LE TRIBUNAL SUR LE CONGO
THE CONGO TRIBUNAL
DAS KONGO TRIBUNAL

A FILM BY MILO RAU
PRESS KIT LOCARNO FESTIVAL 2017

SCREENINGS SEMAINE DE LA CRITIQUE
Sunday 6.8., 11h00, Kursaal (World Premiere)
Monday 7.8., 18h30, L’altra Sala

PRESS AGENT SWITZERLAND
Esther Bühlmann, +41 79 422 29 73, mail@estherbuehlmann.ch

CONTACTS IN LOCARNO
LANGFILM, Olivier Zobrist, oz@langfilm.ch, +41 76 504 99 77
FRUITMARKET, Arne Birkenstock, arne.birkenstock@fruitmarket.de, +49 171 4105397

DISTRIBUTION SWITZERLAND
VINCA FILM, +41 43 960 39 16, info@vincafilm.ch

PRESS MATERIAL
http://vincafilm.ch/katalog/34-das-kongo-tribunal/

THEATRICAL RELEASE NOV. 2017
SYNOPSIS
The war in Congo has caused more than six million deaths over the last twenty years. The population is suffering, but the offenders stay with impunity. Many people see this conflict as one of globalisation’s crucial economic distribution battles because the country has major deposits of many high-tech raw materials.

Milo Rau succeeds in gathering victims, perpetrators, observers and analysts of the conflict for a unique civil tribunal in eastern Congo. He creates an unvarnished portrait of the largest and bloodiest economic wars in human history.
For more than 20 years an inexplicable civil war is turning a territory as big as western Europe into hell on earth. Based on the direct or indirect involvement of all great powers of our time, the Congo War, also called the „Third World War“, has claimed up to six million lives.

Director Milo Rau succeeds in holding a symbolic tribunal in eastern Congo with the participation of all parties involved in the conflict. Presided over by a half-Congolese and half-international panel of experts as well as the two lawyers of the International Criminal Court, the central lines of the conflict in the Congo War were examined in Bukvau, based on hearings with victims, witnesses, militia officers, politicians, UN and NGO members, commodity traders and local human rights activists. The massacre in the village Mutarule and the violent expropriation and forced resettlement of the artisanal miners in Twangziga and Bisié are painting a vivid picture of the recent history, the bloody present and future of the conflict.

The second part, conducted in Berlin, broadened the perspective and placed an accent on the mechanics of globalised financial capitalism as a whole. Analysed by leading philosophers, economists, political scientists, jurists and sociologists of our time.
The hearings in Bukavu and Berlin were recorded by seven cameras following several research trips and filming in the run-up to the tribunal. The film team were led into the central areas of conflict, to remote villages and inaccessible mines, right in the middle of the civil war zone. We get to know people and hear stories from victims and perpetrators, government and opposition members, military forces and rebels, human rights activists, local miners as well as representatives from multinational mining concerns. Thanks to thorough investigative research, the documentary paints a film portrait exposing this tremendous economic war – the financial and political causes of it, and how it is affecting conditions locally. This is a film about conflict on a global scale, not about winning or losing, but more about the value of first world wealth.

„The Congo Tribunal looks behind the scenes of an economic war which has caused over 6 million casualties in the last 20 years. It is a thespian tribunal; however, everything is genuine: from the miner to the rebel to the lawyer from The Hague. The tribunal is staged amidst the civil war zone and recorded by seven cameras in front of 1000 spectators. Thus, The Congo Tribunal is an impossible film. Nevertheless, it exists.“

Milo Rau
The Swiss director and author Milo Rau (*1977 in Bern) studied sociology, German and Romance languages and literature in Paris, Berlin and Zurich under Pierre Bourdieu and Tzvetan Todorov, among others. Since 2002, he has put out over 50 plays, films, books and actions. His productions have appeared at all of the major international festivals, including the Berlin Theatertreffen, the Festival d'Avignon, the Venice Biennale Teatro, the Wiener Festwochen and the Brussels Kunstenfestival, and have toured more than 30 countries worldwide.

Rau has received many honours, most recently the Peter-Weiss-Prize 2017, the 3sat-Prize 2017, the 2017 Saarbrucken Poetry Lecture-ship for Drama and, in 2016, the prestigious World Theatre Day ITI Prize, of which he is the youngest winner, following such artists as Frank Castorf, Pina Bausch, George Tabori, Heiner Goebbels and Christoph Marthaler. In 2016, “Five Easy Pieces” became the first non-Belgian production to be selected for the Belgian Theatre Critics’ Special Jury Award, and was also invited to the Berlin Theatertreffen 2017. Milo Rau will assume the directorship of the NTGent beginning in the 2018/19 season.
FILMOGRAPHY

- Das Kongo Tribunal / The Congo Tribunal (Performance 2015, Film 2017), Cinema Documentary, Germany Switzerland, 2017, 100’
- Five Easy Pieces (Performance, Film, 2016)
- Die Zürcher Prozesse / The Zurich Trials (Performance, TV Film, Book, 2013)
- Die Moskauer Prozesse / The Moscow Trials (Performance, Feature Film, Book, 2013), Cinema Documentary, Germany 2014, 86’
- Hate Radio (Performance, TV Film, Book, Radio Play, 2011/14)
- City of Change (Performance, TV Film, 2010/11)
- Die letzten Tage der Ceausescus / The Last Days of the Ceausescus (Performance, Feature Film, Book, 2009/10), 72 min.
PERSPECTIVES
The search for truth and justice in the East Congo and globally, is so far director Milo Rau’s most „megalomaniacal work“ (arte). It is certainly also his biggest project to date. The first on-location research began in 2013, leading up to the tribunals in Bukavu and Berlin in 2015, and now continues as film and as a transmedial narrative.

The web format extends the content of the tribunal into digital space. The overwhelming and difficult to grasp facts are experienced more personally and interactively and their larger, global context made visible. The digital audience plays with „unseen elements“ of the investigated cases in a technically innovative documentary game, the result of a unique creative collaboration between the Congolese illustrator Kayene and the German game developers of Monokel. Linked to the documentary game, a comprehensive online archive brings together threads of information, hearings and analyses which make the entire project accessible worldwide. Release: Autumn 2017.

A book and symposia will accompany the theatrical release (November 2017). Two years after the hearings, the results of the project are to be presented in venues in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Ruanda (July 2017) and Germany and Switzerland (November 2017). They will be discussed with core members of the tribunal and other directly affected parties. During the performances in Europe, a mobile virtual-reality installation will interweave extracts from the digital first-person narration of the web format with real documentary footage.
PRESS MENTIONS
„One of the most ambitious pieces of political theatre ever staged.“
THE GUARDIAN

„Where politics fail, only art can help.“
DIE ZEIT

„The most insane art project of our time“
RADIO FRANCE INTERNATIONALE – RFI

„A public space for a change of awareness.“
NZZ

„A new system of values is required - the CongoTribunal is a first step in this direction.“
SWR 2

„No other theatre director has been so determinedly concerned with such abysmal chapters in world history as Milo Rau from Switzerland."
SRF Swiss Television
WITH

INVESTIGATOR-IN-CHARGE Sylvestre Bisimwa / CHAIRMAN OF THE TRIBUNAL Jean-Louis Gilissen / JURY BUKAVU
Vénantie Bisimwa Nabintu / Colette Braeckman / Gilbert Kalinda / Prince Kihangi / Séverin Mugangu / Jean Ziegler / JURY BERLIN Colette Braeckman / Saran Kaba Jones / Wolfang Kaleck / Saskia Sassen / Marc-Antoine Vumilia Muhindo / Harald Welzer and many more.

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY Milo Rau / DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY Thomas Schneider / DRAMATURGY AND EDITING Katja Dringenberg / RESEARCH AND CASTING Eva-Maria Bertschy / SOUND Marco Teufen, Jens Baudisch / MUSIC Marcel Vaid / SOUND DESIGN & MIXING Guido Keller / CREATIVE PRODUCER Sebastian Lemke / PRODUCERS Arne Birkenstock, Olivier Zobrist

A PRODUCTION OF Fruitmarket und Langfilm / IN COPRODUCTION WITH IIPM - International Institute of Political Murder / SRF Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen - SRG SSR / ZDF in collaboration with ARTE / FILM SUPPORTED BY Film- und Medienstiftung NRW / Bundesamt für Kultur (BAK), Schweiz / BKM - Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien / Kanton St.Gallen Kulturförderung - Swisslos/ Zürcher Filmstiftung / DFFF - Deutscher Filmförderfonds / Migros-Kulturprozent / Volkart Stiftung
TECHNICAL DETAILS

Color
Min. 100

Sound 5.1

fps 25

Aspect Ratio 1:1.77

Languages French, English, German, Swahili, Lingala etc.

Available subtitles English, German, French

Versions German/French: all inserts in German and French / German and/or French subtitles
English: all inserts in English / English or English/German or English/French subtitles