

Born in Dakar, Boubacar Boris Diop is a prolific Senegalese writer whose literary output includes, among other texts : *Le temps de Tamango* (Harmattan 1981; Serpent à Plumes, 2002), *Les traces de la meute* (Harmattan, 1993) ; *Doomi Golo* (Papyrus 2003) and *Kaveena* (Philippe Rey, 2006). *Les tambours de la mémoire* (Nathan, 1987 ; Harmattan, 1990) was awarded the *Grand Prix des Lettres du Sénégal* and *Le Cavalier et son ombre* (Stock, 1997, Philippe Rey 2010) the *Prix Tropiques*. *Murambi, le livre des ossements* (new edition : Zulma, 2011, Paris, as *Murambi, the Book of Bones*, Indiana University Press, 2006) features in the top 100 best African books of the twentieth century, a list established by the Zimbabwe International Book Fair. Choreographers Germaine Acogny (Senegal) and Kota Yamasaki (Japan) produced a brilliant adaptation of the novel entitled *Fagaala*.

In 2003 he published *Doomi Golo* (Papyrus, Dakar 2003) a novel in Wolof he translated himself into French as *Les petits de la guenon* (Philippe Rey, Paris 2009)

Former chief editor of the independent Senegalese daily *Le Matin*, Boubacar Boris Diop is also a freelance contributor who is regularly writing for prominent international newspapers.

Diop has degrees in literature, journalism and philosophy from Université Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar (UCAD).

He co-authored *Negrophobie* with Odile Tobner and the late François-Xavier Verschave, (Les Arènes, 2005). He also published a collection of essays entitled *L'Afrique au-delà du miroir* (Philippe Rey, 2007). Diop also contributed a piece in the concerted reply to the current French president, *L'Afrique répond à Sarkozy* (Philippe Rey, 2008).

From November to March 2008 Diop has been holding a series of writing workshops in Cenon, Les Aubiers and Lormont (suburbs of Bordeaux) for young Senegalese immigrants and expatriates who were eager to learn more about writing and reading in Wolof. This workshop, of quite a particular kind, brought together a small group of young adults – age 18-23 – and has culminated with an opera, *Leenaa*, written by Diop in Wolof. *Leenaa* is partly sponsored by the prestigious Opera of Bordeaux and will be performed in September 2010 at Le Rocher de Palmer, in the city of Bordeaux.

Working also for cinema, Diop has written scripts for Senegalese film makers Ben Diogaye Beye, Mansour Sora Wade and the late Amet Diallo. He has been member of the official jury for Documentary of Fespaco (Burkina Faso) in February 2009 and president of the official jury of « Festival del cinema africano, d'Asia e d'America Latina » di Milano (Italy) in March 2009.

In 2004 and 2008 Boubacar Boris Diop held a post as Visiting Professor at Rutgers University, New Jersey. From March to September 2010 he has been Writing Fellow at Wiser (Wits Social and Economic Research) at Witwatersrand University, Johannesburg.

Publications

Novels

Le temps de Tamango (In the Time of Tamango), Harmattan, 1981 and Serpent à Plumes, 2003.

Les tambours de la mémoire (The Drums of Memory), Nathan, 1987 and Harmattan, 1990. Awarded the *Grand Prix de la République du Sénégal pour les Lettres* in 1990.

Les traces de la meute (Trailing the Mob), Harmattan, 1993

Le Cavalier et son ombre (The Knight and his Shadow), Stock 1997, Philippe Rey 2010. Awarded the *Prix Tropiques* in 1998.

A pocketbook version was published in 1999 by *the Nouvelles Editions Ivoiriennes (NEI)*.

Murambi, le livre des ossements, Stock, 2000.

- In English as ***The Book of Bones***, translated by Fiona McLaughlin. Indiana University Press, 2006.
- In Italian by E/o, Rome: ***Murambi, il libro delle ossa***.

Diop wrote *Murambi* after a 2-month stay in Rwanda in 1998. He was among a group of ten African writers who took part in the project *Rwanda: écrire par devoir de mémoire*, one of numerous attempts at minding the 1994 genocide of Tutsi and moderate Hutu in Rwanda.

Murambi was also adapted for a stage reading performed by *La Compagnie des Labyrinthes*, Bordeaux. The first sessions were held in May 6 -29, 2001 and continued until November 2003 in Saint-Louis, Senegal.

Senegalese choreographer Germaine Acogny produced, in collaboration with Japanese choreographer Kota Yamazaki, a performance based on *Murambi* and entitled *Fagaala* (a mispronunciation of *fagaagal*, meaning *extermination* in Wolof). The premiere took place in February 2004 at Riverside University, California. Then ensued a series of performances all around the world.

Doomi Golo (*The Monkey Children*), a novel written in Wolof. Papyrus, 2003, Dakar.

Kaveena. Philippe Rey, 2006, Paris.

Les petits de la guenon, french version of **Doomi Golo**, translated by the author himself, Editions Philippe Rey, Paris 2009

Short stories

« **Jour de marché à Danki** » Written for (and published by) Air France Magazine

« **La Nuit de l'Imoko** », in **Miniatures du Senegal**. Editions Magellan et Cie, Paris, March 2010.

« **Retour à Ndar Géej** », In : **Cités d'auteurs**. Dapper, Paris, 2001.

«**Myriem**», first of the 12 chapters of a cyber-novel written with Malian authors.

« **La petite vieille** ». In : **L'Europe vue d'Afrique**. Le Figuiier/Sur le motif.

Plays

Thiaroye terre rouge (*Thiaroye: When the Earth Turned Red*). Paris, l'Harmattan, 1981.

- **Ibu Ndaw, boroom jamono**. Play written in Wolof.

Screenplays

Fowukaay, short feature written with Amet Diallo. Awarded the Prize for Best Comic Film at the Oberhausen Film Festival, Germany.

Le prix du pardon, feature film written with Mansour Sora Wade. Awarded the Tanit d'or at the Carthage Film Festival, 2002.

Un amour d'enfant, feature film with Ben Diogaye Bèye.

Les feux de Mansaré, feature film written for director Mansour Sora Wade.

Articles and essays

« **Les mots contre les choses. Ecrire aujourd'hui en Afrique** », published in German in the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* and in French in the review *Lendemains* (Germany).

« **Les désarrois de la nouvelle intelligentsia africaine** », *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, February 1995.

« **Presse privée sénégalaise : de l'Age d'or aux défis de l'argent** », *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, April 1996.

« **Ecriture et oralité** », published in German in the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* and in French in *Courrier International* and *Le Monde de l'éducation*, weekly educational supplement of *Le Monde*.

« **Affaire de patience et de passion** », a meditation on the highs and lows of North-South cultural interactions. Published by Pro Helvetia, Swiss Foundation for Culture, May 2000.

« **Identité négro-africaine et mondialisation** », *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, Zurich, January 2001 and in French in *Le Soleil*, Senegalese daily, June 2001.

« **Ecris et...tais-toi !** » In this text Diop spells out the main reasons behind his decision to *also* write in his mother tongue. It has also been published in French and Italian in the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, *Courrier international* and *Internazionale*.

« **Lettre a un ami sur le naufrage du Joola** », *Le Monde diplomatique*, December 2002.

Preface to *L'Afrique au secours de l'Occident*, by Anne-Cécile Robert, editor at *Monde diplomatique*. Editions de l'Atelier, 2003.

« **Les intellectuels africains et le génocide des Tutsi du Rwanda** », April 2004 in *Le Quotidien* (Dakar), *Internazionale* (Rome) and *Courrier international* (Paris).

« **Femmes leaders dans les médias en Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre** », with Vieux Savané. Panafrican Institute of Journalism, Dakar, February 2005.

« **Avertissement ivoirien à la Françafrique** », *Monde diplomatique*, March 2005.

Preface to *Lettre de Berlin à mes fils*, by Michel Ben Arrous, Arion, Montréal, 2005.

Négrophobie, co-authored with Odile Biyidi and François-Xavier Verschave. Les Arènes, Paris, 2005.

L'Afrique au-delà du miroir. Essays. Philippe Rey, Paris, 2007.

L'Afrique répond à Sarkozy (Contre le discours de Dakar), Edited by Makhily Gassama. Philippe Rey, Paris, 2008.

« **Sembene Ousmane ou l'art de se jouer du destin** », a tribute to the writer-filmmaker on the occasion of his first death anniversary, *Le Quotidien*, Dakar, June 13, 2008.

« **Création littéraire et langues africaines** », in spanish for *Lineas de fuga*.(Mexico-City), in french for *Africultures* (Paris) and in italian for *University of Trieste*

Omar Bongo, une passion française *Le Monde diplomatique*, July 2009