

A documentary by the Oscar® winner
VOLKER SCHLÖNDORFF

THE FOREST MAKER

with
TONY RINAUDO
winner of the
alternative Nobel Prize



VOLKSFILM and ZERO ONE FILM in cooperation with BR, ARTE funded by MEDIENBOARD BERLIN-BRANDENBURG present
A FILM BY VOLKER SCHLÖNDORFF CO-PRODUCERS ALASSANE DIAGO, IDRISS DIABATE, LAURENE MINNA, ADJALLA, EDITING ANIETTE FLEMING, DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY AXEL SCHNEPPAT
CASTING PORGO SEYDOU and MBAYE MANIAN DIAGNE, FIKADU SEMEIGN EMIRE, MAJED ABDUL MOHAMMED, BENJAMIN SIMON, MUSIC BRUNO COULAIS, COSTUME DESIGNER DETLEF SCHITTO, MAKEUP MARTIN STEYER
PRODUCTION COORDINATION JOSEFINE BINGEMER, ANGELIKA STUTE, PRODUCTION LINE TASSILO ASCHAUER, PRODUCER KORNELIA THEUNE, COMMISSIONING EDITORS SONJA SCHEIDER, MATTHIAS LEYBRAND, CARLOS GERSTENHAUER, CATHERINE LE GOFF
PRODUCER THOMAS KUFUS, WRITER, DIRECTOR, PRODUCER VOLKER SCHLÖNDORFF

VOLKSFILM zeroone|film BR arte medienboard Berlin Brandenburg wellkino

THE FOREST MAKER by Volker Schlöndorff
Germany 2022 | 87 min | documentary

An Australian agronomist and local farmers revolutionising our idea of agriculture and forestry in Africa, thus calling conventional reforestation into question.
Volker Schlöndorff's hopeful documentary debut.

THE FOREST MAKER is the portrait of a remarkable man whose life's work was honored with the so-called alternative Nobel, the Right Livelihood Award in 2018. Tony Rinaudo has found a way to grow trees in the most barren areas by activating the tree stumps and roots still alive as an "underground forest" for decades and thereby secures the livelihood of thousands of farmers in Africa. His method "Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration" (FMNR) restores not only soil but dignity and hope. The Chief of all Farmers, as he is affectionately known today in many villages, has had to fight an uphill battle to gain acceptance for his ideas. Having worked in the Sahel region for 30 years he witnessed despair and famine but also resilience, determination and change. In THE FOREST MAKER Volker Schlöndorff follows Tony Rinaudo to different African countries to witness the effect FMNR has had on fighting desertification and repeatedly encounters - migration, climate change, gender justice. To complement his view, he invited African filmmakers to collaborate with him and share their experience of rural life and local challenges.

THE FOREST MAKER shows ordinary people doing extraordinary things and carries a strong message of community, self-empowerment and, above all, hope.

Directors biography

Volker Schlöndorff is an internationally renowned film director. Recognized as one of the founders of the movement known as New German Cinema, he began his career working with such luminaries as Louis Malle, Alain Renais, and Jean-Pierre Melville. Schloendorff's early films, Young Törless, and the television production, Baal, won critical acclaim for their unflinching statements about the German legacy of authoritarianism and violence. His later film, The Lost Honor of Katharine Blum, which he co-directed with Margarethe von Trotta, is a searing indictment of police and media injustice when Germany was under attack by the terroristic Red Army Faction. In 1979, Schlöndorff's most celebrated film, The Tin Drum, won both the Palm d'or at the Cannes Film Festival and the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film. Subsequently, Schlöndorff has directed numerous successful films, including Swann in Love, Death of a Salesman, The Handmaid's Tale, Homo Faber/Voyager, The Ninth Day, Diplomacy, Return to Montauk.

Directors selected filmography

2022 The Forest Maker (Documentary)
2017 The Nameless Day
2017 Return to Montauk
2014 Diplomacy
2011 Calm at Sea
2007 Ulzhan
2006 Strajk
2004 The Ninth Day
2000 The Legend of Rita
1998 Palmetto
1996 The Ogre
1991 Voyager
1990 The Handmaid's Tale
1984 Swann in Love
1981 Circle of Deceit
1979 The Tin Drum
1978 Germany in Autumn (Documentary - segments)
1976 Coup de Grâce
1975 The Lost Honor of Katharina Blum
1972 A Free Woman
1972 Morals of Ruth Halbfass
1969 Michael Kohlhaas
1967 A Degree of Murder
1966 Young Törless

Credits

Written and directed by Volker Schlöndorff

Producers Volker Schlöndorff, Thomas Kufus, Kornelia Themen

Co Directors Alassane Diago, Idriss Diabate, Laurene Manaa Abdallah

Editing Anette Fleming

Music Bruno Coulais, Ablaye Cissoko

Cinematography Paapa Kwaku Duro, Jean Diouff, Michael Kern, Mahamoud Abdoulay, Jonas Aly Sagnon, Axel Schneppat

Sound Porgo Seydou, Mbaye Maniang Diagne Pat, Fikadu Semegn Emre, Benjamin Simon

Sound Design Detlef Schitto

Re Recording Mixer Martin Steyer

Animation Nadia Beddiaf

Production Supervisor Josefine Bingemer

Line Producer Tassilo Aschauer

Commissioning Editor Matthias Leybrand (BR), Sonja Scheider (BR/ARTE), Catherine Le Goff (ARTE G.E.I.E)

Funded by Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg

Technical Information

Original Title: The Forest Maker / Shot digital / available for screenings in DCP / Color / 1:2,35 / 87 min / original language: English, Hausa; with English, French subtitles; dubbed versions in German and French / zero one film, Volksfilm, Germany 2022

Festivals/Sales Contact

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