

THE STRONG MAN



A FILM BY
MAURO BUCCI

WITH
ESSA J. DARBOE

OF BURENG

PRODUCED, FILMED, EDITED BY MAURO BUCCI - FEATURING ESSA J. DARBOE, YANKUBA DARBOE, KADDY DARBOE, FATIMA DARBOE, ELISA SALMI - TRANSLATIONS MAURO BUCCI, LIZA TRIPP, BAOMAR TOURAY, ESSA J. DARBOE

WWW.STRONGMANFILM.NET



THE STRONG MAN OF BURENG

A film by Mauro Bucci

CONTACTS/LINKS

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The Strong Man of Bureng

Facebook: www.facebook.com/strongmanbureng

Website: www.strongmanfilm.net Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/811031333>

INFO & CREDITS

Genre: Ethnographic Documentary

Country: Italy.

Production year: 2023.

Lenght: 75 minuts.

Written, produced, directed, filmed and edited by: Mauro Bucci.

Cast: Essa J. Darboe, Kaddy Darboe, Fatima Darboe, Elisa Salmi, Yankuba Darboe.

World Premiere: . Coliseum International Film Festival - Roma, Italia (dicembre 2023)

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🏆 AWARDS 🏆

- **Best Cinematic Editing Award – National Docu-film category**

COLIFFE – Coliseum International Film Festival – Rome, Italy, December 2023

🏆 SCREENINGS AND FESTIVAL SELECTIONS 🏆

Without Borders Film Festival – Manchester, UK (December 2024) –

STATUS: UK Premiere.

Coliseum International Film Festival – Rome, Italy (December 2023) – STATUS: World Premiere.

Kratovo Ethnographic Film Festival - Kratovo, Macedonia (October 2023) – STATUS: Work in progress.

LOGLINE

An engaging journey through Gambia, Finland, and Italy, following the story of Essa, a former UN soldier and refugee, and his pursuit of well-being for himself and his family.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

An engaging journey through Gambia, Finland, and Italy, following the story of Essa, a former UN soldier and refugee, and his struggle to achieve well-being for himself and his loved ones. The film explores how the protagonist successfully established a business in Europe to financially help his village in Africa: Bureng. However, the outbreak of the Coronavirus gravely challenges Essa's privileged position and his family's stability, leading him to one of the most serious crises of his life. "The Strong Man of Bureng" is both a contemporary odyssey and an intimate story of the deep motivations that have brought a person to leave his own country in an effort to satisfy universal needs.

LONG SYNOPSIS

A portrait of Essa J. Darboe, a former UN soldier from "The Gambia" now a refugee emigrated to Europe, and his pursuit of well-being for himself and his loved ones. The film explores how he established a successful business based on exporting and reselling various goods from North Europe to West Africa. The documentary gives an account of the great effect of the protagonist's job on the life of the inhabitants of his village, Bureng, and on his own social status. Eventually, the Coronavirus outbreak gravely challenges Essa's privileged position and his family's economic condition. Once the borders are closed and travelling between Africa and Europe is no longer possible, Essa's business is doomed to collapse, and his status and life change dramatically. The film is a journey between "The Gambia", Finland and Italy. It is both a contemporary odyssey and an intimate story of the deep motivations that have brought a person to leave his own country in an effort to satisfy universal needs.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"The Strong Man of Bureng" is an ethnographic film made over 4 years of filming and field research conducted at different times and living in close contact with the people filmed. The documentary is the result of a multisite ethnography between Gambia, Finland and Italy and it is a project on the topic of circular or return migrations. The film explores the centrality of interpersonal relationships between migrants, their families, and their homelands: it portrays the invaluable role played by this intangible web of human connections – made of social expectations, values, responsibilities, and pressures – in shaping the dynamics and patterns of the diaspora phenomenon that links Africa and Europe.

FILMMAKER BIOGRAPHY - MAURO BUCCI

Mauro Bucci is an Italian award-winning filmmaker and independent researcher working in the field of Visual Anthropology. He is particularly concerned with film's potential for studying and understanding human experiences and cultural practices. He has authored scientific essays on ethnographic cinema for both Italian and international journals and books. Mauro Bucci worked as a one-man crew shooting video, recording sound, and editing footage for "Hotel Splendid", his first work as a cinematographic author. The film portrays the lives of an African community hosted within an Italian hotel that has been transformed into an emergency refugee camp. This documentary, the result of a long-term ethnographic fieldwork that followed the participant observation method, has been screened

worldwide on multiple occasions. Mauro Bucci's latest and unreleased film, "The Strong Man of Bureng", explores the theme of circular or return migrations. Mauro Bucci has held several seminars, summer schools and master classes focused on the theories and techniques of representing social phenomena through cinema.

FILMOGRAPHY

2016 - Hotel Splendid (Italy, 90')

2023 – The Strong Man of Bureng (Italy, 75')

MEDIA AND PRESS

- **Il Resto del Carlino, "La mia odissea dal Gambia a Cesenatico – Un docu-film di Mauro Bucci racconta la storia di Essa, profugo accolto a "Hotel Splendid" , interview, 5 January 2024.**

- **Il Resto del Carlino Online, "Dal Gambia all'Hotel Splendid: "Il viaggio di Essa, andata e ritorno" - Il regista Mauro Bucci racconta in un docu-film la storia di un profugo accolto anni fa a Cesenatico" , interview, 5 January 2024.**

Link: <https://shorturl.at/goAGX>



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www.facebook.com/strongmanbureng

FULL CREDITS

CAST

Essa J. Darboe
Kaddy Darboe
Fatima Darboe
Elisa Salmi
Yankuba Darboe
Lamin Darboe
Sarjo Darboe
Drama Jawne
Jobe Kalifa

Written, produced, directed, filmed and edited by

Mauro Bucci

Music

Yankuba Darboe

Advisors:

Essa J. Darboe
Baomar Touray

Translation

Mauro Bucci
Essa J. Darboe
Liza Tripp
Baomar Touray
Youssuf Darboe