



19-26 October 2008

The theme is
“Growing
Together”

What is One World Week?

We believe that when we understand each other's perspectives, our lives can be transformed and enriched.

One World Week is an annual opportunity for people from diverse backgrounds to come together to learn about global justice, to spread that learning and to use it to take action for justice locally and globally, by:

- Working together in caring for the Earth and its resources
- Taking action for justice, equality, peace and fullness of life for all
- Building relationships of mutual respect that cross boundaries
- Running local events that celebrate the diversity of cultures in our communities

Origins of OWW

In 1978, One World Week (OWW) was founded by the World Development Movement out of a desire that, for one week in every year, the churches should draw the attention of their communities to the fact that the world consists of one human race which shares one planet in which all may enjoy fullness of life.



Chad facts:

Chad achieved independence from France in 1960.

In 2003 Chad began to export oil via a pipeline connecting its oil fields with Cameroon's Atlantic coast.

Common languages: French, Arabic, Sara, and Sango

Head of state: President Idriss Deby (elected in 1996, 2001, and 2006, when he gained 77.5% of the vote.)

Arable land: 3%

Infant mortality rate: 117

Literacy rate: 48%

Education ages: 6-9 years

Africa's fifth-largest nation

Daratt (“Dry season”)

Cert PG

96 mins

UK cinematic release 27th July 2007

Language: Arabic and French

Director and writer Mahamat-Saleh Haroun
Director of photography, Abraham Haile Biru
Edited by Marie-Hélène Dozo
Music by Wasis Diop
Produced by Abderrahmane Sissako

Cast:

Ali Bacha Barkai	Atim
Youssouf Djaoro	Nassara
Aziza Hissaine	Aicha
Djibril Ibrahim	Moussa
Fatimé Hadje	Auntie Moussa
Khayar Oumar Defallah	Grandfather

When considering the films available for the One World Week slot, the Committee decided that tonight's film which addresses the issue of reconciliation was the one that best meet this year's theme of "Growing Together".

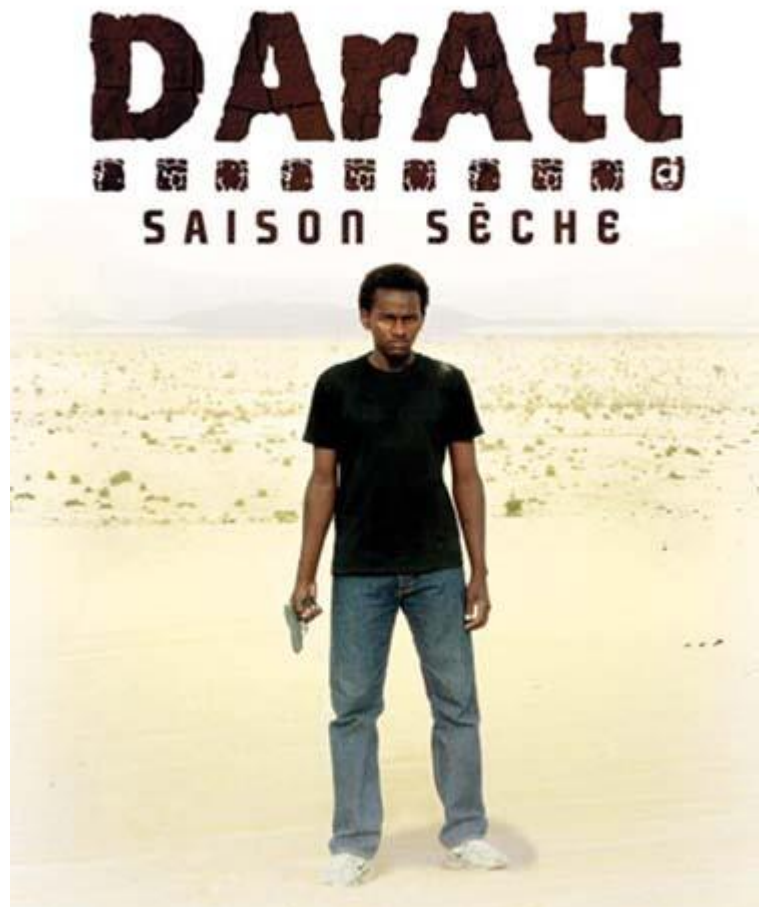
More than just a revenge film, the issues *Daratt* raises question the accepted standards of what is meant by justice, and whether history, the past and misdirected anger can best be put aside towards reconciliation rather than merely perpetuate the cycle of violence."

The civil war in Chad makes the conflict in Iraq look like a brief scuffle. Continuing on and off more or less since the French left in 1960, it has claimed tens of thousands of victims, including members of the director's family. In an interview with the BBC the director stated:

"The civil war lasted 40 years," explains the 46-year-old Haroun . "There are lots of victims that I know, people who've lost their parents, men like me who were injured." The director moved to France to study filmmaking in 1981 after he was shot in the leg by a stray bullet, where he suffered as news of the devastating civil war filtered through to him.

The film was one of seven commissioned films from non-Western cultures by American theater director, Peter Sellers'(*no not one!* - this one is renowned for his contemporary stagings of classical operas and plays) for Vienna's New Crowned Hope Festival , a multi-artistic festival created to celebrate Mozart's 250th birthday.

"New Crowned Hope" was the name of the Masonic lodge co-founded by the composer in the last weeks of his life; in the same year, he had completed three masterworks (*The Magic Flute*, *La Clemenza Di Tito* and *the famous Requiem*) that focus respectively on "magic and transformation", "truth and reconciliation" and "ceremonies for the dead".



The film probes the very topical problem of how former enemies can live together, given the latent hatred that is waiting to burst out.



“I wanted to put Atim in a situation where he has to decide between revenge and forgiveness,” says Haroun. “The problem with civil war is that those who partake in the war and carry arms, they arrive at a solution about power, but they never resolve the problem of what to do with common criminals who have committed atrocities. I wanted to discuss this - many people are left bewildered at what they see as a complete lack of justice.”

Darratt won the Grand Special Jury Prize at the 63rd Venice International Film Festival,

It is worth bearing in mind that soon after director Mahamat-Saleh Haroun started shooting in the Chad capital of N’Djamena, civil war erupted yet again and regularly threatened the safety of his crew as they continued filming. You’d never know it, though, from the quiet storytelling and subtle performances that define ‘*Daratt*’

Daratt is a dry, considered African take on familiar themes of revenge and absolution and is in reality more complex and emotional than it may initially appear from any synopsis.

Iain McGlashan

Comparative statistics	Chad	UK
Population:	10.8 million (UN, 2007)	60.7 million (UN, 2007)
Area	1.28 million sq km (495,800 sq miles)	242,514 sq km (93,638 sq miles)
Life expectancy:	49 years (men), 52 years (women) (UN)	77 years (men), 82 years (women) (UN)
Main exports	Cotton, oil, livestock, textiles	Manufactured goods, chemicals, foodstuffs
Gross National Income per capita:	US \$400 (World Bank, 2006)	US \$37,600 (World Bank, 2006)

Note The director’s previous film Abouna was screened last Sunday at 3.35 am (why are foreign language films invariably on in the dead of night?) Interestingly on the Freeview listing it included the warning “Behaviour could be imitated”, as the story covered the issue of two brothers disruptive behaviour, which is a message I’ve not previously seen.