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OUSMANE SEMBENE

Ousmane Sembene is the first black African director of world stature and has been called the "father of African cinema." Now 50 years old, he has been making films only for the past ten years following studies under Mark Donskoi in Moscow. His achievement has been remarkable, creating a cinema that is both African and political without being didactic. His films are now being distributed in Britain by Politkino.

Thu 21 June 6.30

Barom Sarrett/Black Girl/Taaw

Barom Sarrett (Senegal 1963) was Sembene's second film, a 20-minute story about a horse-cart taxi driver in Dakar whose vehicle is confiscated when he drives into a forbidden area. *La noire de ...* (Senegal 1965) is a 60-minute study of a young African girl working in Paris who is driven to suicide by alienation, loneliness and mistreatment. *Taaw* (Senegal 1971) is a 26-minute examination of the problems of the young in Dakar today as seen in the life of a 20-year-old who cannot find a job.



Sat 23 June 4.00. 6.15. 8.30

The Money Order

Mandabi (Senegal 1968) is a striking, critical and very amusing comedy by Ousmane Sembene about the ironies of life in Dakar today. The protagonist, who lives in happy innocence, is pushed into conflict with the corruption around him when he tries to cash a money order sent from abroad. It is a political film disguised as a farce. Plus short *The Picnic* (Tunisia 1971) by Ferid Boughedir, a sketch from the feature *Au Pays de Tararani*, about a picnic where no-one gets anything to eat.



Fri 29 June 6.30. 8.45

Emitai

Emitai (Senegal 1971) is Ousmane Sembene's major achievement to date and one of the most important films to come out of Africa. It takes place in a village of the Diolas in the south of Senegal at the end of the Second World War. The conflict between the French soldiers, who want rice, and the villagers, who have a natural reluctance to starve to death, is told entirely from the tribal viewpoint rather than from outside. The effect is remarkable.

