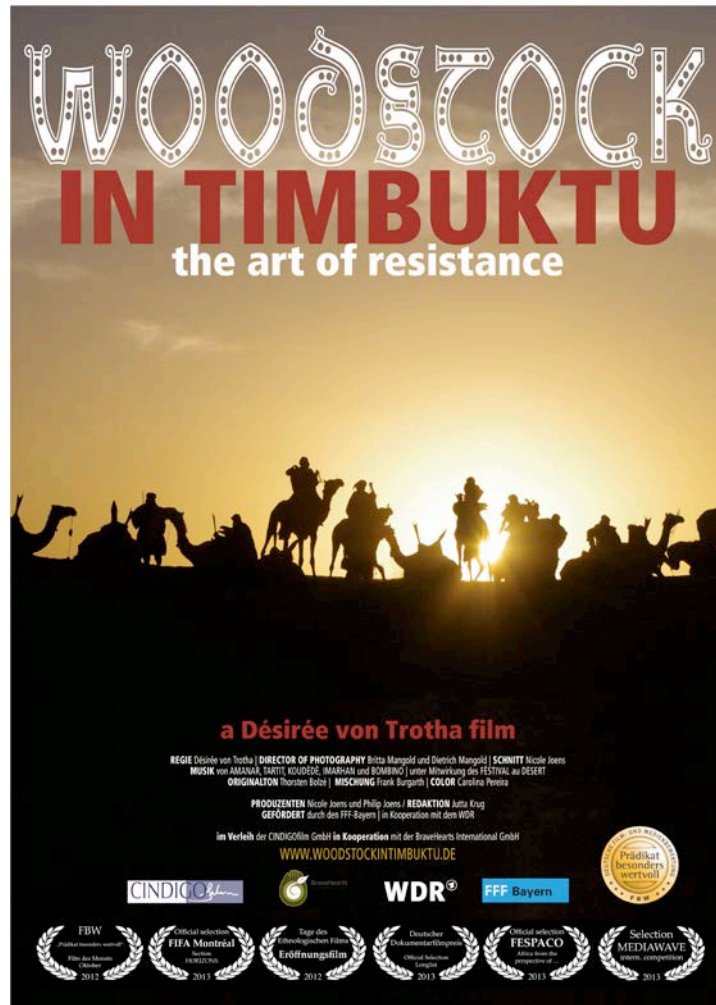


# Woodstock in Timbuktu

the art of resistance



**CINEMA VERSION – 92 MIN.**

**Language: French & Tamasheq with English subtitles**

## Short Synopsis:

Documentary about the international Festival au Desert featuring its amazing Sahara music, rooted in ancient nomadic tradition. The festival is the ideal platform for the encounter with the Kel Tamasheq (Tuareg) and witnesses their inspiring cultural aliveness today. In 2011 this legendary people felt the urgent need to oppose - against the threatening invasion of radical Islamist.

## **Content:**

"Woodstock in Timbuktu – the art of resistance" is a feature length documentary film about a famous international music festival in the Sahara and the nomadic culture and way of life, - right before the beginning of the present war in North-Mali.

In January 2011 the international Festival au Desert took place over three days in the dunes of Timbuktu, already overshadowed by the infiltration of Islamic extremists. Hosted by the Tuareg People or Kel Tamasheq, as they call themselves, the festival is the ideal setting for an encounter with this legendary people. Through intimate insight into nomadic life and ancient traditions, the Kel Tamasheq tell us of their plight, their fears and their fight for survival.

"Congratulations to Bombino from the Republic of Niger for replacing his Kalashnikov by the guitar..." This significant comment after a festival music performance opens the film. Mali is one of the poorest nations of the world and to maintain peace in an insecure political environment is the ambitious goal of the Festival au Desert. The extraordinarily gifted musicians of the Kel Tamasheq find inspiring ways to face this challenge and the film follows three bands from different regions, each telling their unique story.

AMANAR sings about the discrimination of the Kel Tamasheq. Spread over five different countries, they are in parts considered outlaws due to their traditional nomadic way of tending their camels. Pushed to the edge of society, the Kel Tamasheq are doomed to disappear forever if no actions are taken to preserve their time-honored customs.

TARTIT is a traditional band of women, who met in a refugee camp after fleeing during the 1990s' rebellion to Burkina Faso, a small country south of Mali. Now they are protesting with their songs against thirst, war and underdevelopment of their Saharan homeland. In the Kel Tamasheq tradition women and men are equal - a factor creating tension with neighboring African cultures.

BOMBINO has launched a celebrity career with a worldwide growing reputation. Their poetic lyrics tell the story of rebellion and pride, but band members also warn about the damaging effects of greed and uncontrolled looting of mineral resources in the Sahara by multinational companies. They also speak openly about al-Qaida "chickens," and the growing threat of infiltration of the Sahara by militant Islamists.

Alongside great Saharan music, the film captures the mesmerizing beauty of the Saharan landscapes and its people. You will get to know the Kel Tamasheq, a highly spirited, cultivated and elegant Sahara people, who will open up new horizons and leave a deep imprint on your heart.

## **Director:**

Désirée von Trotha, born 1961 in Munich, Germany, has graduated from the HFF Film School Munich in 1989, followed by a one year scholarship at the Royal College of Art, Film Department in London. Since 1991 she spends about six months of the year in the territories of the Tuareg People of the South Sahara (Algeria/Mali/Niger). She leads expeditions, researches and photographs. So far she has published three books. At the moment she is in preproduction for her second film of her planned Tuareg -Trilogie: Assouf - Exile and Homeland.

„Woodstock in Timbuktu – the art of resistance“ is Désirée von Trothas first documentary film for the cinema. It has been nominated for several awards, and has just won: **Best international music film of the year 2013 by Mediawave, Hungaria.**

## **Credits:**

Director / Script: Désirée von Trotha

Producer: Nicole Joens, Philip Joens

Cinematography: Britta Mangold, Dietrich Mangold

Editing: Nicole Joens

Sound: Thorsten Bolzé

First Assistant Director: Intagrist El Ansari

Music: Amemar, Bombino, Imarhan, Koudédé, Tartit

Sound Mix: Frank Burgarch

Color Correction: Carolina Pereira

Production Company: CindigoFilm GmbH

Co-Producer German TV: WDR

**Technical Data for public screening:**

**DCP J2000 24 / 25 fps, BluRay**

**Available worldwide on DVD - starting October 2013**