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## **CAMP DE THIAROYE**

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Sembene's *Camp de Thiaroye* – which he co-directed with Thierno Faty Sow – is a powerful, fact-based drama which, like *Emitai*, deals with the dilemma of African troops in the French Army at the end of World War Two (a turning point in African history when the colonial myth of white superiority began to collapse and an African consciousness emerged). The story opens with repatriated Senegalese infantrymen (many of whom, after heroic and bloody service, had been abandoned at Dunkirk and confined in Nazi concentration camps) being placed in a transit camp ostensibly for temporary internment before discharge. The real purpose, however, is to reestablish the structures of white oppression disrupted by the war. A dispute over petty regulations soon escalates into full-scale rebellion, culminating in a massacre that invites comparison with Eisenstein's *Odessa Steps* in its ruthlessness and artistry.

**Senegal, 1987. 152 mins. Color.**  
**In Wolof and French with English subtitles.**

**Rental: Apply.**

