



67<sup>■</sup> Internationale  
Filmfestspiele  
Berlin  
Generation

# WALLAY

A FILM BY BERNI GOLDBLAT



bathysphere presents

# WALLAY

A film by **BERNI GOLDBLAT**

With **MAKAN NATHAN DIARRA, IBRAHIM KOMA,  
HAMADOUN KASSOGUÉ, JOSÉPHINE KABORÉ,  
MOUNIRA KANKOLÉ**

2017 / France-Burkina Faso-Qatar / color / 84 min

## World sales

bathysphere  
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## Distribution France

Rezo Films  
www.rezofilms.com





## Synopsis

*Ady, a 13 years old boy, no longer listens to his father who raises him alone. The latter, running out of resources, decides to entrust Ady to his uncle Amadou for the summer.*

*Uncle Amadou and his family live on the other side of the Mediterranean sea... in Burkina Faso! There, at 13 years, one must become a man but Ady, persuaded to go on holidays, understands things differently...*





## Director's statement

*Ady is a teenager. He is of mixed race. France is his home country but his skin is dark, it is the color he inherited from his father. But, in more profound terms, where does it really come from?*

*Wallay relates the quest for identity which Ady, whether he likes it or not, will have to resolve. Wallay focuses on the moment of upheaval, the instant when a life can turn upside down. It is almost a coincidence that brings about this change, a sudden decision taken abruptly by his father. The film uses the approach of a voyage of discovery to dissect the upheavals of the main character. Through his journey, the viewer will recognize the search for identity to which we are all confronted at some point in our lives. We need to know where we come from and understand what makes us whom we are what we are made of so as to reconcile these elements, if necessary, to live our present more fully.*

*Ady is multi-faceted. And Wallay shows diversity as a source of richness, a source of growth and of better understanding among people. Throughout the world, and particularly in France, sectarianism is becoming more wide-spread day after day, and this movie does not seek to*



*oppose the main character's two cultures. It is not a matter of comparison. On the contrary, Ady is going to realize that the ideal place does not exist, what counts most is to know where we really come from. The film follows the character's progression towards reconciliation as he gradually finds a way not to be a stranger anywhere.*

*Wallay is a drama comedy and it is through this comedy that the journey of the film's main character becomes all the more touching. The contrasting shift in worlds experienced by Ady is shown in a light tone and atmosphere but the confusion it causes in him also reflects more profound changes. Confronted with his differing roots, dealing with various challenges, he will come to question his knowledge, his certitudes and to accept customs hidden within his being. This will lead him to envisage his capacity to adjust to a society he belongs to without having realized it. That is the story of Wallay, the story of a growing-up, mixed-race French teenager who loses himself in Burkina and finds out who he really is.*

Berni Goldblat





## Cast & crew list

With

**Makan Nathan Diarra : Ady**

**Ibrahim Koma : Jean**

**Hamadoun Kassogu  : Amadou**

**Jos phine Kabor  : Mam**

**Mounira Kankol  : Y li**

Director **Berni Goldblat**

Screenplay **David Bouchet**

Adaptation **Gahit  Fofana, Berni Goldblat**

Director of Photography **Martin Rit**

Assistant Director **Victor Baussonnie**

Sound **Mathieu Perrot**

Production Design **Papa Kouyat , Karim Lagati**

Costumes **Huguette Goudjo**

Editor **Laurent S n chal**

Music **Vincent S gal**

Sound Editor **Vincent Vatoux**

Sound Mixer **Yoann Veyrat**

Casting **Lan Hong Xuan, Georgette Par **

Production Manager **Paul Sergent**

Line producer **Antoine Delahousse**

Line producer Burkina Faso **Faissol Gnonlonfin**

Producer **Nicolas Anthom  - bathysphere**

Co-producer **Berni Goldblat - Les films du Djabadjah**

Co-production **Auvergne-Rh ne-Alpes Cin ma, Rezo Productions, Canal + Afrique, Doha Film Institute.**

With the support of **Centre National du Cin ma et de l'Image Anim e,**

TV5 MONDE, Fonds Images de la Diversit  - Commissariat g n ral   l' galit  des territoires - Centre national du cin ma et de l'image anim e, Minist re de la culture et du tourisme du Burkina Faso, Procirep-Angoa, L'Atelier TAKMIL-JCC.



# Biography



Berni Goldblat is a swiss-burkinabe film director. He has been directing, producing and distributing films since 1999, mainly documentaries in and on West Africa. He has co-founded Cinomade, an

association aimed at creating and disseminating audio-visual awareness-raising tools, as well as Les films du Djabadjah, an independent film production company located in Burkina Faso. His feature documentary *The Hillside Crowd* has been selected in more than 50 international film festivals. Since 2007, he is a member of the Academy of Jurors at the African Movie Academy Awards (AMAA). Since 2011 he also trains documentary film script-writers, and organizes and leads international documentary writing workshops in Bobo-Dioulasso for young African authors. Since 2012, Berni is the President of ASCBF (Association de Soutien du Cinema au Burkina Faso), which is saving Bobo-Dioulasso's Ciné Guimbi ([www.cineguimbi.org](http://www.cineguimbi.org)). *Wallay* is his first feature fiction cinema film.

# Filmography

## **The Hillside Crowd**

2009, Documentary, 72'

**Special Jury Prize & Audience Award, 24th FIFF NAMUR (Belgium) / Best Documentary Film Award, 12th Brooklyn International Film Festival (New York) / Special mention, Black Movie Festival (Geneva), Special mention of the Jury, 7th Festival del Cine Africano de Tarifa (Spain) / Locarno International Film Festival / Visions du Réel, Nyon (Switzerland) / Etats Généraux du Film Documentaire, (Lussas, France) / Les Escales Documentaires, (La Rochelle, France) / DocLisboa (Lisbon, Portugal) / International Film Festival of Krakow, (Poland) / Les Hivernales du Film Documentaire (France) / Festival du Film Documentaire de Helsinki DocPoint (Finland) / 45èmes journées de Soleure (Switzerland) / FIPATEL de Biarritz (France) / RED FEST Festival delle Regioni Europe del Documentario (Bologna, Italy) / Les Escales Documentaires de Libreville (Gabon) / Festival International du Film d'Amiens (France) / 18ème Quinzaine du Cinéma Francophone de Paris (France) / Festival International d'Afrique et des Iles (La Réunion, France) / Festival Africajarc (Cajarc France) / Festival Ciné Droit Libre d'Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) / Festival Ciné Droit Libre de Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) / Documentary and Short Film Festival of Kerala (India) / Grand prix International du Documentaire d'Auteur (URTI) (Monte Carlo) / Panafrika International Film Festival Vues d'Afrique (Montréal)**

## **Wallay**

2017, Fiction, 84'





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