

A CROSSROADS DOCS PRODUCTION

A FILM BY AIDA GROVESTINS

QUITTE LE POUVOIR

DIRECTED BY AIDA GROVESTINS PRODUCED BY MACHTELD AARDSE AND AIDA GROVESTINS EDITED BY ALLARD DETIGER
ADDITIONAL EDITOR AART JAN VAN DER LINDEN DRAWINGS BY MACHTELD AARDSE ANIMATIONS BY HANNEKE VAN DER LINDEN
MUSIC BY Y'EN A MARRE AND JULIEN GROSSMANN CAMERA PIERRE LECOMTE SOUND MAMADOU FALL AND ALIOUNE M'BOW
NARRATION CHEIKH DIARRA RESEARCH BY CHEIKH DIARRA AND AIDA GROVESTINS GRADING BY MICHIEL RUMMENS. COPYRIGHT 2014

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www.quittelepouvoir.com

TITLE: Quitte le Pouvoir (WADE, GET OUT!) (36 mins) Aida Grovestins (director, producer), Machteld Aardse (drawings for animations, producer), Hanneke van der Linden (animations)

LOGLINE: When a group of young rappers from Dakar, Senegal, join forces through their music to create a revolt, the presidential elections get a surprising turn.

SYNOPSIS In this film we follow 4 rap artists from rap movement Y'en a marre ('Fed Up') from Dakar's inner city, who faced with their president clinging to power, bring an unprecedented popular rebellion to the streets. By using animations over the live action footage, the dark atmosphere of the tension hanging over the city is subtly highlighted.

Shot over the course of a year, the film portrays the growing discontent among Senegal's youth. Using music and subtle animation, this is the emotional and at times violent journey of the rappers, as they are propelled to lead a popular protest. As the movement gains massive popular support, the new leaders of the youth movement are provoked by police forces and must choose between fighting back or sticking to their peaceful stance, struggling between impulse and thoughtfulness. They learn what it means to resist fear as they struggle to control the angry masses. This rebellion propels our 4 protagonists into adulthood.

This is a close up portrait of what the future African Spring may look like. "Wade, get out" is where 1995 french film 'La Haine' meets the Arab spring.

Credits

Scenario & regie: Aida Grovestins

Research: Aida Grovestins & Cheikh Diarra

Drawings & animations: Machteld Aardse, Hanneke van der Linden

Cinematographer: Pierre Lecomte (Senegal)

Sound: Alioune M'Bow & Mamadou Fall

Editor: Allard Detiger

Additional editor: Aart-Jan van der Linden

Music: Julien Grossmann / Y'en a Marre (Fed Up)/ Cheikh Diarra

Narration: Cheikh Diarra

Producers: Aida Grovestins, Machteld Aardse | Crossroads DOCS 2014

Length: 36'

Country: Nederland

Year 2014

Format: DCP

Subtitles: English

Website: www.quittelepouvoir.com | **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/WomenOfWaalo>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/#!/womenofwaalo>

The film is financed by crowdfunding through Cinecrowd and IndieGoGo and by Amsterdams Fonds voor de Kunst (AFK) and the Webster University Leiden / St.Louis USA.

www.quittelepouvoir.com

Director

Aida Grovestins is an independent filmmaker, working in West-Africa and The Netherlands. She is the director and producer of the documentary film 'Quitte le Pouvoir'. After 13 years in journalism, she started making films. Her first documentary film 'Diamond Dust', about the diamond trade in Antwerp, was broadcasted by the Dutch and Belgian TV (VPRO in 2009 and CANVAS in 2010) and premiered at the IDFA filmfestival in Amsterdam. Under the name 'Crossroads DOCS' she produces and directs commissioned films, (radio) documentaries and news reports. Aida Grovestins studied Political Science, International Relations (Major) en History (Bachelors) at the University of Amsterdam en Art History at the Sorbonne in Paris, France. She is currently working on the animated documentary film 'Women of Waalo' with artist Machteld Aardse and animator Hanneke van der Linden.

Machteld Aardse is a multimedia artist from Amsterdam and producer. She made the drawings for the animations of Quitte le Pouvoir and co-produced it as well. She studied art history and arts at the Gerrit Rietveld Academy in Amsterdam and had a Masters in Art at the Dutch Art Institute. In her work she uses different media, like film, drawings, light projections and performances in the public space. Her first film project is The Island and she is now working with animator Hanneke van der Linden en filmmaker Aida Grovestins on the animation-documentary film Women of Waalo.



Aida Grovestins



Machteld Aardse

Directors statement

Aida Grovestins (film director/producer) and Machteld Aardse (artist/producer)

The inspiration for “Quitte le Pouvoir” came in 2011 when we were in Senegal doing research on a fascinating old story of resistance of queen-warriors, the Women of Waalo. Storytelling connects us and we wanted to tell and visualize this story through documentary film style and drawn-animations.

During that time in Senegal the social-political situation was quite hectic because the 85 year old President wanted to run for a third term, which was unconstitutional. At first we were very interested in the first female presidential candidate. But we were really struck by the power and engagement of a collective of young rappers and journalists, who used their raps to get the youth into the streets to protest massively. Who were these guys? What drove them? They weren't singing about babes, cars and glorifying violence, nor did they have golden teeth. Instead they used very engaging lyrics to voice their protests. Was what was happening comparable to the Arab Spring or was it a different movement? This fascinated us and we decided that we wanted to first make a film on the story of these rappers and then later finish the story on the Women of Waalo. In this film we also wanted to use animations, in this case to symbolize the threat that one feels, but can't always see or film.

Because the elections were coming on soon, we wanted to finance this film through crowd funding, because we knew we wouldn't be able to make it if we had to wait for subsidies from film funds. With three successful crowdfunding campaigns we were able to finance the shooting of the film and part of the editing and post production. It's a real low budget film and this made the making process tough and longer than we expected. The filming was at times hard, because of the violence on the streets and of the pressure and stress that this put on the rappers. They couldn't always tell Aida where they were, as they were often hiding from the police. They got many death threats during that period.

We think that Quitte le Pouvoir is a little mirror of our time in which youth worldwide wants a new kind of society in which the power is shared as opposed to the older generation that clings to power and wants it for itself. Today the rappers / journalists as a collective are still encouraging the youth in communities all over Senegal to be new socio-political engaged citizens.

Now that the film is ready, we hope the struggle and engagement of this young generation of West-Africans can be inspiring to other youths around the world.