

LES FILMS EN VRAC AND LA BELLE KINOISE PRESENT

 **69<sup>th</sup>** Internationale  
Filmfestspiele  
Berlin  
Panorama

In the streets of Kinshasa,  
Art is an emergency.

# SYSTEM K

A FILM BY  
RENAUD BARRET



Les Films en Vrac and La Belle Kinoise  
present



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RENAUD BARRET

94 min - France - 2019 - 1.78 - 5.1

**INTERNATIONAL SALES**

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## **SYNOPSIS**

Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, 2017. In the urban jungle counting over 13 million inhabitants, amid social and political chaos, an eclectic and bubbling street art scene is emerging. Underground visual artists, musicians and performers create out of nothing, using recycled objects and their own bodies to express their anger, but also their dreams for change.

Despite the constant harassment of the authorities, the strong taboos of a traditional society and the personal struggles of the artists, the movement can no longer be stopped.





### **Freddy Tsimba**

*He is the godfather of the new Congolese art scene. As a sculptor and plastic artist, he creates monumental artworks by putting together and welding waste material such as bullet sockets, machetes and generally all kind of waste stemming from armed conflicts that are devastating the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).*



### **Béni Baras**

*Béni Baras is a self-taught artist that gathers and melts urban waste into pieces of art. Orphan from a Belgian father and a Congolese mother he is entitled to a Belgian passport but how can one prove his double nationality without identity papers? Beni lives in the street but as he proudly declares: "I prefer doing art rather than crying on my fate!"*





### **Kongo Astronaut**

*Kongo Astronaut is a lone performer who strolls around the city wearing a self-crafted spatial suit. His "retro-futuristic" outfit made from recovered electronic material represents the plundering of his country's natural resources by multinational companies.*



### **Géraldine Tobe**

*Géraldine Tobe is a painter whose exorcised-child tormented past feeds her art: large layouts that she works by using smoke from petrol lamps. With time the fire eventually became her brush and the smoke her colour...*





### **Yas Ilunga & Majestikos**

*Those are radical performers who constantly put their body in danger in limitless street-art acts. Yas condemn the tight grip of Evangelical Revival Churches on the people and the acculturation of his kind. Majestik questions head-on the international community about the massacres in the east of the DRC and the fratricidal wars fed by foreign powers.*



### **Strombo Kayumba**

*In his urban scenography, this performer links the corruption that plagues his country with the evangelical church dominion over people's minds. In all of his work he is developing the recurring image of a devil that is "innocent compared to the true devils running this country".*





### ***Flory et Junior***

*Flory and Junior, a duet of performers who criticize the lack of drinkable water and electricity in a city located on the riverbanks of the Congo River, one of the strongest and biggest rivers in the world.*



### ***KOKOKO!***

*KOKOKO! Is a collective of instruments makers, sound designers... These musicians with a punk soul write the ghetto's electro-music between two power outages and support the artists' performances with their flabbergasting array of instruments. They composed the movie soundtrack.*



# RENAUD BARRET

Renaud was born on 2th April 1970 in Neuilly-sur-Seine (France). Originally graphic designer and photograph, Renaud fell in love with African capital's urban cultures since he is 20 years old. He met Kinshasa in 2003 and never really left again. There, he autoproduced and directed several documentaries (some of which were made with Florent de La Tullaye). In his films, Renaud always gets fond of outsiders characters, those who supposedly already lost but by not giving up find themselves making their dreams come true. In addition to his filmmaker activity, Renaud produces Congolese musicians through "La Belle Kinoise Prod", his agency in Kinshasa.

## FILMOGRAPHY

2020 **SYSTEM K**

2013 **THE AFRICA EXPRESS** 52' for France Ô

*Following the London Olympics, a hundred African and Western artists, met in a train transformed into a mobile studio. They travelled through the UK for a week. With Damon Albarn (Blur, Gorillaz), Paul McCartney, John Paul Jones (Led Zeppelin), Rokia Traoré, Baaba Maal, Peter Hook (Joy Division), Amadou & Mariam.*

2012 **PYGMÉE BLUES** 52' for France 5

*Wengi and Soyi, two pygmies discouraged by the difficulties of urban life and ostracism they are subject to in Kinshasa, decide to return home, 700 kilometers up the Congo River. A return to their roots, which they believe, will help them regain their dignity.*

2010 **BENDA BILILI !**

*From the Kinshasa sidewalks to international triumph, 5 years in the lives of the disabled musicians' orchestra Staff Benda Bilili. Cannes 2010 Directors' Fortnight, opening film - 265,000 admissions. Selected at the 2011 Césars*

2008 **VICTOIRE TERMINUS**

*Young boxers go up in the ring to feed their families. The boxing matches meet the armed confrontations of the two contenders engaged in the presidency of the DRC. Berlinale, Hot Docs Toronto, BFI London Film Festival (Grierson Award for best documentary)*

2007 **LA DANSE DE JUPITER**

*A dive into the heart of Kinshasa's ghettos to meet its countless musicians. FIPA, RIDM (Montréal), Africa in the Picture, Filmer la Musique, Afrika Eye (Bristol), Festival Radio France (Montpellier), New York Black Film Festival, Womex, Womad Music Festival.*



## CREW

Director	<b>Renaud BARRET</b>
Screenwriter	<b>Renaud BARRET</b>
Cinematography	<b>Renaud BARRET</b>
Sound	<b>Renaud BARRET</b>
	<b>Paul SHEMISI</b>
Editing	<b>Jules LAHANA</b>
Producers	<b>Thierry COMMISSIONAT</b>
	<b>Guillaume VINCENT</b>
	<b>Benoit TSCHIERET</b>
	<b>Renaud BARRET</b>
Production company	<b>Les Films en vrac</b>
	<b>La Belle Kinoise</b>
French distribution	<b>Le Pacte</b>
Internationale sales	<b>Le Pacte</b>



les films en VRAC



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