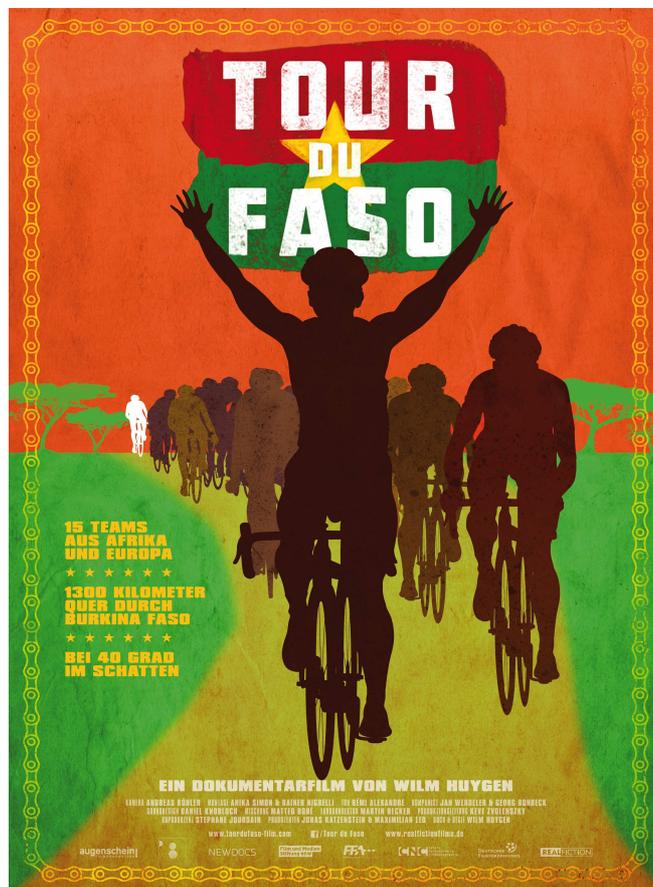


REALFICTION
FILMVERLEIH



TOUR DU FASO

In German cinemas by May 29th 2014

A film by Wilm Huygen

D 2013 – 93 min – VO – English subtitles

RFF-Real Fiction Filmverleih

Hansaring 98

D-50670 Köln

www.realfictionfilme.de

T: +49 221-95 22 111

REALFICTION

FILMVERLEIH

SYNOPSIS

The *Tour du Faso* is known by cyclists all over the world as the one of a kind cycling event. Since 1987 Africa's biggest cycling race is held in ten challenging stages every year. Even experienced cyclists suffer from average temperatures of 40 degrees Celsius.

The *Tour du Faso* has retained its unique and very African character as a 'flawed' – but much more sympathetic – copy of the Tour de France, its European model. The race course includes dusty, challenging roads, the advertising 'caravan' consists of a single car and the cyclists are camping amid the African savannah during the race's nights.

Even some European teams are attending the race – though they are shorthanded. Whereas, no African cyclist ever had the chance to participate in the *Tour de France*.

TOUR DU FASO tells the story of underdogs and enthusiastic cyclists of both continents, Africa and Europe, as they are attending one of the greatest events in Burkina Faso.

Amid the culture clash of European perfectionism and African realities, German amateurs, French ex-pros and African local heroes fight for making their dreams come true. Every team wants to win. As the Germans focus on their careers, the Burkinans fight for the honor of their country.

In front of the magnificent backdrop of Burkina Faso's savanna, **TOUR DU FASO** is evolving its stunning aesthetics by focusing on both – the cycle sports itself and the odds of fighting spirit. Yet the film deals not only with the question of who will win – instead, it pays particular attention to the value of the protagonists' experiences.

In a humorous yet very detailed manner, the film tells the story of various life styles and the ongoing attachment on prejudices – whether it's the Europeans view of Africa or vice versa.

REALFICTION

FILMVERLEIH

TOUR DU FASO takes the audience on an entertaining time travel back to pre-commercialised decades, where commerce and manipulation did not yet matter.

Director Wilm Huygen succeeds in capturing the races' esprit and excitement in a film that matches two genres likewise. **TOUR DU FASO** is a sports movie as well as a spirited portrait of Burkina Faso itself.

REGIESTATEMENT

As a filmmaker I always aim to express through portraits of people something about the greater sociological relations and man's nature. In my choice for protagonists I look for people who are creating mental freedom and alternative "worlds", wherein they are able to keep their liberties. I am interested in the underdog's energy to whom the way matters more than the goal, thus finding his happiness in living his individual dreams. These People I want to give a stage so that they encourage the audience to think about our deadlocked valuation standards of success and happiness.

At the *Tour du Faso* I find a lot of these positively crazy characters. The African cyclers as well as the Europeans are extreme underdogs in sport and financial matters. Yet during my visit of the *Tour du Faso* 2010 I encountered at the race as in the whole hosting country more passion, dedication and true sporting spirit than anywhere in my life before.

And transporting exactly this energy is my motivation for the feature documentary *Tour du Faso*. Visually this film is dominated by an interplay of epic width and powerful panoramas with intense observation and closeness to our protagonists. The smallness and vulnerability of the individual in contrast to the overwhelming nature will be expressed in epic and almost meditative wide shots. Whereas the heroism and willpower of our protagonists will be shown through

REALFICTION

FILMVERLEIH

intense close-ups. This interplay of those two opposite approaches resemble the classical genres of the great Cinemascope age, like Westerns or Africa films.

We will show shots, that the audience has not seen before: Racers, who appear beside a Baobab Tree out of clouds of dust or simple huts, which the peleton bypasses like an avalanche. Then there will also be shots from within the depths of the racers expressing the efforts on the racer's faces from touching distance: details and extreme close-ups of their eyes, hands, muscles, brakes, chains, gear wheels and pedals will emphasize the dynamic and pure physical efforts of the Tour du Faso.

Apart from the sequences shot in this High-Profile Look, we will mainly work with the means of the Cinéma vérité, to get to know our protagonists as private and true as possible.

This Polarity between "Bigger than life", extremeness and spectacle versus absolute intimacy, quietness and focus is probably a perfect way for describing the Tour du Faso and its protagonists. The almost surreal experiences of the race as well as all the things seen in the quiet hours after the stages are equally important experiences defining the uniqueness of the very event. And exactly this mix of emotions I want the audience to be able to participate.

The heroes of the *Tour du Faso* shall stand in the rich tradition of film history's positive underdogs: - from Muhamed Ali in WHEN WE WERE KINGS or the senior Olympians in AUTUMN GOLD up to Rocky Balboa in ROCKY. The focus is on the event, the struggle and the passion. And this we want to express cinematographically.

REALFICTION

FILMVERLEIH

CREDITS

writer / director: WILM HUYGEN

DoP: ANDREAS KÖHLER

montage: ANIKA SIMON (BFS)
RAINER NIGRELLI

producer: JONAS KATZENSTEIN
MAXIMILIAN LEO
KEVE ZVOLENSZKY

co-producer: STEPHANE JOURDAIN

produced by AUGENSCHN FILMPRODUKTION
UND LA HUIT

funded by FILM- UND MEDIENSTIFTUNG NRW
FFA UND CNC (DEUTSCH-FRANZÖSISCHES MI-
NITRAITÉ)
DEUTSCHER FILMFÖRDERFONDS

distributed by REAL FICTION (DE), JOUR2FÊTE (FR)

world sales NEW DOCS

© 2013 AUGENSCHN FILMPRODUKTION / LA HUIT

protagonists ABDOUL AZIZ NIKIEMA
RASMANE OUEDRAOGO
MAHAMADI SAWADOGO
WAHAB ABDOUL SAWADOGO
HAMIDOU YAMEOGO
HAMIDOU ZIDWEIBA

REALFICTION

FILMVERLEIH

HEINRICH BERGER
ELMAR HANTZSCH
SERGE HERTZ
BENJAMIN HÖBER
KARSTEN KEUNECKE
DOMINIK SCHMENGLER
OLIVER STOCK
MALTE WULFINGHOFF

sound	RÉMI ALEXANDRE
2 nd unit camera	MATTEO COCCO
production manager	KEVE ZVOLENSZKY
executive producer	JACQUES COLMAN
production coordinator France	FRED DUUEZ ELSA BARTHELEMY
production coordinator Burkina Faso	MOUSSA SAWADOGO OUSMANE BOUNDAONÉ
production assistant Burkina Faso	LUKAS TOLKSDORF
still photography	LUKAS TOLKSDORF ANDREAS KÖHLER MATTEO COCCO ROMAN ROITMAN
music	JAN WENDELER
opening theme	GEORG ROHBECK
dramaturgic consultant	GESA MARTEN
DIT	RAINER NIGRELLI
title design	THOMAS SCHMIDL
color correction	MARTIN BECKER
compositing	MATTEO BOHÉ

REALFICTION

FILMVERLEIH

sound design	DANIEL KNOBLOCH
translation	FABIEN RACLET LISA WAGNER SALIF OUEDRAOGO
subtitling	MARKUS JASCHKE PAUL LEO ALWIN GEIßEN
narrator	CHRISTOPHE LASCOMBES
archive footage	CA VOUS PLAY PRODUCTION RADIODIFFUSION TÉLÉVISION BURKINA (RTB) ARCHIVES NATIONALES D'OUTRE-MER PRIVATSAMMLUNG LONGMAN ANGLAIS PRIVATSAMMLUNG MALTE WULFINGHOFF
Film- und Medienstiftung NRW	ANNA FANTL CHRISTINA BENTLAGE PETRA MÜLLER
Filmförderanstalt (FFA)	DIANA FALK CLAUDIA LIEBSCHER PETER DINGES
Deutscher Filmförderfonds	KRISTIN HOLST THEKLA MALLWITZ CORNELIA HAMMELMANN

REALFICTION

FILMVERLEIH

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

After obtaining his master's degree in Theatre, Film and TV studies, **Wilm Huygen** (b. 1979) studied directing at the Academy for Media Arts Cologne. His graduation documentary film *DER SCHWULE NEGER NOBI* (2010), a portrait about a black, gay, East-German kiosk owner, premiered at the Film Festival Max-Ophüls-Preis. His TV documentary *ENDTIMES* (2012) won the Phoenix Advancement Award. *THE COALMAN* (2011) was awarded with the *Deutsche Kamerapreis* (German Camera Award).

Filmography

2014	VON KUMPELS UND BRÄUTEN	documentary	90 min
2013	TOUR DU FASO	documentary	93 min
2012	ENDTIMES	TV-documentary	60 min / Phoenix Award
2012	THE HARDEST TIME	TV-documentary	45 min
2011	THE COLE MAN	TV-documentary	60 min / Deutscher Kamerapreis
2009	DER SCHWULE NEGER NOBI	documentary	60 min / Max Ophüls-Preis 2010
2009	GOTTES DRIVE-IN	documentary	20 min

PRODUCTION COMPANY

augenschein Filmproduktion was founded by Jonas Katzenstein and Maximilian Leo in 2008. Based in Cologne, Germany, augenschein focuses on international co-productions and German art cinema of both types - fiction and non-fiction.

augenschein films are dominated by an atmospheric narrative style. It's the producers' ambition to take a closer look at the characters' journeys and their emotional processes and to make films that leave lasting impressions.

REALFICTION

FILMVERLEIH

CONTACT

Distributor

RFF - Real Fiction Filmverleih e. K.
Juliane Teut (press, disposal), Katharina Rohde (marketing)
Hansaring 98
D-50670 Köln

T: + 49 221 95 22 111

F: + 49 221 95 22 113

info@realfictionfilme.de

teut@realfictionfilme.de

public@realfictionfilme.de

www.realfictionfilme.de

Production company

augenschein Filmproduktion GmbH
Neusser Str. 5 - 7
D-50670 Köln

T: + 49 221 169 50 500

F: + 49 221 169 50 509

info@augenschein-filmproduktion.de

www.augenschein-filmproduktion.de

www.tourdufaso-film.com

www.facebook.com/tourdufasofilm