

Tributes paid to Burkina Faso filmmaker Idrissa Ouedraogo

Burkina Faso filmmaker Idrissa Ouedraogo passed away over the weekend, aged 64. He was hailed as a "towering figure of African cinema".



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Ouedraogo was a previous winner of the Grand Prize at both Cannes and FESPACO. His international breakthrough films included *Yaaba* and *Tilai*.

In their obituaries, *Variety* hailed him as “a towering figure of African cinema” and *The New York Times* described him as “legendary”, while on Twitter, Burkina Faso president Roch Marc Christian Kabore said the world had “lost a filmmaker of immense talent” who “truly contributed to raising the profile of Burkinabe and African cinema beyond our borders... Africa is losing one of its most valuable ambassadors in the field of culture”.

“ As a tribute to Idrissa Ouedraogo from Burkina Faso, one of the greatest African filmmaker - [#Fespaco](#) Grand Prix & [#Cannes](#) Prix du Jury with [#Tilai](#) in 1990 - watch this short he directed in 2008 to celebrate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights <https://t.co/HYL235wL3X> [#RIP](#) pic.twitter.com/3J34YAbHvt— Sylvain Biville (@sbiville) [February 18, 2018](#) ”

Ouedraogo came to international attention in 1989 with *Yaaba (Grandmother)*, the story of two children who make friends with an old woman who has been outcast as a witch by her village. *Yaaba* won the FIPRESCI Critics' Prize and a Special Mention from the Ecumenical Jury at the Cannes Film Festival, among other accolades.

Tilai won the Grand Prize at both Cannes and FESPACO, while 1992's *Samba Traore* won a Silver Bear at the Berlin Film Festival.

The New York Times described it as a "spare and resonant drama with perfect control" and praised its "utter simplicity," "great sophistication" and "exquisite clarity."

Yaaba is available to stream on Showmax in Africa.

Other career highlights included 1990's *Tilai (The Law)*, about a man who returns to his village to discover his father has married the woman he loves; and *Samba Traore*, about a thief who returns to his village.

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