

The Witches of Gambaga - Press Information

Synopsis – The Witches of Gambaga

The Witches of Gambaga is a haunting 55 minute documentary film about a community of women condemned to live as witches in Northern Ghana. Made over the course of 5 years, this disturbing expose is the product of a collaboration between members of the 100 strong community of 'witches', local women's movement activists and feminist researchers, united by their interest in ending abusive practices and improving women's lives in Africa. Painful experience and insight combine to generate a uniquely intimate record of the lives of women ostracized from their communities. Told largely by the women themselves, their incredible stories and struggles are rendered comprehensible to a wide range of audiences by the director's narration. Completed in July 2010, Fadoa Films Ghana and UK, Directed by Yaba Badoe, Co-produced by Yaba Badoe and Amina Mama.

Winner, 2010 Black International Film Festival Best Documentary Award

REVIEWS of The Witches of Gambaga

"An excellent exploration of how women are victimized ...a valuable resource for understanding how to end this problem."

Cornelius Moore, California Newsreel

"An admirably unsensational but powerfully affecting reminder of the terrible influence still wrought by superstition on the lives of so many women."

Geoff Andrew, film critic, British Film Institute

"A brave and brilliant production"

Hope for the African Village Child Trust

"...will go a long way to promote the rights of women..."

African Women's Development Fund

"A shocking, extraordinary film.."

Michael Eaton, screenwriter

"... the unacceptable and abusive treatment of women as witches is exposed..."

ABANTU FOR DEVELOPMENT

Below is a link to the trailer of the film on Youtube

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iFhHX7CJSes>

Click to see a 10 minute version of the film on the Guardian's website:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/video/2010/nov/25/witches-gambaga-ghana>

Visit our website at:

<http://www.witchesofgambaga.com>

Yaba Badoe is a Ghanaian-British documentary filmmaker and writer. A graduate of King's College Cambridge, she worked as a civil servant in Ghana before becoming a General Trainee with the BBC. She has taught in Spain and Jamaica and has worked as a producer and director making documentaries for the main terrestrial channels in Britain. Her short stories have been published in *Critical Quarterly* and in *African Love Stories: an anthology* edited by Ama Ata Aidoo. In 2009, her first novel, *True Murder* was published by Jonathan Cape. Her TV credits include: *Black and White*, a ground-breaking investigation into race and racism in Bristol, using hidden video cameras for BBC1; *I Want Your Sex*, for Channel 4 and a six-part series, *VSO*, for ITV.

Amina Mama is a Nigerian feminist activist, researcher and scholar, who has lived and worked in Nigeria, South Africa, Britain, the Netherlands and the USA. She spent 10 years establishing the University of Cape Town's African Gender Institute and is founding editor of the African journal of gender studies, *Feminist Africa*. She authored *Beyond the Masks: Race, Gender and Subjectivity* (Routledge 1995), *Women's Studies and Studies of Women in Africa* (CODESRIA, 1996), and co-edited *Engendering African Social Sciences* (CODESRIA 1997). She is currently developing a transnational activist research initiative on gender and militarism and pursuing her interest in documentary film. 'The Witches of Gambaga' is her first film. She currently lives in Berkeley and works at University of California, Davis as Professor and Director of Women and Gender Studies.

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