

Ouaga Côte Court

Presentation of the members of the 2025 Jury

Mach-houd KOUTON (Chair)

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 works on are stories that give a voice to people or cultural heritage. 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.



Carine BADO

Burkinabe filmmaker Carine BADO worked as an assistant director, script supervisor, and even an actress before moving into directing and producing. The author of several documentary and fiction films selected for 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*), "*Le Gang des élèves*," the series entitled "*Une femme à Kosyam*," 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.



Raliatou "Fifi" Tamsir NIANE

Born in Conakry into an intellectual Guinean family, Raliatou "Tamsir Niane," better known by her nickname "Fifi," is an actress, playwright, and theater and visual arts director. She is the daughter of historian and writer Djibril Tamsir Niane, a major figure in Guinean culture.

Fifi has distinguished herself on stage, notably in Peter Brook's troupe for the highly acclaimed adaptation of the Mahābhārata (1985-1987), where she played powerful roles in a multicultural production bringing together artists from Africa, Asia, and Europe. At the same time, she is active in the visual arts in Conakry, as a painter and promoter of contemporary creation in Guinea.

Throughout her career, Fifi has helped give women a voice in Guinean and West African theater, combining cultural commitment, collective memory, and artistic innovation. She embodies a bridge between tradition and modernity, between family heritage and personal expression. Firmly rooted in her country, she continues to work to promote the Guinean art scene, encouraging the younger generation to explore diverse forms of expression.

She is the director of the Petit Musée de Conakry, a multicultural space located in the heart of the La Minière district of Conakry.



Clara GALLARDO

Clara Gallardo studied cinema, literature, and philosophy, with a particular interest in Hungarian cinema and the cinema of 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.



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 Xalam and collaborates with artists from diverse backgrounds, including Coumba Gawlo Seck, Pape Ndiaye, Pape Niang, Baïla 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.

