

# Ouaga Côté Court

## Presentation of the 2025 Jury Members

Chaired by screenwriter and director Mach-houd Kouton from Benin, the official jury for the 4th edition of Ouaga Côté Court is composed of Burkinabe actress Minata Diene, Senegalese musician and composer Henri Guillabert, French film critic and festival organizer Clara Gallardo, and Burkinabe film director and screenwriter Carine Bado.



## **Mach-houd KOUTON (President)**

Mach-houd Kouton is a documentary filmmaker and writer. He also writes screenplays for fiction films and is the author of several books of short stories. He recently co-curated a contemporary art exhibition in Benin.

The various projects he is working on are stories that give a voice to people or cultural assets. It was in his native Benin that he caught the storytelling bug.

He was fortunate to have his imagination nourished by the tales and mysticism of the country's different communities, from the village of Karimama to Porto-Novo, the capital where he grew up.

He was also fortunate to have traveled around part of the world, with his first stop outside Benin being Thomas Sankara's Burkina Faso.

He is also committed to public health.



## **Minata DIENE**

A graduate of the Jean-Pierre Guingané Higher School of Theater, Minata Diéné is a multi-talented artist from Burkina Faso, combining theater, cinema, and storytelling.

She has performed in more than 40 plays, storytelling shows, and films since 2008.

Winner of several awards (Lompolo for Best Theater Actress in 2014, First Prize for Storytelling at the Yeleen Festival in Bobo-Dioulasso with her theatrical storytelling show "Polygamico" in 2018; Sotigui Awards for Best Female Performance 2022), she is a well-known and highly appreciated dramatic artist in French-speaking Africa, collaborating with renowned organizations (CITO, Cartel, Récréatrales) and participating in international productions.

President of the "Théâtre Tâllê" company, created in 2021, she is deeply committed to women, girls, and children, a commitment that has led to the creation of plays raising awareness on issues related to access to rights and the fight against all forms of violence and exploitation.

Her artistic commitment and versatility make her a major figure in the performing arts in Africa.



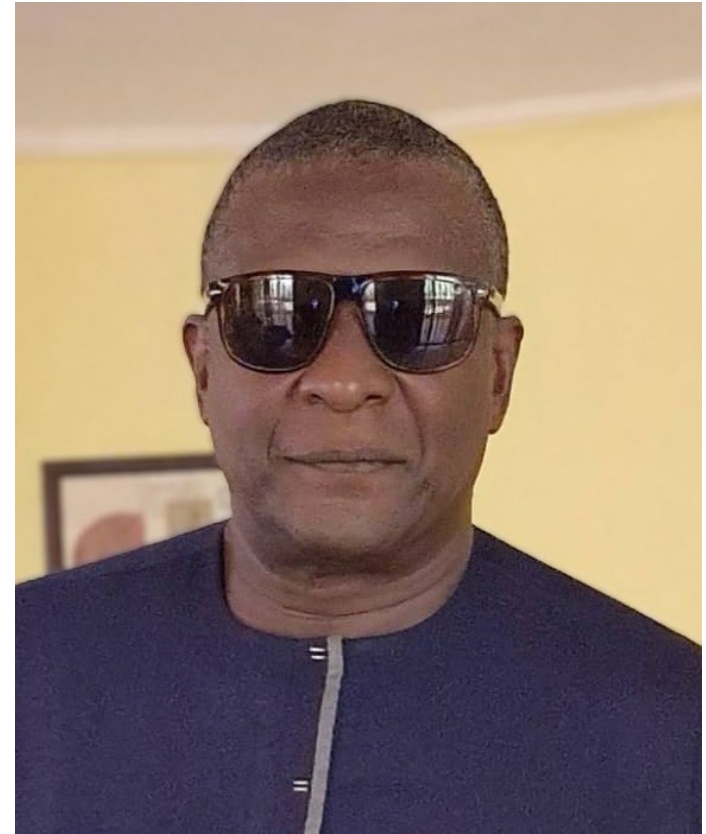
## **Henri GUILLABERT**

A native of Saint-Louis, Senegal, Henri Guillabert is a songwriter, arranger, percussionist, and keyboardist, and a founding member of Xalam, the legendary Afro-jazz group that fuses various Senegalese rhythms (Wolof sabar, Diola sahourouba and bougarabou, Fulani music, Serer ndioup, Manding music) with jazz, pop, R&B, soul, and rock 'n' roll. With Xalam, which made its mark on the African music scene in the 1970s and 1980s, he has performed on stages around the world.

An inspired composer, Henri has composed numerous scores for films, musicals, plays, and dance performances.

Upon his return to Senegal in the 1990s, he founded the Quai des Arts, a cultural space equipped with a recording studio. He continues to work with the Xalam and collaborates with artists from diverse backgrounds, including Coumba Gawlo Seck, Pape Ndiaye, Pape Niang, Baila Diarra, and many others.

Today, Henri Guillabert remains an important figure in Senegalese music, recognized for his ability to blend tradition and modernity, and for his role in passing on the musical culture of Saint-Louis.



## Clara Gallardo

Clara Gallardo studied cinema, literature, and philosophy, with a particular interest in Hungarian cinema and cinema from the former Soviet bloc.

She is heavily involved in organizing the "**L'Europe autour de l'Europe**" **European Film Festival in Paris**, which has been held every spring for the past 20 years.

She also adapts and translates scripts for series and fiction for production studios and works on subtitling silent films screened at the Jérôme Seydoux-Pathé Foundation.





## Carine BADO

Burkinabe filmmaker Carine BADO worked as an assistant director, script supervisor, and even actress before moving into directing and producing. The author of several documentary and fiction films selected at FESPACO and various other international festivals, she has also been the executive producer and director of numerous institutional films in different countries in the region (Mali, Senegal, Liberia, Benin, Togo, Burkina Faso).

Her credits include "*Les droits en Actions*" (Rights in Action), "*On ne mange pas les merci*" (You Don't Eat Thank You) and "*Des Déchets à Valeur d'Or*" (Waste Worth Its Weight in Gold) in 2008, "*Les Douleurs Muettes*" (Silent Pain) and "*Fille de sa mère*" (Like Mother, Like Daughter) in 2015, "*ZALISSA*," a short fiction film in 2021 (*Bronze Poulain at FESPACO 2021*). She co-wrote the screenplay of "*Le Gang des élèves*" and the series entitled "*Une femme à Kosyam*," and worked on the short fiction film "*La pomme ou la banane*" in 2019, and the creative documentary film "*Le foulard de Oliva* ."

She is currently preparing a feature-length fiction film, "*Poko et Raogo*," and is working on adapting Ildevert Méda's play "*Adjugé*." She is also a consultant and trainer for short film projects in incubation.

