

Spirit-Body

A Film by Sophie Kotanyi

"Spirit-Body" travels through the world of traditional African medicine. It documents how traditional healers in Mozambique perceive and treat psycho-sociological illnesses, showing the internal logic of the traditional healing system through diverse treatments and explanations.

It shows how healers apprehend the major traditional sources of disease in Mozambique: the ancestors, the spirits and witchcraft, some of the basic categories in traditional healing practices in Sub-Saharan Africa.

"Spirit-Body" is not concerned with the effectiveness of the treatments, but tries to understand the approach taken by traditional medicine and documenting its practices against the background of the polarised debate between biomedical and traditional healers.

Dr. Isabel Parada Marques, a Mozambican psycho-psychiatrist, explains the logic and practice of traditional healing bridging the two forms of medicine. She argues that the two forms of medicine are complementary.

"Spirit-Body" supports the dialogue between the practitioners of the two kinds of medicines, which is of utmost importance for the effectiveness of prevention campaigns against AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa. The diffusion of the film is useful for practitioners and decision-makers in the Biomedical sector to foster a dialogue between the two medicines.

Chapters of the film:

- Psychosocial treatment:
 - of mental disease (ancestors)
 - of war trauma (Spirits)
 - against witchcraft
- Training of traditional healers
- Debate between the two medicines.

SOPHIE KOTANYI – Studied Cinema in Berlin at the DFFB (1974/78); realised documentaries for TV and Cinema in Germany, Belgium, Hungary and Africa; in Cape Verde in 1976/77 and 1981; in Guinea-Bissao in 1988/90 making "Djarama Boé" and "Yaray Yesso", with participative local distribution between 1992 and 1994. Realised "Amor Fati" (Love of destiny) in 1996. Between 1997/2003 in Mozambique realised "Espírito Corpo" (Spirit Body) and "Viver de Novo; Não se decide sozinho"; coaching in participative adult education in the fields of health and of traditional forms of conflict resolution. Studied anthropology, science of religions, psychology and ethno-psychiatry.



Image:
Karl Sousa
Sound:
Gabriel Mondlane
Micas José Cuamba
Editing:
Sophie Kotanyi
Anthropologist:
Prof. Dr. José Fialho Feliciano
Executive Producer:
Camilo de Sousa
Co-Executive Producer:
Ulrich Frohnmeyer
Co production from:
Coopimagem – Mozambique
Floh Film – Germany
CIDAC – Portugal
Financed by:
EUROPEAN COMMISSION
CIDAC – Portugal
Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian – Portugal
Stichting KINDER POSTZELS – Holand

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International Distribution: COOPIMAGEM
Av. 24 de Julho, 1595 Maputo – Mozambique
Phone.: + 258 82 308 663
Fax: + 258 1 314 707
SophieKotanyi@aol.com
isabelparada@clix.pt
camilo.sousa@tv cabo.co.mz
cidac@cooperacao.pt

Shooting in North and South of Mozambique

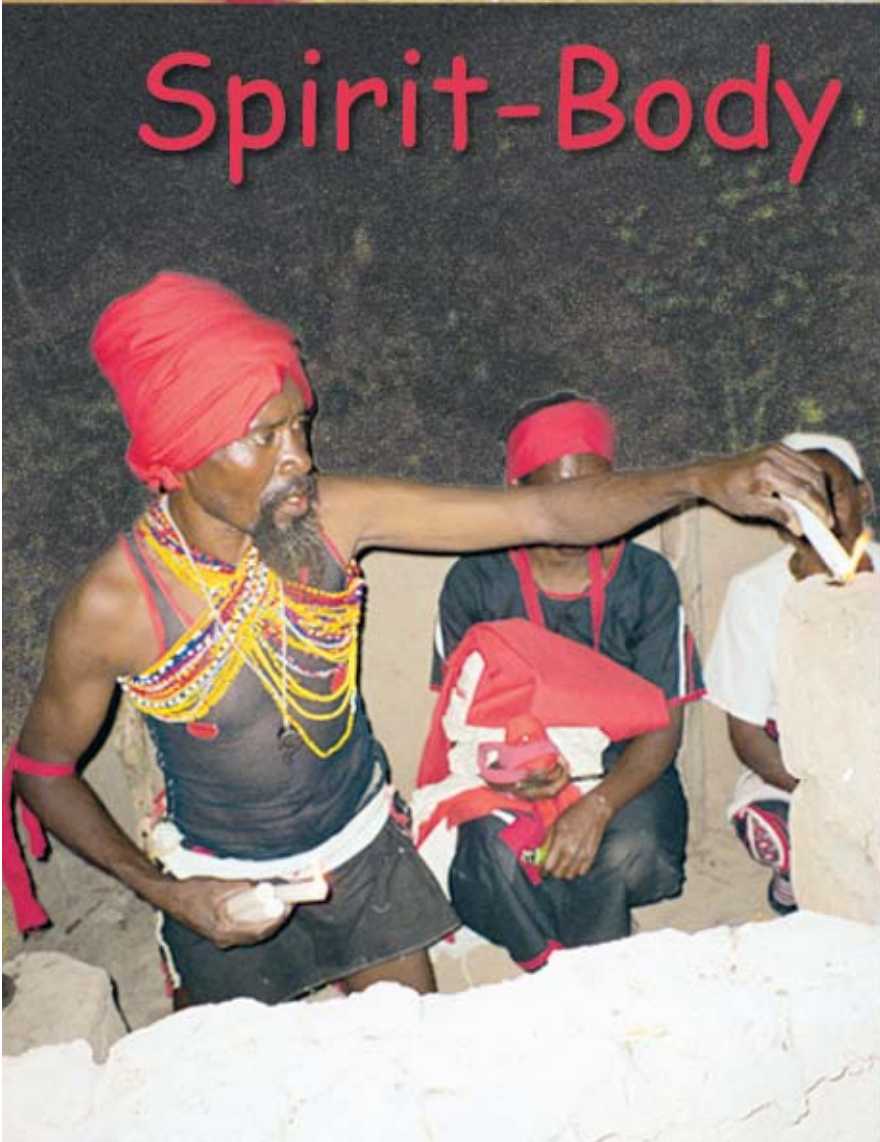
Duration: 86 Minutes

Format: Video Digital

Co-production:
Mozambique, Portugal, Germany



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COOPIMAGEM Mozambique