



**THEATER
GROUP**

"Rayangnewind - grainmills to save traditional instruments in West Africa "

A large artistic and social project with a special attention for the artists and the African people. This project is directed in Africa by the composer Adama Ouédraogo (Person in charge of the group "Rayangnewind" in Ouagadougou). It is supervised in Europe by l'XK Theater Group (René Georges) and the Festival Esperanzah!, a worldmusic festival, engaged ethically in all that it does, responsible, and that is situated in Floreffe in Belgium.

Esperanzah!, this is more than 30.000 spectators on 3 days. Jean-Yves Laffineur is its director. For the moment, the project is in launch phase since more than a year, with two mills already installed in Burkina Faso, one in Tamkwensé and the other in the sector 27 of Ouagadougou. They are operational and the preservation work of the traditional instruments is set in motion. This is a beautiful success... Our will is now to spread us to West Africa. It is true that the disappearance of "ethnic" instruments is a reality proper to Africa. From which the interest to support even more our pace, to make it known in Europe also.

These instruments became very rare, and become little known by the Africans themselves, and therefore little used. Adds thereto, the young people that desert the villages for the cities, with finally a lack of interest growing for these. This is a cultural disaster that operates on a current term. We must react. This musical knowledge that inspired times of world-wide artists only rests now in the hands of a very elderly minority. If it disappears, this is an evident loss for our planet, and even worse, a evident disaster for the culture and the African identity.

The old villagers and also Adama, as well as the other African musicians associated to the project, remain therefore the only ones to be able to play these instruments. Fortunately, they are desirous to transmit their techniques to the youngest ones, indeed to the entire world. Here is therefore our objective! To make this thousand-year-old knowledge continue, and give again to the young Africans the desire to learn these magnificent instruments. We would like to spread this "preservation", this specific work of musical knowledges collect, true world-wide heritage, beyond the Burkina Faso, and begin at last this one to Niger, to the Mali, in Ivory Coast, and to the Senegal...

Adama Ouedraogo, from the group "Rayangnewind" (instrumental group peul), tries to save what can still be saved, but the financial means lack, unfortunately, to assure to him and to his musicicians friends the numerous trips outside the Burkina Faso. The income of our two mills in the Burkina Faso, are not sufficient to finance the entirety of the project, and assure the numerous trips that remain essential to this preservation work. Without them therefore nothing moves. Without us neither. In fact, to carry out this work, it is necessary to go with the old villagers (often in regions very isolated), and meet the musicians that still possess the instruments. It is necessary also to create the instruments. That takes time, and that costs also money...

We are therefore always to the research of other partners or funds, in order to assure the permanence of this vast project. If you are interested in helping us of a manner or of another, you are welcome!

Here is a link towards website of the Festival Esperanzah!, that I counsel you also to visit, and that will keep you to know, as well as us, the evolution of the project "grainmills".

Call: **Adama Ouedraogo** +226/76 58 23 62. He would be pleased to make you discover the project "grainmills".

Festival Esperanzah! and asbl Z - info@esperanzah.be - www.esperanzah.be