

# Ken Bugul Nobody Wants Her



A film  
by  
Silvia Voser

2013, documentary, 62 minutes, Switzerland/France

[wakafilms@hotmail.com](mailto:wakafilms@hotmail.com)  
<http://www.kenbugulfilm.com/>

# Ken Bugul

## Nobody wants her

<b>Synopsis (short).....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Synopsis .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>CV Silvia Voser.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>CV Ken Bugul.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>CV Margot D. Marguerite ((voice over)) .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>CV Felix von Muralt (director of photography) .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Filmography Waka Films.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Credits .....</b>	<b>12</b>

**Productions :**  
**Waka Films SA**  
**Les Productions de la Lanterne**  
**Panimage**

**Contact :**  
[wakafilms@hotmail.com](mailto:wakafilms@hotmail.com)  
**Tél. France : +33-6 74 35 59 17**  
**Tél. Suisse : +44-79-62 32 876**

## Synopsis (short)

Ken Bugul is a Senegalese writer, who has settled in Africa, where her soul is anchored.

Ken Bugul is style. Both in her works and in life.

She is pure energy and has a passion for freedom.

Novel after novel, she paints the picture of her life as a woman, of her loves, her sorrows and the relationships between her continent and the West.

Encounters, friction, sparks and beauty are everywhere.

No matter where we are from, where we live, her laughter is our laughter, her tears are our tears, her hopes are our hopes. They share the same sparkle, the same salty taste, the same freshness.

To write, according to Ken Bugul, is to dazzle the senses, and senses are colourless.

## Synopsis

Ken Bugul is a Senegalese writer who lives in Africa, where her soul is anchored. She has had an exceptional life. Silvia Voser's film shows her as an iconic figure of the female condition and of relationships between Africa and the West.

Ken Bugul is considered one of the most brilliant writers in Senegalese and French of these past decades. Over the years, thanks to her great command of the French language and the uncompromising care she takes with the wording of the meaning of Wolof vocabulary, her mother tongue, her novels have become absolute references in the realm of linguistic studies. "What you read in French in my novels is how we think and speak in Wolof in my village".

Ken Bugul's personal story is overshadowed by Africa's turbulent history. She was born in 1947 in an isolated village in Senegal, at that time a French colony. Her father was 85 years old and her mother left them before Ken turned five. This was a fundamental event in Ken Bugul's life. In spite of lacking a mother's love, she was full of energy and a yearning for freedom, and she received an exceptional education for a village girl of that time. In 1971, she left for Europe to go to university and there she met people from the upper middle class and discovered new ideologies and liberties, modern art, drugs, alcohol, loneliness, incomprehension and disdain, and prostitution to relieve her need for affection. As she says in "The Abandoned Baobab": "For twenty years all I had learned was their thoughts and their emotions. I thought I'd have fun with them, but I ended up even more frustrated. I identified with them, but they didn't identify with me."

She came back to Senegal, a broken, lonely and penniless young woman. People thought she was crazy and she was rejected by her family and society. For two years, she slept in the streets of Dakar, hanging out with outcasts, beggars, prostitutes and artists. Dirty, hungry, almost naked, she started writing her first novel, "The Abandoned Baobab". Worn out, she decided to go back to her family. And there, in her mother's village, she found refuge with the Serigne (marabout), a wise and much respected man. He took her as his 28th wife, enabling her to re-enter society, and he supported her in her desire to write and to be free.

He died in 1981, a year before the publication of her first novel, "The Abandoned Baobab", which was an immediate success. Ken Bugul was invited to present her book all over the world. She met a doctor from Benin, married him and moved to that country, where she gave birth to their daughter Yasmina. Her husband passed away four years later.

For the past thirty years, novel after novel, Ken Bugul has painted a picture of her life as a woman, of her loves, of the relationship between her continent and the West. "To write", she says, "is to dazzle the senses, and the senses are colourless."

Silvia Voser leads us gently into the secret, tormented world of an artist whose writings show an understanding of the world that is rarely achieved.

## Silvia Voser

### Director

#### **Born in 1956 in Neuenhof, Switzerland**

Graduated in Journalism and as a German Teacher at the School for Applied Linguistics in Zurich.

**1982 - 1988** Collaborated with the **Freunde der deutschen Kinemathek (Kino Arsenal)**, in Berlin, and the **International Forum of Young Cinema**, within the Official Section of the International Berlin Film Festival.

In charge of editing catalogues and organizing film retrospectives in Cinema Arsenal:

**“Horizons 85: Cinema in Asia”** (Retrospective and Catalogue)

**“Berlin in the Movies 1965 – 1985” (Retrospective and Catalogue)**

**“Retrospective of the Films by Jean Rouch”** (Editor for CICIM/Revue pour le cinéma français, May 1989, Munich).

**1983 - 1988** Co-controller for the preparation and organization of the “International Forum of Young Cinema” within the Official Section of the Berlin Film Festival.

**1986 – 1989 Collaboration with the International Locarno Film Festival** (Switzerland).

In charge of the press office, the official catalogue and the “programmino”.

Also in 1989, she presented and organized a program made up by films from **Black Africa** and was in charge of the catalogue **“Films from Black Africa”**.

**1988 – 1989 Collaboration with “Christa Saredi World Sales”**

**1990 founder of the production company Waka Films AG.**

**1993** Assistant to the direction committee of the International Locarno Film Festival.

**1993-94** Member of the directing committee of the “Montecimeaverità” foundation.

**1996** Member of the jury in ACCT (Agence de la Coopération Culturelle et Technique) at the “Festival International du Film de Namur“, (Belgium).

**2005** Member of the European Film Academy.

**2006** Member of the jury at the “Festival de Cine Africano de Tarifa” (Spain).

**2006** Member of the jury of the short-features festival “Rencontres Cinéma de Gindou“(France).

**2013 Ken Bugul – Personne n’en veut** (Ken Bugul – Nobody Wants Her)

Documentary, 62 minutes, colour

First film as a director

**2014** Member of the short-film jury of the Conseil Général du Lot

## Ken Bugul

Mariètou MBAYE was born in Ndoucoumane (Senegal). Actually she divides her time between Porto Novo (Benin) and Dakar (Senegal).

From 1986 to 1993, she worked for the NGO IPPF (International Planned Parenthood Foundation) in Nairobi, Kenya; Brazzaville, Congo; and Togo.

**Honorary recognitions: Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres of the French Republic**

She decided to become a writer in 1993 and published the following novels since then:

### **Le Baobab Fou**

NEAS, Senegal, 1982

Translations: Lawrence Hill Books: The Abandoned Baobab (USA)

2007 Reprinted by Virginia Press (USA)

Unionsverlag: Die Nacht des Baobab (Switzerland)

Die Gekke Baobab (Netherlands)

Zanzíbar: El baobab que enloqueció (Spain)

### **Cendres et Braises**

L'Harmattan, Paris 1994

### **Riwan ou le Chemin de sable**

Présence Africaine, Paris, 1999

**Won the Grand Prix Littéraire of Afrique Noire 1999**

**Selected as one of the 100 Best African Books of the Century, 2002**

Translations: Zanzíbar: Riwan o el camino de Arena (Spain)

Castoldi Baldini Dalai: La Ventottesima Moglie (Italy)

### **La Folie et la Mort**

Présence Africaine, Paris 2000

Translation : El Cobre: La Locura y la Muerte (Spain)

### **De l'Autre Côté du Regard**

Serpent à Plumes Paris, 2003

Translations: Editor PIW (Poland)

Castoldi Baldini Dalai: Dall'altra parte del cielo (Italy)

### **Rue Félix Faure**

Hoebeke, Paris, 2005

Translation: Editor Piw (Poland)

### **La Pièce d'Or**

UBU, Paris 2006

Translation : Castoldi Baldini Dalai: La Moneta d'Oro (Italy)

### **Mes hommes à moi**

Présence Africaine, Paris, 2008

### **Aller et Retour**

Athéna, Dakar, 2014

### **Cacophonies**

Présence Africaine, Paris, 2014

# Margot D. Marguerite

## Voice over

Born in Paris in 1953.

After travelling all over the world, he studied Psychology and started working as a nurse before deciding to become an actor. He has worked for the stage, cinema and television, and as a clown with the Cirque ARCHAOS and the CABARET SAUVAGE (1995).

He directed the fiction **Madame Célat va bien** under the name Dominique Colnel.

For the stage he has written:

**Alpaga song; Jazz !**

**Libre choix: Trésor**

*Incentive Award of the French Ministry of Culture*

He has published the following novels:

**La vieille dame qui ne voulait pas mourir avant de l'avoir refait**

2009, La manufacture de livres, Paris

**Lola – Reine des barbares**

2011, Editions de la baleine, Paris

**Le Poulpe: Pliera bien qui pliera le dernier**

2013, Editions de la Baleine, Paris

## **Felix von Muralt**

### **Director of Photography**

Born in 1963 in Locarno (Switzerland)

1982-83 Studies at the International Center of Photography NYC

1983-84 Linguistics and Sociology at the University of Zurich

1984-85 Internship at Cinerent Filmequipment Service in Zurich

**Photographer and founding member in 1990 of the photo agency Lookat, in Zurich.**

Among others, he has been published in Libération, The New York Times, Le Monde, Das Magazin, DU, NZZ-Wochenende, Weltwoche, SI, Spiegel, Hebdo, Newsweek, Marie Claire, Elle, Vogue Geo, Ana, Donna, Facts, die Zeit.

Exhibitions since 1984.

Publications :

1997 **Indien sehen**, Edition Lars Müller (Switzerland)

1998 **Portrait, Schriftstellerportraits**, Edition Lars Müller (Switzerland)

1999 **In Olten Umsteigen**, Edition Suhrkamp (Germany)

**Director of photography since 1988:**

Among others with directors such as: Xavier Koller (Academy Award 1991, Best Foreign Language Film), Rolando Colla, Paul Riniker, Vili Hermann, Stina Werenfels and Peter Reichenbach...

Director:

1994 **Pflatsch**, Short feature with Severin Müller

2005 **Visite médicale**, Short feature with Carlos Leal

2009 **Brandstifter**, Short film feature with Carlos Leal



**Waka Films**  
**Production Company**  
Founded by Silvia Voser in 1990

*In development:*

**FREIHEIT IN DER KULTUR - KULTURENFREIHEIT**

**Silvia Voser**

Documentary, 80 min, with the support of Aargauer Kuratorium (Switzerland)

**KEN BUGUL – Personne n'en veut (Nobody Wants Her)**

**Silvia Voser**

2013, documentary 62 minutes, Switzerland/France

**HORS SERIE**

**Mariama Sylla**

2007, fiction, 17 min., Switzerland/Senegal

In coproduction with Swiss Television and the Department of Foreign Affairs (Bern)

**VISITE MEDICALE**

**Felix von Muralt**

2005, fiction, 15 min, Switzerland/France

Cinéfestival Lausanne: Young Jury Award

**NOCTURNE**

**Riccardo Signorell**

2004, fiction, 90 min., Switzerland

**HEROES NEVER DIE**

**Jan Arnold**

2004, documentary, 85 min, Switzerland/Spain/France

In co-production with the Swiss Television

**MADAME CELAT VA BIEN**

**Dominique Colnel (aka Margot D. Marguerite)**

2003, Fiction 60 min, Switzerland/France

**CASABLANCA, CASABLANCA**

**Farida Benlyazid**

2002, Fiction 90 min, Morocco/Switzerland

**HERR UEBER 40 RAUBKATZEN**

**Ute Casper**

2002, documentary, 52 min, Switzerland/Germany

In co-production with ARTE and the Swiss Television

**THE TOUR**

**Deborah Young**

2002, fiction, 15 min, Italy/Switzerland/Croatia

**ENERGY SHOW****Patrick Boillat**

2001, Animation, 18 min, for PSI (Institute of Research Paul Scherrer), Switzerland

**UN PAS, DEUX PAS...****Guy Désiré Yaméogo**

2001, 13 min, France/Switzerland/Burkina Faso

Abidjan Film Festival: **Best Actress (Aïssata Asmana)**, European Union AwardMilan African Film Festival (COE): **International SINUS Jury, Special Mention****LA PETITE VENDEUSE DE SOLEIL (The Little Girl Who Sold the Sun)****Djibril Diop Mambety**

1999, fiction, 44 min, Switzerland/France/Senegal

Bellinzona Film Festival: **Special Mention for Lissa Baléra**Namur Film Festival: **Special Jury Award**, ACCT Award to Lissa Baléra,**PROCIREP Award**Nuremberg Film Festival: **International Human Rights Day Award**Washington Children's Film Festival: **Ellen Award**Festival du Nouveau Cinéma de Montréal: **Best Short Film Award**France: **Quality Award of the CNC**Switzerland: **Quality Award of the Federal Office of Culture****KEID ENSA (Women's Wives)****Farida Benlyazid**

1999, fiction, 90 min, Switzerland/France/Morocco, Tunisia

**Best Film in Morocco with more than 500,000 entries sold**African Film Festival Milan: **Audience Award**Troia Film Festival: **Best Actress Award (Samira Akarriou )**Marrakech Film Festival: **Best Costumes Award**Ferney Voltaire Film Festival: **Audience Award****CINEMA: REFLEXIONS SUR L'AVENIR :**

1997, 7 short-features, fiction, 60 min, Switzerland/ARTE

**"Le jour où..."****Chantal Akerman (Belgium)****"Elena"****Marco Bellocchio (Italy)****"The Birth of Light"****Abbas Kiarostami (Iran)****"Ghost of Electricity"****Robert Kramer (USA)****"Les parias du cinéma"****Idrissa Ouedraogo (Burkina Faso).****"Le film à venir"****Raúl Ruiz (Chile)****"La Eta knabino"****Samir (Switzerland)****World Premiere at the International Locarno Film Festival****CHOISIS-TOI UN AMI****Mama Keïta**

1996, fiction, 90 min, Switzerland/France/Guinée

Locarno Film Festival: **Jury's CICAÉ Award****IL SOGNO DELLA FARFALLA****Marco Bellocchio**

1994, Fiction, 120 min, Switzerland/France/Italy

**LE FRANC****by Djibril Diop Mambety**

1994, Fiction, 44 min, Switzerland/France/Senegal

Carthage Film Festival: **Golden Tanit**African Film Festival Milan: **AGFA Award**Ouagadougou African Film Festival: **Main Jury Award FESPACO.**San Francisco Film Festival: **Golden Gate Award to the Best Short Feature****Cooperation Award granted by the French Ministry to the Best Production****SAMBA TRAORE****Idrissa Ouedraogo**

1992, fiction, 80 min, Switzerland/France/Burkina Faso

Berlin Film Festival: **Silver Bear**Carthage Film Festival : **Silver Tanit****TILAI****by Idrissa Ouedraogo**

1990, Fiction, 82 min, Switzerland/France/Burkina Faso

Cannes International Film Festival: **Jury Award****FESPACO : Jury award : Etalon de Yennenga**

## Credits :

Directed	by Silvia Voser
Voice over	Margot D. Marguerite
Photography	Felix von Muralt
Sound in Benin	Arès Honvoh
Sound in Senegal	Tom Weber
Editing	Souleymane K. Seck
Mixing	Samuel Beaucamps
Grading	RogerSomm
Duration	62 min.
Format	DCP, Blue-ray, DVD
Produced by	Silvia Voser Claude Gilaizeau Beat Lenherr
Production	Waka Films SA Les productions de la Lanterne Panimage
With the support of	Aargauer Kuratorium Succès passage antenne, SRG SSR Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst (eed), Evangelisches Zentrum für entwicklungsbezogene Filmarbeit (EZEf) Katholische Kirche Kanton Zürich Vosges Télévision Images Plus CNC (Centre National du Cinéma et de l'Image Animée)