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LA NOIRE DE... and NIAYE

Senegal

LA NOIRE DE... (BLACK GIRL) 1966. Written and directed by Ousmane Sembene from his book Voltaïque. Produced by Les Films Domireew, Dakar and Actualités Françaises, Paris.

Production Manager - Andre Zwobada, First Assistant Director - Ibrahima Barro, Second Assistant ~~XXXXXXXX~~ - Pathe Diop. Camera - Christian Lacoste. Edited by Andre Gaudier.

With: Therese M'Bissine Diop (~~Therese~~ Diouana), Robert Fontaine (~~her~~ Boss), Momar Nar Sene (~~her~~ Friend), Anne-Marie Jelinek (~~Mistress~~ ^{Lady} of the House), Ibrahima Boy (Masked). ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ The Guests - Bernard Delbaro, Nicole Donati, Raymond Lemery, Suzanne Lemery. The Children - Philippe, Sophie, Damien. Ousmane Sembene (The Writer), and the voices of Toto Bissainthe, Robert Marcy, Sophie Leclerc.

French, English subtitles (New Yorker Films) 10 mins

Vieyra in Le Cinéma Africain (Editions Présence Africaine, Paris, 1975) terms LA NOIRE DE...

the first feature-length film made by an African ~~sub-Saharan~~ ^{sub-Saharan} Sahara and as a first feature

(Sembene's fourth film) it is as A.H. Weiler reviews it in The New York Times (1/3/69) -

"sharp...bright...neat". ^{Weiler} ~~he~~ writes that LA NOIRE DE... "bears the quiet distinctions

of simplicity, sincerity and subdued anger toward the freed black man's new burdens, problems that are more revealing and moving than exotic... Vacationing in Antibes is

no pleasure, but captivity. The girl is ~~Not~~ ^{Not} a governess ~~xxxxxxx~~ but a drudge

in the kitchen, bedroom, bathroom and dining room. 'I'm only a slave', the off-screen voice intones, translating her inner anguish, a desperation... But while the mistress

is demanding, her husband is no slave driver but a gent who is confused but considerate...

The villains here appear to be the changing societies, the native class dominated by poverty

and unemployment, and the seeming French apathy toward their former dependents' demand for dignity.

Vieyra also reports LA NOIRE DE... was more than less shot in the order in which it was

cut, and that a ~~somewhat~~ ^{by about ten minutes} longer version, ~~once~~ ^{also} existed with a color sequence of Diouana's

voyage from Marseilles to Antibes. (She did indeed find France beautiful). The actress

who plays Diouana, Therese M'Bissa Diop worked as a dressmaker before appearing in this

film (she is also in EMITAI); her voice, however, is dubbed by Toto Bissainthe. Because there no studio for post-synchronization in Dakar some of the cast had to be flown to Paris for ~~dubbing~~ ^{dubbing at a cost which added 50% to the budget of the film.}