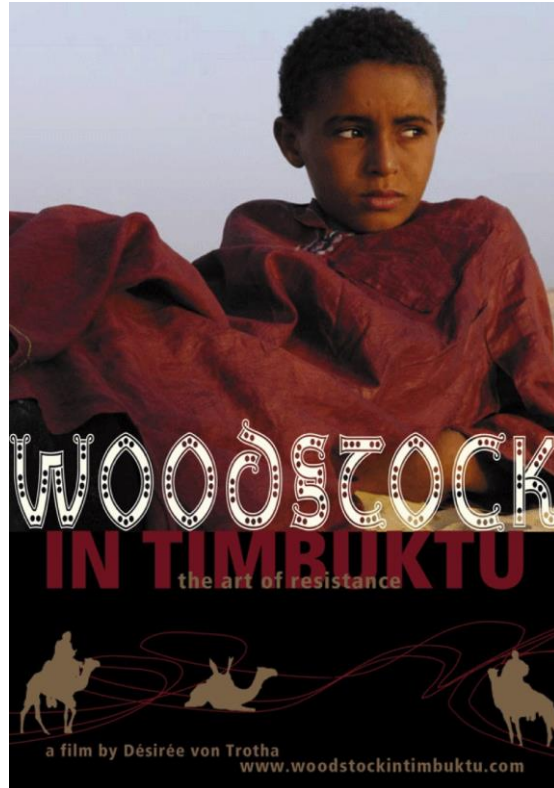


**FILM DISCUSSION GUIDE**



***Before viewing the film:***

1. Can you think of an event or social movement that helped change laws to protect the rights of a particular group?

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2. This film is set in Timbuktu. Where is Timbuktu located? What do you know about this area of the world? Religion? Language? Politics?

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## ***During the Film:***

### ***Identifying Characters***

Match the character with the appropriate description:

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| ___ Désirée von Trotha <b>k</b>                      | a) Singer and guitarist for the band 'Amanar', the only male member              |
| ___ Mariama Walet Mohamed El Mocatar <b>j</b>        | b) Members of the band 'Bombino' who discuss rebellion and social responsibility |
| ___ Manny Ansfar <b>e</b>                            | c) Nomadic peoples of the Sahara   |
| ___ Nouri Mohamed Alamine al Ansari <b>d</b>         | d) Humanist researcher and teacher at the Library of Timbuktu                    |
| ___ Kel Tamashek <b>c</b>                            | e) Founder and president of the festival   |
| ___ Salifists <b>g</b>                               | f) Singer in the band 'Tartit'   |
| ___ Fadimata Walet Omar <b>h</b>                     | g) Militant Islamists of extremely orthodox faith who have invaded the region    |
| ___ Mohamed Issa Ag Omar Amsari <b>a</b>             | h) Founding member of the band 'Tartit'  |
| ___ Zeïnabou Walet Omar <b>f</b>                     | i) Scholar of the Koran  |
| ___ Souleymane Ag Al-Wâfi <b>i</b>                   | j) Girl interviewed in Timbuktu who will be attending the festival               |
| ___ Oumara Moctar Bombino and Serge Mohamed <b>b</b> | k) Filmmaker and narrator  |

### ***Comprehension Questions***

1. Illily Ag Elmedi is the computer expert for the festival. He shows a group of people his plans for the festival using photoshop. These plans include an equivalent space for parking, but it is not for cars. What is this area called and what is its purpose?

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2. When Mariama is interviewed in Timbuktu, what reason does she give for wanting to attend the festival? Who will she go with? Why is she able to speak French so well?

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3. The Kel Tamashek lifestyle can be described in one word. What is threatening the freedom of their lifestyle in sub-Saharan Africa?

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4. Nouri Mohamed Alamine al Ansari explains why the Kel Tamashek men wear the litham, a face veil. Explain its literal and symbolic purpose in your own words.

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5. The Timbuktu peace-flame and the music festival are symbolic of what event? Be specific about each.

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6. The festival is a symbol against what new threat in the region?

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7. The festival promotes Islam. What message does the film portray regarding Islam?

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8. The terrorist group discussed in the film is having an effect on the sub-Saharan region and the festival itself. Name one way that it affects each.

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9. What does Ahmed Ag Kaedi believe that the guitar represents? What does he use the guitar to do?

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10. What does Mamatal Ag Dahmane, the manager of music and culture, say about Kel Tamashek women's rights in relation to women's rights in France?

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11. Where did the women of the band Tartit meet? As the women drum during their performance, the man on stage pretends to be what?

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12. What do the band members of Tartit say about women's rights and their role in Kel Tamashek society? Are women more or less powerful than men? How do men view them? How do they view themselves?

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13. The music created by the band Tartit focuses on many issues including the eternal struggle for survival. Specifically, what is the number one threat to survival that the sub-Saharan peoples face?

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14. Intagrist El Ansari, writer and press of the festival, explains the origin and meaning of the word Touareg. Try to summarize it in your own words.

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15. What does Souleymane Ag Al-Wâfi say has changed in the way that the Koran is being interpreted and used since his birth? What is the first commandment of Islam?

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16. What is the general message of Mohamed Issa's lovesong?

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17. Several men are interviewed discussing the injustices that they endure. What does Serge Mohamed say that people must be motivated to do now that the war is over?

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18. The word Ishumar means rebel. What is the origin of this word?

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19. What comparison is made between the Touareg and al-Qaeda?

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20. When extremists and the military fought in the 90s, what did the army do regarding wells?

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***Post-Viewing Discussion Questions:***

1. Choose one of the following two quotes and discuss the merit of it. Do you agree with the quote? Do you feel that it can be viewed from multiple angles? Call upon your background knowledge of these subjects to support your opinions.
  - a) Fadimata Walet Omar: "Touareg women are brave. We belong to the most liberated women in Africa."
  - b) Nouri Mohamed al Amine al Ansari: "Give the woman her value! She shapes the future of peace and good behavior for our world. The woman is calm. The man is really a savage. He lives in a cave under a tree. In the history of human kind... the man was a wild lion. She was the one teaching him tenderness...She is the sun, creating growing plants and blossoming flowers on our earth. The woman, and the beauty of a woman gives the man his energy. But many men don't understand that. Man sees women as a piece of merchandise. He only see the beauty of her body. He does not want to see the generosity of God, who has modeled a woman's face with warmth and kindness. She lives her life often for man and child. that is the glory of a woman."
  - c) Nouri Mohamed al Amine al Ansari: "Educate a boy and you will only educate one person. Educate a girl and you will educate a whole nation!"
  - d) Serge Mohamed: "A bomb of ideas is stronger than an atomic bomb."
  - e) In regards to the camel race on the last day of the festival: "Culture has no legs. Man has to carry it."
  
2. Compare and contrast the following groups based on beliefs and practices:  
Touareg, Kel Tamashek, Salifists, al-Qaeda

3. Considering what Souleymane Ag Al-Wâfi said about the Koran, Islam and Jihad, what is your overall impression of the Islamic faith?
  
4. The festival is an opportunity for students to gather and discuss issues both positive and negative. Elaborate on one of the following subjects.
  - a) War used to be a last option but today we are developed and gaining more education and studying languages to understand one another
  - b) Festival poses question for Kel Tamashek of how to resist the capitalist world but at the same time participate because you have to make yourself known. One leg in the world, one in our traditions.
  - c) Geo-political problem: Sahara is full of resources like gas, oil, solar energy and uranium which is gaining the interest of other countries
  - d) Mohamed Ali's education plan has grown all the way to North of Niger. It is clearly very valued.



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