



Centenary Tribute

Country : Senegal

Borom Sarret

The Wagoner

1963 / Black & White / 20 minutes / Silent



Director : Ousmane Sembene

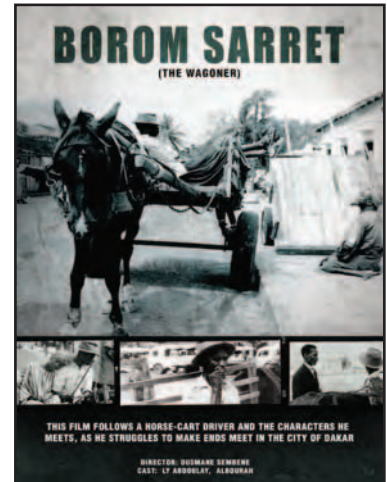
Producer : Ousmane Sembene

Cinematographer : Christian Lacoste

Editor : Andre Gaudier

Cast : Abdoulay Ly, Albourah

Synopsis : Senegalese director Ousmane Sembène's *Borom Sarret* tells the story of a poor man trying to make a living as a cart driver in Dakar. Subtitles refer to him as "The Wagoner". While he hopes to be paid for his services, he knows some of the passengers will not pay because they have no income or do not usually. Sometimes, all he gets is a handshake. Among his customers is a man delivering his child's body to the cemetery. When the man is not allowed in because he does not have the correct papers, the cart driver abandons the body and leaves the man lamenting over his loss. In another sequence, a well dressed man asks to be taken to the French quarter. The cart driver does not want to take him there because carts are not allowed there. The customer forces him to do so with dire consequences.



Director's Biography : Ousmane Sembene (1st January 1923 or 8th January 1923 - 9th June 2007), often credited in the French style as Sembene Ousmane which he seemed to favour as a way to underscore 'colonial imposition' of this naming ritual and subvert it, was a Senegalese film director, producer and writer. *The Los Angeles Times* considered him one of the greatest authors of Africa and he has often been called the 'Father of African film'. Descended from a Serer family through his mother from the line of Matar Sene, Ousmane Sembene was particularly drawn to Serer religious festivals especially the Tuur festival.