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University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "African filmmaker Sembene to visit UM" (1994). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 13435.
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The University of Montana

NEWS RELEASE

University Communications
Missoula, MT 59812
(406) 243-2522

This release is available electronically on INN (News Net).

Oct. 25, 1994

AFRICAN FILMMAKER SEMBENE TO VISIT UM

MISSOULA --

Ousmane Sembene, a dauntless Senegalese filmmaker and author, will visit The University of Montana Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 1 and 2, as part of a weeklong visit to Missoula that will include a public lecture, a panel discussion and the showing of several of his films.

On Tuesday, Nov. 1, at 8 p.m., Sembene will present "Ethical Issues in Contemporary Africa: The Role of Senegalese and Pan-African Films," in UM's Urey Lecture Hall. Sembene's speech, to be delivered in French with simultaneous translation by foreign languages and literatures Professor Sigyn Minier, will immediately follow an African dance and drumming performance by Missoula Drummers and Dancers.

On Wednesday, Nov. 2, at 4 p.m. in Main Hall Room 205, Sembene will participate in a panel discussion in French on the future of Pan-African film. Both the panel discussion and the public lecture are free and open to the public.

Sembene's novels and cultural objects from Africa will be on display in the lobby of UM's Mansfield Library Oct. 26-Nov. 15.

Sembene occupies a remarkable position in the realm of African cinema. His works address the universal and political realities of poverty, colonialism, class struggle and self-reliance.

Sembene is the recipient of numerous awards for his films, including a recent lifetime achievement award from the Detroit Institute of the Arts. Before becoming a filmmaker in 1963,

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he was a renowned novelist in France. Currently, Sembene continues to make films and write works of fiction.

Sembene has seven feature films to his credit, as well as several short films. Four of those films will be shown at the Crystal Theatre from Oct. 28-31 in honor of his visit. They include:

- "Mandabi," a film about the complex daily world in modern Africa, Friday, Oct. 28;
- "Xala," a satire of modern Africa, heavily censored in Senegal, Saturday, Oct. 29;
- "Ceddo," a political thriller, Sunday, Oct. 30; and
- "Guelwaar," a human comedy and Sembene's most recent film, Monday, Oct. 31.

All films begin at 7 p.m.; tickets cost \$5. The film mini-retrospective is a joint effort among the Montana Committee for the Humanities, The University of Montana, the Crystal Theatre and the Alliance Francaise.

Sembene's visit is sponsored by The University of Montana Excellence Fund, the Montana Committee for the Humanities, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center, and UM's Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and Women's Studies Program.

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Contact: Foreign languages and literatures Chair Maureen Curnow, 243-4602, or Women's Studies Director Julia Watson, 243-2104.

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