



# Winds of Sand Women of Rock

A film by Nathalie Borgers (2009)



## Synopsis



For the Tubu people, living in the Sahara desert is both harsh and very simple. Men and women have clearly defined roles. The men are camel breeders, the women are tied to the home. For anything a woman wants to do, she needs her husband's permission. For the women, this condition would be unbearable if it wasn't for the annual caravan that takes them on a 1500 kilometre journey on foot across the desert to collect dates. Even if the conditions are extreme, selling their date harvest

brings them economic independence, pride and self confidence.

Domagali, Amina and Mariama are three women whose destinies draw us into their world. Conflicts between tradition and modernity, between individual freedom and clan solidarity punctuate their stories.

[www.entrechienetloup.be](http://www.entrechienetloup.be)

## Nathalie Borgers

Writer/ Director / Executive Producer

Born in 1964 in Brussels, Belgium, Nathalie started working as a journalist for the Belgian television (RTBF). In 1987, she moved to San Francisco to further study directing and producing. Simultaneously, she became an executive producer and a director at ATRIOM Production, a San Francisco-based company dedicated to the production of social and socio-political documentaries. In 1989, she won the « Documentary Writing » award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. She moved back to Europe in 1992 and in 1994, her first European film came out, *Truth Under Siege*, a documentary about the resistance of journalists in Serbia, Croatia, and Bosnia during the war. The film, co-produced and co-directed with Leslie Asako Gladsjo, has been broadcast in many countries in Europe, in Canada, and in Australia. It was selected in festivals around the world and won several prizes. Other television documentaries belonging to her filmography include : *Krone, l'Autriche entre les lignes* (*Citizen Krone*, documentary on the role of the Kronen Zeitung newspaper in the rise of the extreme right in Austria) which was also selected in many festivals and was a blockbuster in the Austrian cinema; *Arrangements avec le destin* (*The arrangement*, documentary on the tradition of arranged marriages in the Turkish community in Austria, ARTE/ORF, 2005). *Le mal de soi* (*When the self hurts*, 83'-documentary about depression, « Hors Série », France 3, Fall 2000), *Greyhound, Aller simple* (*Greyhound, one-way ticket*, 52'-documentary on the American dream as seen through people travelling on the Greyhound bus hoping to start a new life elsewhere, La Cinquième/RTBF, 1998), *Une enfance gay* (*We are family*, 49'-documentary on gay parents, ARTE 1997), etc.



In 2001, she co-founded LES FILMS DE LA GRELUCHE and produced documentaries, including her own *Citizen Krone* and *Where Are the Women?* a documentary about the place of women in French politics in France, as well as Daniella Marxer's *Spoiled Children*, a documentary on money laundering in Liechtenstein, RTBF/Planète 2003.

In 2007, Nathalie left Les Films de la Greluche and continued her work as author/director. She has just finished her first feature-length documentary for theatrical release, *Winds of sand, women of rock*, the tale of a tradition carried by Tubu women in the Sahara, which has been selected for the Pusan International Film Festival (South Korea) and the Viennale.

Her latest work shows her engagement in telling stories from a the women's perspective.

## **Diana Elbaum**

Producer



Diana Elbaum has produced a wide range of award-winning films since becoming a producer in 1989, initially in advertising and then in motion pictures. Her films span all genres and cultures and have received critical acclaim on all continents. She is known for masterfully bringing together international talent and financing.

Diana is deeply committed to growing Europe's film industry and, to this effect, devotes time to EAVE training young film producers. Diana founded her production company, *Entre Chien et Loup*, in 1989 and 10 years later, Sebastien Delloye, joined forces with her. *Entre Chien et Loup* has produced more than 30 films, including among others: *Thomas in Love*, *The Rashevski Tango*, *La Raison du Plus Faible*, *Daratt*, *Irina Palm*, *La Marea*, *Les Barons*, *Rapt*, *Winds of Sand*, *Women of Rock* and is currently finishing Sam Garbarski's new film "*Quartier Lointain*". Diana Elbaum is also the co-owner of the company *Liaison Cinématographique*, a Paris based production company.

Her work and curiosity have taken her around the world several times, enabling her to enroll cutting-edge writers, directors and talent from all continents. She is a graduate of NYU. Her production company is headquartered in Brussels, where she lives with her two multicultural children.

## UNiTE to End Violence Against Women Campaign



Launched in 2008, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's *UNiTE to End Violence against Women* campaign is a multi-year effort aimed at preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls in all parts of the world.

UNiTE calls on governments, civil society, women's organizations, young people, the private sector, the media and the entire UN system to join forces in addressing the global pandemic of violence against women and girls.

By 2015, UNiTE aims to achieve the following five goals in all countries:

- Adopt and enforce national laws to address and punish all forms of violence against women and girls
- Adopt and implement multi-sectoral national action plans
- Strengthen data collection on the prevalence of violence against women and girls
- Increase public awareness and social mobilization
- Address sexual violence in conflict



## The Secretary-General's Network of Men Leaders

Too often, boys and young men are exposed to examples of sexist behaviour. Too often, boys and young men are taught to equate masculinity with the use of violence and dominance over women. Too often, such behaviour is met with silence and tolerated by other men, which serves only to normalize gender inequality and negative stereotypes.

However, many men are uncomfortable with stereotypical and violent behaviour towards women and would intervene if they believed other men would support them. Men can also be devastated by violence perpetrated against the women they care deeply about.

For many years, women around the world have led efforts to prevent and end violence, and today more and more men are adding their support to the women's movement. Men have a crucial role to play as fathers, friends, decision makers, and community and opinion leaders, in speaking out against violence against women and ensuring that priority attention is given to the issue. Importantly, men can provide positive role models for young men and boys, based on healthy models of masculinity.



As part of the growing effort to include men as part of the solution to ending violence against women, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched his Network of Men Leaders. The Network supports the work of women around the world to defy destructive stereotypes, embrace equality, and inspire men and boys everywhere to speak out against violence.

The Leaders in this expanding Network – current and former politicians, civil society and youth activists, religious and community leaders, cultural figures and other prominent individuals – work in their spheres of influence to undertake specific actions to end violence against women, from raising public awareness, to advocating for adequate laws, to meeting with young men and boys, to holding governments accountable.

Reflecting the priority placed on ending violence against women and girls by the Secretary-General, the Network is just one initiative of his UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign, which will run to 2015.

The Secretary-General launched the Network at UN Headquarters in New York on 24 November 2009, at the official observance of the 10th anniversary of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

*In launching this campaign, I acted not only as the Secretary-General of the United Nations, but as a son, a husband, a father, a grandfather.*

**Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General  
of the United Nations**

For more info on **UNiTE to End Violence Against Women** go to : <http://endviolence.un.org>.