

PRESS KIT



KOROMOUSSO: BIG SISTER

Habibata Ouarme and Jim Donovan

2023 | 75 min

Documentary
French and English



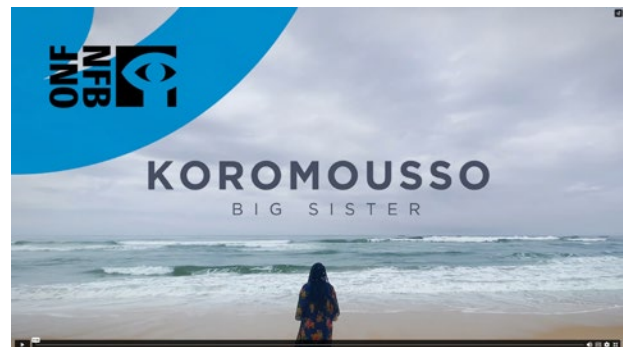
Short synopsis

With candor, humour and courage, a group of African-Canadian women challenge cultural taboos surrounding female sexuality and fight to take back ownership of their bodies. Combining her own journey with personal accounts from some of her radiant, endearing friends, co-director Habibata Ouarme explores the phenomenon of female genital mutilation and the road to individual and collective healing, both in Africa and in Canada.

Long synopsis

With candor, humour and courage, a group of African-Canadian women challenge cultural taboos surrounding female sexuality and fight to take back ownership of their bodies. Co-director Habibata Ouarme introduces us to some of her radiant, endearing friends who, like herself, come from a culture where female genital mutilation (FGM) is a common practice. By interweaving different personal accounts, **KOROMOUSO: Big Sister** explores the phenomenon of FGM from the perspective of those who've experienced it. In their quest for individual and collective healing, the film's main characters support each other in a journey that helps them to overcome the trauma of female genital mutilation and rebuild their self-esteem. With great sensitivity, the film examines the shame felt by women who've been subjected to FGM and now live in Canada, a country largely unresponsive to their experience because while it has banned the practice, it does not offer medical care that would enable them to achieve equitable sexuality.

Promo clip



Excerpt



Images



Team

Habibata Ouarme

Writer and Director



Photo : NFB

Habibata Ouarme is an emerging Canadian filmmaker with family roots in Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso. She recently received a Canada Council for the Arts grant for her next project, *1001 couronnes pour ma tête*, a historical and cultural exploration of African and Afrodescendant headdresses. The film also recently received production funding from Telefilm Canada. Habibata sits on the board of RAFIQ, a non-profit organization assisting immigrant and racialized women in Quebec. Her first feature-length documentary, ***KOROMOUSSO: Big Sister***, co-directed with Jim Donovan, explores the phenomenon of female genital mutilation from the perspective of those who've experienced it.

Jim Donovan

Writer and Director



Photo : Carinne Leduc

A bilingual filmmaker who works across the country, Jim Donovan has directed drama series and films for Pixcom, Attraction Images, Gaumont, Universal TV, CTV, TV5 and CBC, including *Le clan*, *Le siège*, *Instant Star*, *Cracked*, *Heartland* and *19 minutes: l'exploit Piché*. His film *3 Seasons* won a Borsos Award for Best Canadian Feature Film at the 2008 Whistler Film Festival. In 2013, he won a Canadian Screen Award for best director for the series *Flashpoint: A Day in the Life* and, in 2020, he received a CSA for best TV movie for *Believe Me: The Abduction of Lisa McVey*. His films have been selected to screen at many international festivals.

Christine Aubé

Producer



Photo : NFB

Christine Aubé has been a producer at the NFB since 2018, and prior to that she worked for independent producers and broadcasters from the Canadian Francophonie. Christine has a passion for storytelling, images and sound, in all their creative forms. She's committed to helping a new generation of filmmakers, as well as more experienced artists, create powerful and accomplished work that has an impact in Canada and abroad.

Denis McCreedy

Producer and Executive Producer



Photo : NFB

shoots both in Canada and abroad, many in locations that are hard to access (the Arctic, NASA, the Russian space program) or dangerous (the Atacama and Mojave deserts, the giant Cave of Crystals in Naica, Mexico). He oversaw the production of hundreds of special-effects sequences for the series *Mars Rising* and produced and wrote the serious game *L'or du golfe* for the ICI Radio-Canada website. McCreedy has delivered HD programs for major broadcasters, including National Geographic (US and international), Discovery (Canada, US, Latin America), History (Canada), ARTE (France/Germany), NHK (Japan), CBC, Radio-Canada, Canal D, and Télé-Québec. In addition, he's worked on a number of official international co-productions (Canada-France, Canada-Mexico).

Dennis McCreedy is the former Executive Producer at the NFB's Canadian Francophonie Studio. He has been working in the Quebec film and television industry since 1996. He started off directing commercials for music channel MusiquePlus before becoming head of advertising for MusiquePlus, MusiMax, Super Écran and Canal Indigo. The early 2000s saw McCreedy working with independent production companies, where he gained experience as a production director, line producer, and producer of documentaries, documentary series, and dramas.

No stranger to technical and creative challenges, McCreedy has produced low-budget auteur documentaries on subjects as diverse as dance, music, the environment and child trafficking, as well as big-budget documentary series dealing with science, exploration, and war. He has overseen

McCreedy won several awards as the producer of *Chercher le courant* (including the RIDM Audience Choice Award and Géméaux Award for Best Documentary: Society) and *Bas! Au-delà du Redlight* (NFB Colin Low Award at DOXA). The films he's produced have screened at many international festivals, including Hot Docs, Visions du réel, the International Festival of Films on Art, NXNE, DOXA, the Montreal International Documentary Festival (RIDM), and the Vancouver International Film Festival. He has also produced two documentaries directed by Ian Jaquier: *L'or du golfe*, with Kevin Parent, and *Kanata: Aujourd'hui la colonisation*, as well as the powerful documentary *MTL Punk: La première vague*, by Érik Cimon and Alain Cliche.

Nathalie Cloutier
Executive Producer

Photo : Valérie Sangin



Nathalie Cloutier has been Executive Producer at the NFB's Quebec, Canadian Francophonie and Acadian Documentary Studio since 2022. She supports bold ideas and believes in having a diverse range of auteur voices while taking a flexible approach to the creative process. Following in the NFB documentary tradition of reporting on current social issues and telling stories that resonate with audiences, she launched the Creative Labs, a cross-disciplinary initiative that aims to generate new ideas.

Earlier in her career, she studied arts and literature, and collaborated on a number of theatre productions. Her experience directing short films for the 1998–1999 season of the Radio-Canada television program *La Course destination monde* prompted her to switch to a career in film. After completing the documentary program at the Institut national de l'image et du son (INIS) in Montreal, she became a producer at the NFB's French Program Documentary Studio in 2010 and then head of the Studio in 2018.

The many interactive works, documentary features and shorts she's produced at the NFB have received national and international acclaim, from Sundance to Hot Docs, Locarno to RIDM. Nathalie works with award-winning artists—including Sophie Deraspe, Paul Cowan and Amer Shomali, Santiago Bertolino, Zaynê Akyol, Will Prosper, Simon Beaulieu, Hélène Magny, Gentille M. Assih and Steve Patry—whose journeys across Quebec and around the world bring to light essential, universal stories.

Credits

Written and Directed by
HABIBATA OUARME and JIM DONOVAN

Research
HABIBATA OUARME

Videography
**VANESSA ABADHIR
JIM DONOVAN
HABIBATA OUARME
DENIS MCCREADY**

Sound Recording
FRANÇOIS NORMANDIN

Production Managers
**JAMES EDWARD
ÉRIK CIMON**

Narration
HABIBATA OUARME

Narration Recording Director
MÉLANIE DUBOIS

Edited by
FRANÇOIS NORMANDIN

Foley
KARLA BAUMGARDNER

Sound Design and Editing
CATHERINE VAN DER DONCKT

Original Music
JENNY SALGADO
With the collaboration of
ANDRÉ COURCY

Musicians
**GUITAR AND BASS – ANDRÉ COURCY
KORA – SADIO SISSOKHO
VIOLIN – CHANTAL BERGERON
OTHER INSTRUMENTS AND
PROGRAMMING – JENNY SALGADO**

Voice
SOLOIST – FABIOLA ALADIN

Original Soundtrack
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Canada (SOCAN)

With the participation of
**FATIMA
SAFIETA SAWADOGO
ZAINABOU OUEDRAOGO
PAPA LADJIKÉ DIOUF
DR ANGELA DEANE
DR MICHEL AKOTIONGA
VANESSA ZANDI SIMBA
GOLI EDWIGE**

Special thanks to
**KHADY NGOM
TRAORÉ KOROTOUMOU
OUARMÉ LATIFA
OUARMÉ SALIFOU
OUARMÉ AISETOU
OUARMÉ HABI
LANKOANDÉ DIENABA
OUARMÉ AWA
OUARMÉ AZIZ
NOMBO ALIMATOU
JEAN -PIERRE GUAY
EMMANUELLE GAREAU
GOLI SAINTE ALIX KARELLE
DJENABOU SANGARE
LANKOANDE DRAMANE
RAFIQ (Action Network for
the Equality of Immigrant and
Racialized Women in Quebec)
CLINIC ATEGUINA
CLINICAL TEAM (ABDOULAYE
FOFANA, IDRISSE BORO, CHRISTINE
DOUMBA)
HAMED CHALA (Assinie driver)
KAZINGA DRISSA (Ouagadougou
driver)
SAFIETA SAWADOGO FAMILY
OUATTARA MARIAM, Beauty shop**

International Safety Study
**BURKINA FASO/IVORY COAST
ALEAS INC.
TOM GAUVREAU
ÉRIC BEAUSÉJOUR**

Technical Support
**PIERRE DUPONT
MARIE-JOSÉE GOURDE
PATRICK TRAHAN**

Online Editing and Colourization
DENIS PILON

Graphic Designer
CYNTHIA OUELLET

Foley Recording
GEOFFREY MITCHELL

Sound Mixing
SHELLEY CRAIG

Technical Coordinator
JEAN-FRANÇOIS LAPRISE

Production Coordinators
**SARA SAJEDI
ISABELLE GATTI**

Marketing Managers
**JUDITH LESSARD-BÉRUBÉ
NATHALIE GUÉRARD**

Administrator and Line Producer
**ALEXANDRINE TORRES DE
FIGUEIREDO**

Administrator
SIA KOUKOULAS

Legal Counsel
JULIE PATRY

Line Producer
GÉNEVIÈVE DUGUAY

Executive Producers
**DENIS MCCREADY
NATHALIE CLOUTIER**

Producers
**DENIS MCCREADY
CHRISTINE AUBÉ**

Subtitling and Translation
MELS Studios

A production of the National Film Board
of Canada – Canadian Francophonie
Studio



Press Relations

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About the NFB

The NFB is Canada's public producer and distributor of award-winning documentaries, auteur animation, interactive stories and participatory experiences, working with talented creators across the country. The NFB is taking action to combat systemic racism and become a more open and diverse organization, while working to strengthen Indigenous-led production and gender equity in film and digital media. NFB productions have won more than 7,000 awards, including 12 Oscars. To access this unique content, visit nfb.ca.

Electronic Documents

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Including promotional materials
<https://mediaspace.nfb.ca/epk/koromouso/>