

## Document Citation

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Production  
Distribution

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## FILMS :



### A TRIP TO THE COUNTRY

A film by Jean-Marie Teno  
Documentary, 2000  
35 mm and video - 75 minutes



Film clip

[HOME](#) : [FILMS](#) : [DIRECTORS](#) : [PROJECTS](#) : [LINKS](#) : [CONTACT - ORDERS](#) :

#### Technical information :

Camera : Jean-Marie Teno  
et Moussa Diakit  
Sound : Lardja Thombiano  
Original music : Ben s Belinga  
and Marianne Entat

Editor : Christiane Badgley  
Producer/Director : Jean-Marie TENO  
A films du Raphia production  
Co-produced by ZDF/ARTE.



Back



Director's  
profile

#### SYNOPSIS

*A Trip to the Country* is a voyage in search of the illusion of modernity, which haunts Cameroonian society.

*A Trip to the Country* questions, sometimes ironically, the notion of development associated in Africa with a tropical modernity which can be summarised as follows: Everything from Europe is modern, while all things local are archaic and must be discarded.

After the ravages of slavery and colonialism, the African continent now faces another threat: educational systems which perpetuate inferiority complexes and dependence vis- -vis the West. This self-destructive mentality also establishes a social hierarchy placing modern city dwellers above backward rural people.

I decided to retrace the trip I took annually as a child during the school holidays from Yaounde, the big city, to Bandjoun, my village. *A Trip to the Country*. Along the way, I attempt to understand the hopes, regrets and frustrations of the people I encounter. When possible, I also try to serve as a bridge between city dwellers and villagers.

*A Trip to the Country* is a personal reflection on our obsession with modernity, our desire to conform to a certain model of development. Why do we turn our backs on the possibility of real progress, remaining instead dependent on so-called aid"? As those who have always profited continue to benefit from this situation, the majority of our populations still live in misery. Is this development?.

#### ENGLISH PRESS :

"A Trip to the Country is a distinctive socio-political travelogue for inquisitive festivals and educational TV audiences."

##### Variety

"This trip to the filmmaker s past becomes a vision of his country s possible future, and the delicate balance between past and future that informs so many African films find here a stirring new expression."

##### Film Comment

#### Festival screenings :

Berlin 2000, Forum program  
Cin ma du R el  
Vues d Afrique, Montr al 2000

Grand Prize "Intercultural communication".  
International Film Festival, San Francisco 2000  
Visions du R el, Nyon 2000  
Munich International documentary Film Festival, 2000

 Français

#### Photos

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