFAI 2012.



CREW

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