



# COURA + OULEYE

Senegal

2019 Nantes Produire au Sud

## MAIN DATA

**Category:** Drama

**Length :** 100'

**Language :** Wolof, Sereer, French

**Shooting location :** Senegal

**Shooting dates :** November 2021

**Expected date of completion :** July 2022

## PRODUCTION

**Budget :** 970 000 €

**Financing in place :** 5 000 €

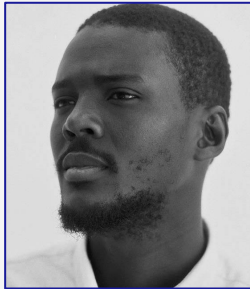
**Production company :** Sunuy Films

**Workshops and platforms attended :** None

**Current situation :** development stage, seeking for partners

## Souleymane KEBÉ, producer

Souleymane Kébé is a producer from Dakar, Senegal. He started his production company, Sunuy Films, in 2012, producing feature documentaries and short fictions, as well as handling the executive production of fiction (Urs Jakob's *Europe or Die*) and documentary features, and television series (*Afropolitans*, France 2). He also works freelance as an executive producer and line producer for other production companies on various projects such as the TV show *Tundu Wundu* (best African TV show, Fespaco 2017), *ZeroZeroZero* (Amazon Studios, premiered at Venice Film Festival 2019) or *Colombine* (fiction, TF1).



## Iman DJIONNE, director

Iman Djionne is a writer and director from Dakar, Senegal. Her work includes short films, music videos and short docs. Her latest short film, *Boxing Girl*, has travelled to several festivals: Luxor, NYAFF, Koln, or POFF shorts. She also works as a casting director for local and international productions such as Philippe Faucon's *Amin* (Cannes Directors' Fortnight 2018) or the upcoming Amazon studios series *ZeroZeroZero* (premiered at Venice Film Festival 2019). She was also part of the casting team for Mati Diop's *Atlantique* (Grand Prix at the Cannes Film Festival 2019). Iman is currently developing her first feature *Coura + Ouleye*. She is a Durban Talents (2012), Realness Residency and Locarno Filmmaker's Academy alumna (2019).



## SYNOPSIS

After her polygamous father's sudden death, 16-year-old Oulèye finds herself in a battle over his will with her older sister Coura, the daughter of her father's other wife. As they compete to find an end to the ongoing conflict between their mothers, they begin a journey through Senegal that takes an unexpected spiritual turn when they meet Ngoné, a mysterious young woman.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

« Polygamy, quite widespread in Senegal, has been addressed in literature and film but mostly from the wives' point of view. Rarely has its impact on the children and especially their relationship with each other been looked at. The starting point of this story was wanting to explore what that bond could be like in this particular context where mothers are in conflict, living and raising their children apart. Can it survive, can it thrive even? By doing that, I wanted to examine how one man's decision affects an entire family, informing who those individual members become and how they relate to the world.

*Coura + Oulèye* delves into womanhood through three different generations navigating their place in today's Senegalese society, where gender roles are still very defined and where the community is more important than the self. Indeed, being yourself is frowned upon in a society where the group is promoted. How then these girls reconcile their identity without breaking from a society they want to belong in, with its tradition and its modernity, will be the main challenge for them. These teenagers, much like this country currently, are questioning their complex identity and their daunting future. Starting out as mirror images of their mothers, Coura and Oulèye's quest will take them outside of Dakar, far from their family's burden and society's expectations, to find a way through their sisterhood to break free from that mold, become their own, and in doing that, possibly bridge a broken community. »

## CONTACTS

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