



## **Black Girl** **Borom Sarret** **Two films by Ousmane Sembène**

Senegalese director Ousmane Sembène was the first Sub-Saharan African filmmaker to achieve international recognition, and is widely regarded as the father of African cinema. On 19 October 2015 the BFI will release his first major work, *Black Girl*, in a Dual Format Edition (DVD and Blu-ray), together with his directorial debut *Borom Sarret*, the first ever indigenous Black African film. Both films will be screened during October's BFI London Film Festival.

*Black Girl* is the uncompromising story of Diouana (played by Thérèse M'Bisine Diop), a young Senegalese nanny whose hopes of an exciting life in France are dashed when her white employers expect her to work as their servant.

**Samba Gadjigo**, who has written several books on Sembène and co-directed the new documentary *Sembène!* (2015) describes it as '*a masterpiece of revolutionary World Cinema. It is a masterfully constructed story about race, class and gender; trust and deceit; oppression and rebellion.*'

The film was restored in 2015 by The Film Foundation's World Cinema Project in association with INA. **Martin Scorsese**, founder and chair of The Film Foundation has commented:

*'Black Girl was the first of Ousmane Sembène's pictures to make a real impact in the West, and I can clearly remember the effect it had when it opened in New York in 1969, three years after it came out in Senegal. An astonishing movie – so ferocious, so haunting, and so unlike anything we'd ever seen.'*

Sembène's directorial debut, *Borom Sarret*, also included here in a new restoration, is an allegorical tale exploring poverty and inequality. It charts a day in the life of a hard-up cart driver in Dakar, whose good deeds are rewarded with great injustice.

### **Special features**

- New 4K restorations of both films
- Theatrical and alternative colour-sequence versions of *Black Girl*
- *Snatches of a Conversation with M'Bissine Thérèse Diop* (2005, 14 mins): interview with the star of *Black Girl*
- *Sembène: The Making of African Cinema* (Manthia Diawara, Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, 1994, 60 mins): award-winning documentary about the pioneering filmmaker
- *Sembène: A portrait* (D Sentilhes and B Josse, 2003, 12 mins): illustrated chronology of the director's life in film
- Illustrated booklet featuring new essays by Samba Gadjigo and Alain Sembène; full film credits

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**Product details**

**RRP: £19.99 / Cat. no. BFIB1223 / Cert 15**

Senegal, France / 1966 + 1963 / black and white, and colour / French language, with optional English subtitles / 60 mins + 20 mins / Original aspect ratio 1.33:1

Disc 1: BD50 / 1080p / 24fps / PCM mono audio (48k/24-bit)

Disc 2: DVD9 / PAL / Dolby Digital mono audio (320kbps)

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