

SWEEPING ADDIS

The Street Sweepers of Addis Ababa

A Film by Corinne Kuenzli



©

RECK Filmproduktion GmbH

SWEEPING ADDIS

The Street Sweepers of Addis Ababa

A Film by Corinne Kuenzli

Digi Beta/ Beta SP Pal, 50 Min., Stereo, 16:9, Switzerland 2006

Original Version: Amharic, German, with German subtitles
also available with English subtitles

English Version: Amharic, English, with English subtitles
French Version: Amharic, French, with English subtitles

Cinematography & Collaboration: Peter Liechti

Sound: Ingrid Staedeli

Editing: Dieter Gränicher

Music: Abegasu Shiota

Production: Franziska Reck

with

Atsede Dagne, Tarikua Kelbessa,
Genet Tegegn, Wodnesh Girma

and

their families and friends

A RECK Film production, Zurich

in co-production with

SF: Paul Riniker, Michèle Sauvain

TSR: Irène Challand

Production: RECK Filmproduktion GmbH

Dienerstrasse 7 – CH – 8004 Zurich – tel: ++41 (0)44 241 37 63
f.reck@bluewin.ch – www.reckfilm.ch

World Sales: DOC & CO

Catherine Le Clef – 13, rue Portefoin – F – 75003 Paris – tel: ++33 (1)42 77 56 87
www.doc-co.com



Copyright © RECK Filmproduktion 2006 / Suissimage

SWEEPING ADDIS

The Street Sweepers of Addis Ababa

Script & Direction: Corinne Kuenzli

Cinematography & Collaboration: Peter Liechti

Second Camera: Kebebush Degefu

Editing: Dieter Gränicher

Sound: Ingrid Staedeli, Habtamu Addis, Tewodros Assefa

Narrator: Theresa D'Oliveira

Production Management Addis Ababa: Meseret Argaw, Corinne Kuenzli

Research & Interviews: Makda Teklemichael & Bethlehem Tekola, Roman Yiseni

Driver & Security: Anteneh Hailu & Gemechis Solana

Music: Abegasu Shiota

Sound Editing & Mix: Guido Keller, Magnetix, Zurich

Translation: Alemeshet Bekele Herweg

Lighting & on-line: Andromeda Film AG

Graphic Design: Volkart & Volkart

Archive Material: Keystone Switzerland

Producer: Franziska Reck

With contributions from

Direktion für Entwicklung und Zusammenarbeit (DEZA)

Amt für Kultur des Kantons Bern/SWISSLOS

KulturStadtBern

Kuratorium des Kantons Aargau

Filme für *eine* Welt/ Films pour *un seul* monde

Brot für alle / HEKS / Caritas / Fastenopfer

Succès passages antennes

Special Thanks to

Embassy of Switzerland, Addis Ababa

City Government of Addis Ababa

Sanitation, Beautification and Parks Development Agency

Ministry of Information, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Gem TV, St. Ghiorgis Church, Geboney Café, Moha Soft Drinks Industry Share Company, Sebhatu & Sons Security, Birabiro Films, Alliance éthio-française, Addis Ababa University, Coffee House, Austrian Development Cooperation, Ethiopian Women Lawyers' Association

and

René Schaetti,

Marian Amstutz, Solomon Asfaw, Abebe Balcha, Regina Bärtschi, Barbara & Lorenz Baumer Zutter, Irma Birchler, Heidi Bisang, Anne Graf, Sandra Gysi, Marlene Künzli, Sabine Künzli, Tabea Lerch, Küde Meier, Dieter Meyer, Monika & Hans Moser Gafner, Kathrin Müller, Yifru Negusse, Aron Nick, Leah Niederstadt, Alula Pankhurst, Sophie Reck, Daniela Renaud, Lou & Ella Sägesser, Bettina Schmid, Konjit Seyoum, Carol Spycher, Mark van der Linden, Peter Vonderhagen

Dedicated to the Street Sweepers of Addis Ababa

Copyright © RECK Filmproduktion 2006 / Suissimage

SYNOPSIS

Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia with 4 million inhabitants, on a rainy day. A glance out the window of a moving car focuses in on shrouded female figures. With circumspection and respect, filmmaker Corinne Kuenzli wins the confidence of these women who sweep the streets and they allow her to film them. In the privacy of their own four walls, the women remove their coverings, tell their life stories, speak about their worries and misery but also of their happiness and wishes for the future. Their intimate accounts are combined with atmospherically strong images which show the women in their private daily lives: with their families, celebrating together in honor of the Holy Mary and during their strenuous work on the dusty streets. The pictures reflecting hard reality are contrasted by the floating melodies of flutes by the Ethiopian composer Abegasu Shiota. A multi-faceted portrait emerges of four remarkable survival artists in a land marked by uncertainty and poverty.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

A discreet, respectful and multi-faceted portrait of four remarkable Ethiopian women, coping with life in a city marked by uncertainty and poverty.

Filmmaker Corinne Kuenzli succeeds in accompanying four Ethiopian women – masked street sweepers – into their homes and their lives, learning about their worries and their hopes, creating a poetic documentary from their intimate testimonies entwined with scenes from the daily lives of these survival artists.

BIOGRAPHY – CORINNE KUENZLI



1959 born in Basle, Switzerland

1976-77 Resides in Pori, Finland

1979-1984 Studies Ancient Greek, Latin, Spanish and Philosophy at the University of Berne

1983-84 Spanish Studies in Madrid, Spain

1985-1988 Resides in New York; receives a Master of Arts in Cinema Studies from New York University, works at the MoMA and for the Millennium Film Journal

1988-1992 works in development and production for Limbo and Carac Film AG

1992-2002 Managing Director of euroinfo/MEDIA Desk Switzerland

2002-2006 resides mainly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, collaborates in various documentary film projects. "Sweeping Addis" is her first film.