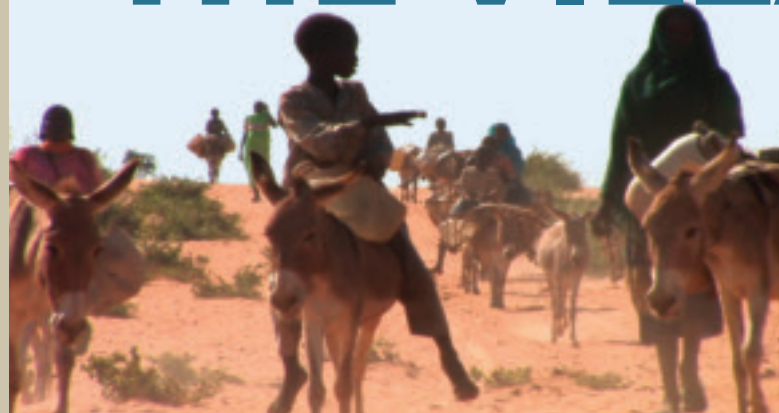




PRINCE FILM AND AMIP PRESENT
A FILM BY OLIVIER ZUCHUAT

FAR FROM THE VILLAGE



Synopsis

April 2006. 13000 members of the Dajo ethnic group have taken refuge on the plain of Gouroukoun in eastern Chad. They are all survivors of the Darfur conflict. Secluded in the camp they have constructed, they create their own way of life and means of survival. The filmmaker joins the refugees in this prison without walls, capturing everyday life as it is gradually reembraced. A hint of war seeps into every image, into every moment: we sense it ready to reawaken behind the nearby hills, we imagine it in the stories told by refugees, children sketch it in their drawings, we hear it in songs of battle crooned by little girls.

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Olivier Zuchuat

After studying theoretical physics and literature he became a teaching assistant at the Université de Lausanne (Switzerland). He directed several theatrical productions of works by Bertolt Brecht and Heiner Müller before turning exclusively to documentary cinema. Since 2006, he has been teaching film studies at the Université de Paris-Est Marne la Vallée. He works and lives between Lausanne and Paris. Previous films: Mah Bamba (2002, co-directed with Corinne Maury). Djourou, a rope round your neck (2005).

«I went to the Goukoukoun camp for the first time in November 2006. But the filming was interrupted due to attacks by rebels from Sudan. I then waited six months for the rainy season to make the roads inaccessible and enclave the region for two months, so as to be guaranteed safety, albeit relative and temporary. I then returned to the camp for two months to do the actual filming. To film waiting, one must wait. Much of my time was spent sitting, observing, listening, explaining, not doing anything, without taking my camera out of its case. I taught one of the refugees to operate the sound. Day by day the distance lessened; people began talking to me.»

Olivier Zuchuat

By rejecting the tempo of conventional reporting to adopt an approach based on observation and calm attentiveness to the men and women having witnessed murders or suffered atrocities (such as the man whose eyes were torn out with a knife), the film combats the rush of media discourses and the human indifference they promote, providing a sense of immersion in everyday life at this camp where everything is lacking.

Libération

A film of great delicacy and formal achievement.

Télérama

2008 – 76 min. – 35mm. SR – Format 1,85. – Dajo language subtitled.