



# OLIVER BLACK

By Tawfik Baba

# **OLIVER BLACK**

**Directed By: Tawfik Baba**

**Written By: Tawfik Baba**

**Produced By: Tawfik baba & Rabab Aboulhassani**

**Cast:**

**Modou Mbow**

**Hassan Richiou**

**Ilham Oujri**

**Mohamed El Kachir**

**Photography: Smail Touil**

**Editing: Aissam Raja**

**Music: Zakaria Nouih**

**Running Time :**

1h. 33min. 03sec

**Log Line :**

Vendredi , a young black African boy crosses the desert to reach Morocco to make the art of circus, and ends up been in ISIS.

**Synopsis Short :**

VENDREDI, a young black African boy walks alone in the desert, and meets WHITE MAN. Both they go into a journey into nowhere. Vendredi wants to make Circus in Morocco. White Man wants to assist to his grand daughter's wedding. During their travel, their relationship goes higher and very deep. Vendredi gives the whole innocence and bravery he has, and saves White Man from a mine and pulls him for long distance till an army stops them. Vendredi becomes a soldier after White sells him as a simple object. Finally Vendredi becomes a new terrorist with ISIS. He becomes Oliver Black.

**Synopsis Long :**

Vendredi (Friday) a young black African boy crosses the desert to reach Morocco. He walks alone and meets WHITE MAN, An old man who, looks for his lost dromedary to go to his grand daughter's wedding. They begin their journey and seek for water from different places, while they talk about big causes of the world. White Man takes Friday to a well and rob the water from it, then they run away. Tomorrow morning, The old Man releases that they are not alone, and someone is after them. They go fast into the vast desert and spend another night together talking about war, black and white people and the all whole life behind.

While walking, suddenly ANUK, a lonely Black man shows up behind them, and joins their voyage, and share their meal at night. When he sees that they are asleep, he approaches

Friday and tries to rape him, but White Man saves the kid and hits Anuk. Friday runs away and vanishes in the darkness.

In the morning, Friday wakes up and walks alone, till he sees White Man, and runs to him and knows then that the old man has a mine under his feet, and he's about to blow up.

Friday refuses to go and saves White man and both continue their journey. At night, Friday talks profoundly about his mute mama and his unknown father and sing an improvised song about his life. When he wakes up he finds White man agonizing and decides to help him. He pulls him on a stretcher for a long distance, while White asks him to stop, but too late. An army stops them. Friday becomes a soldier of something he ignores. White man comes out from the infirmary, and meets Anuk in a cave and hands him his share of money as the price of selling Friday! White Man is just a human trader. Friday on a pick-up with other new guys with the flag of ISIS, Heading to a new circus bigger than the one he dreamt of. Now he's Olive Black.

### **Producer statement :**

At the very beginning, this film was kind of a challenge. The challenge of bringing a beautiful film into the world with a very micro budget. I especially wanted this film made by a young African team and to be made for an African cause. I wanted to make a film that carries within it universal human values.

As a filmmaker, I dream of exporting Moroccan cinema beyond borders. A universal theme and a beautiful story that could touch all types of film lovers and catch all sensitive eyes to the beauty were inevitable. Since first time I read, OLIVER BLACK script, it has seduced my tastes as a producer. The desire to produce a good film indeed blew up in me. Hand in hand, with Tawfik, we took the road of this beautiful trip with the main mission was to reveal a dark side of our reality of a poor African migrant who chooses to leave his motherland without really choosing his final destination. Friday, as a character, has managed to portray all those tarnished souls, who run behind the darkness, in search of a little thread of light.

Today I still touch this love that was the basis of this adventure. An adventure that began with "if only we could do ..?" And still continues with "yes, we can..!"

**Rabab Aboulhassani**

### **Director statement :**

When you just go through some lonely streets and see some foreign guys from Mali, Senegal, Ivory Coast or Burkina Faso...begging and asking strangers for a piece of bread or some money to feed themselves or their kids... When you just walk and fade into your own warmth and touch your cold heart and feel it sad. Thus you know: A new age of slavery is raised. A slavery chosen by their own free will. They dream to cross the borders and cross the sea to reach Europe and make a beautiful tomorrow, but they stuck here. And little by little, their dreams fade away and they give up, and leave only a profound hidden tear in their beautiful eyes. In the other side, I see us, like that lizard, which witnessed those sad

gloomy stories and can't talk, like Mama Africa, can't talk... This is how Oliver Black invades my thoughts as a writer, then as a Director.

I just tried to tell a story where I am silent. To tell a story of a journey where childhood is taken from its innocence, and where dreams can be bigger than a whole nothingness in no man's land. Once in 1963, someone said "I have a dream!" and made it an endless hope for all the humans... But now, it becomes Friday, a used and a slaved everlasting character.

I tried to tell others, that something is happening. We're losing our humanity, we're losing our dignity and we just pretend we're Ok, and we're not. I wanted to tell that we need to stop been machines waiting to be manipulated by other machines of economy, money, war, terrorism and politics... As much as I know I am just a little single lonely voice with a very bad ugly tune to sing a freedom song.

When I met Modou Mbow, I felt proud that I finally brought some warmth to my heart, and some courage to tell a story of him and others, especially and during the table read, he told me that he made this journey by foot, 8 months ago. He came from Senegal, crossed Mauritania, then Morocco, from its deep south to Casablanca.

Oliver Black is a whisper to those who come late home, and want to share a good hot soup with their kids and their beloved ones, and then close the windows to keep everybody warm inside, regardless of everything outside: cold, loneliness, savagery, lies and darkness.

I made it, simply because it's a part of my identity, a part of me. Oliver Black lives in us and still does.

I also wanted to reborn implicitly all the sorrows and pains left behind the gate of Gorée, and pointed to give a try to bring Blacks and whites to help Africa builds Africa, instead of raping it.

**Tawfik Baba.**

#### **UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS:**

Yes, certainly, there's a connotation of racism inside the story. I opened the film with The ISIS terrorist and the young granddaughter, and the Black Mammy and Anuk in purpose. They are all victims! No matter how we can judge them, but they remain victims of a very big system that made them this way. At the end they just want to live or at least to survive. Deeply talking, the film shows the crisis of Identity. White man suffers from that, we don't know if he's an Algerian, or Moroccan, or Berber (granddaughter dances at night with Berber costume and Berber traditions) or may be a man with an Othman (Turkish) background (the granddaughter's night dance, when he shows up with Turkish costume), or a man who pretends to be French. Algeria was occupied by Ottomans 500 years, and then came French for 132 years! Friday too didn't speak WOLOF, his mother language, and speaks French. Friday's mother is mute as symbol of inferiority. She represents Mamma Africa who didn't and still doesn't talk even if we rob her and burn her, rape her... She's mute! I think that I want to pass a lot of hurting things inside a simple story of two different humans with the same background: underrepresented and lost identity.

**MODOU MBOW as VENDREDI (Friday) /  
Oliver Black**

Modou Mbow, 21 YO. He's from Senegal .Actually, he's living in Morocco. He came to work in trading. 3 years later, he met Tawfik Baba in a casting seance. Who took him as an actor for his feature Oliver Black. It was his first time to stand front of the camera and played the main caracter. Amazingly, he made it well and won best actor award in National Film Festival of Tangier 2020 in Morocco. Now, he want to be a professional actor.



**HASSAN RICHIOU as HOMME BLANC (White Man).**



Hassan was born in Casablanca, 1958. He worked for 26 years

He worked as an extra and background actor in a lot of foreign film projects in Ouarzazate like The Kingdom of Heaven, Toura Boura, Red Sea Operation... The Bible and AD tv series and many others. He also participated in morrocan project as second roles.

He played the main role in Oliver Black as The White Man in which he won an award a best actor in National Film Festival of Tangier 2020 in Morocco.

**FILMMAKERS BIOS**

### **DIRECTOR WRITER PRODUCER TAWFIK BABA:**

Tawfik Baba is a filmmaker based in Ouarzazate city, in Morocco. He studied French literatures at the university; then studied Directing and screenwriting skills at the French School of Arts and Medias STUDIO M in Casablanca. He also studied Spanish Language and Accountancy. Since teenager he loved writing, and tried to write whatever as poems, short stories and philosophical essays. As living in Ouarzazate, He worked in a lot of film shootings as Kingdom of heaven, Rules of engagement, Cleopatra, Babel... etc, in many different departments. In 2013, He got the fund of the Moroccan Cinematographic center as a screenwriter in a short "Ten dollars", then he got the same fund in 2014 for another screenplay of short " The ring". He wrote and directed his first short Epitaph in 2013, and then four others will follow: Winter time, Sand man, Routine, Clowns, and a feature pilot The lake House. In 2017, he wrote and directed his first indie Feature: Oliver Black released in 2020 .



### **PRODUCER RABAB ABLOUHASSANI:**

Rabab Ablouhassani, is a young Moroccan filmmaker, born in 1989. Passionate about cinema and literature since her young age, Rabab has embarked on writing since college. Her passion becomes a dream. She decided to make her way in the artistic field, especially the cinema. In 2009, she entered her first training in cinema in the city of Ouarzazate, the Hollywood of Africa. She obtained her degree in production management at the Poly-disciplinary University of Ouarzazate. In 2013, she joined her second training, film production in Marrakech at the "Ecole Supérieure des Arts Visuels" (High School of Visual Arts). In 2017, she enrolled in a





third training at the same ESAV MARRRAKECH School, this time in film directing. Alongside her studies, Rabab has always integrated into film crews. She has participated in several projects as assistant director, production assistant and production manager. In 2015, she started production. She founded the 7th Sense Film company with Tawfik Baba. She produced the short film "Clowns" and a Feature pilot "Maison du Lac" (The lake house) both written and directed by Tawfik Baba. At the age of 27, Rabab co-produced her first feature film "Oliver Black" directed by Tawfik Baba and produced by the 7th Sense company. An indie film, produced, made with love, which won two awards in 2020 at the National Film Festival of Tangier in Morocco. At the age of 30, Rabab began to take her first steps in directing. She made three small documentaries and a short film. Her second short film is in preproduction. Recently, she has created her own film production company: Prestige Pictures.

#### **EDITOR AISSAM RAJA:**

Aissam RAJA is a Moroccan born in Hollywood of Africa: city of Ouarzazate. He is a Graphic Designer, Photographer, video maker he has over 10 years of experience working in-studio and independently as a freelancer. Aissam has helped build brand identities and promotional material for small businesses as well as created well rounded Designs, Photos and Videos for advertising campaigns and digital products for companies.

Aissam has a wide creative background, he was studied in the University of Ouarzazate 3 years of cinematography and audiovisuals technics graduating with honors, then he founded a Video Production house and Graphic Designs named Cybola Sound, He was trained classically in visual art, and participating in so many National and International movie shooting, Tv programs, advertising, Clip videos...

Aissam then went on to work with his friends in Marrakech to expand the business and reach out more Moroccan and Foreign clients providing his experience for their employment solutions, strengthening their brand strategy and designing their marketing and promotional material. Apart from working in-house Aissam has spent time as a Freelance designer, building brand identities with independently owned businesses.





### **ORIGINAL MUSIC COMPOSER ZAKARIA NOUIH:**

ZAKARIA NOUIH, 27 YO. He is a young film music composer from the city of oujda.

After beginning his career in 2008 as a pianist, zakaria is now composing original strips for several films, documentaries and advertising spots.

Among these most renowned works, the composition of music for the film "ima" by hicham regrabui, oliver black by Tawfik Baba les tarme du sand by aziz salmy, houria by oussama azzi, alter ego by simo sedraty, he is

also composer of the "machi fenan" web series.

The young artist has released 6 albums, the most known is "the inseparable".

### **DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY SMAIL TOUIL:**

Smail Touil Has studied Economy at the university, then came back to Ouarzazate and studied Camera and Photography at the institute of Filmmaking in Ouarzazate ISMC. He first experience as DOP was with Tawfik Baba in 2013 for the short film Epitaph. He worked with him then in most of the projects, as well as Oliver Black. Meanwhile, he worked as Focus Puller and cameraman in so many projects in national Tv series, and also as DOP in another feature TARANTELLA. Now, he's still working in Tv series as Cameraman.





## **Technical Information:**

*Running Time:*

93 Min.....

*Production year :*

2020.....

**Genre :**

*Drama, Road Movie.....*

*Aspect Ratio .....16:9*

*Resolution .....4k (original)*

*Sound.....5.1*

## **AWARDS:**

FICA International Film Festival de Ciné Austral. Codoba. Argentina 2021

1. Best Cinematography

ACADEMIE DES SOTIGUI 2021

1. Best actor in North Africa Hassan Richiou in 2021.

GAFF - Galil Adventure Film Festival. Israel . 2021

1. Best Film

CLIT International Film Festival. Setubal. Portugal 2021

1. Best Actor Hassan Richiou

International Film Festival: Fashion Film Awards 2020. Los Angeles, USA

1. Best Director Award for TAWFIK BABA
2. Best actor award for MODOU MBOW.

Seoul Guro International Kids Film Festival. South Korea 2021

1. Best Film Grand prize

Tangier National Film Festival 2020. Morocco

1. Best actor Award in a leading role for HASSAN RICHIOU
2. Best actor Award in a supporting role for MODOU MBOW
3. Special Mention From The Moroccan Association of Film Critics.

International Film Festival of Lleda 2020. Spain

1. Best Foreign Film Award.

Festival: Festival International Do Cinema Do Chao 2020. Brazil

1. Best Foreign Film Award.

## NOMINATIONS & OFFICIAL SELECTIONS:

1. AFRIFF Africa International Film Festival Lagos Nigeria. 2021
2. FESPACO. Pan-African Film & TV Festival of Ouagadougou. Burkina Faso. 2021.
3. CLIT International Film Festival. Setubal. Portugal 2021
4. Diorama International Film Festival. New Delhi India. 2021
5. AIFF Amman International Film Festival. Jordan. 2021
6. STORY & Screen International Film Festival. London. England. 2021
7. Patmos International Film Festival. Patmos Greece. 2021
8. UGU International Film Festival. South Africa. 2021
9. Noble International Film Festival And Awards 2021. India
10. MAX Diversity Film Festival 2021. Brussels Belgium
11. 4th Multicultural Film Festival, Toronto Canada 2021
12. CINEMA OF NATIONS. 2021. Berlin. Germany
13. HECare Film Festival (Human-Environment Care Film Festival HECFF). 2021 Ontario Canada
14. Afrikamera Film Festival. 2021 Berlin. Germany
15. The Austral International Film Festival. Cordoba. 2021. Argentina
16. The 5<sup>th</sup> International Folklore Film Festival. 2022. India
17. People of Color: The International Cultural Exchange. 2021. New York. USA
18. Preselection: Golden Globes 78th. 2020. Los Angeles USA
19. Capri Hollywood Film Awards 2020. Italy
20. Fashion Film Festival 2020. Los Angeles USA nominee to:

- Best film

- Best Director Tawfik Baba
- Best Actor Hassan Richiou
- Best Actor Modou Mbow
- Best Costume Designer to Bouazza Warradi

21. Africa Film Festival International Festival QUIBDO 2020. Colombia
22. Zapatoca Santander International Film Festival 2020. Colombia
23. Festival International Charity Film Festival. Monaco 2021. France
24. Festival International Religions Today Film Festival. Trento 2020. Italy
25. International Independent Film Festival. 2020 Romania
26. International Straight Jacket Gorilla Festival. 2020. United Kingdom
27. First Time Filmmaker International Festival. London 2020. United Kingdom.
28. International Festival Lift Off Global Session. London 2020. United Kingdom.
29. International London Eco film Festival. London. United Kingdom 2021
  - a. Finalist
  - b. Narrative Feature Special Mention
30. First Time Film Maker International Film Festival. London. United Kingdom 2021
31. Afrika Film Festival Köln. Germany 2021.
32. International film Festival CinemAfrica Bologna. Italy 2021.
33. Seoul Guro International Kids Film Festival. South Korea 2021.

**Links:**

IMDB: [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt13778298/?ref=nm\\_sr\\_srsrg\\_1](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt13778298/?ref=nm_sr_srsrg_1)

WIKIPEDIA: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oliver\\_Black\\_\(film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oliver_Black_(film))

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OliverBlackMovie>

### Reviews:

[https://www.goldenglobes.com/articles/oliver-black-morocco?fbclid=iwar37pehvc2xhsnc75uuldmtdmfnf1\\_9htorshmtcyznxp43gzclspd7afds](https://www.goldenglobes.com/articles/oliver-black-morocco?fbclid=iwar37pehvc2xhsnc75uuldmtdmfnf1_9htorshmtcyznxp43gzclspd7afds)

<https://doc.aljazeera.net/cinema/-أوليفر-بلاك-لقاء-الشيخ-و-الشاب/?fbclid=IwAR0LnNaDdvisoTNozqErzTpJi-31wU5Y5XtjzH5814xIjLgT8C68PEZFXM0>

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[https://aujourd'hui.ma/culture/son-premier-film-oliver-black-est-selectionne-dans-la-categorie-des-films-etrangers-tawfiq-baba-en-lice-pour-le-prix-international-golden-globes-awards?fbclid=IwAR0jCa-U66ne7K6Niux\\_G4HIRgL\\_MhaZhqxbVb3DSKMUR5ylGAQwMXEI0b0](https://aujourd'hui.ma/culture/son-premier-film-oliver-black-est-selectionne-dans-la-categorie-des-films-etrangers-tawfiq-baba-en-lice-pour-le-prix-international-golden-globes-awards?fbclid=IwAR0jCa-U66ne7K6Niux_G4HIRgL_MhaZhqxbVb3DSKMUR5ylGAQwMXEI0b0)

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<https://cdn.website-editor.net/99fc1b625bcf4d27974532eb5603b5d2/files/uploaded/CINEFUTUR.pdf>

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<https://vimeo.com/221197583>

<https://2m.ma/fr/news/le-festival-national-du-film-de-tanger-attribue-ses-prix-reportage-20200308/>

<http://www.maghrebarts.net/fr/films/oliver-black/>

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<https://www.eg24.news/2020/03/the-film-autumn-of-apples-directed-by-mohamed-meftakeer-wins-the-grand-prize-of-the-national-film-festival-in-tangier.html>

#### **Photos & Stills:**



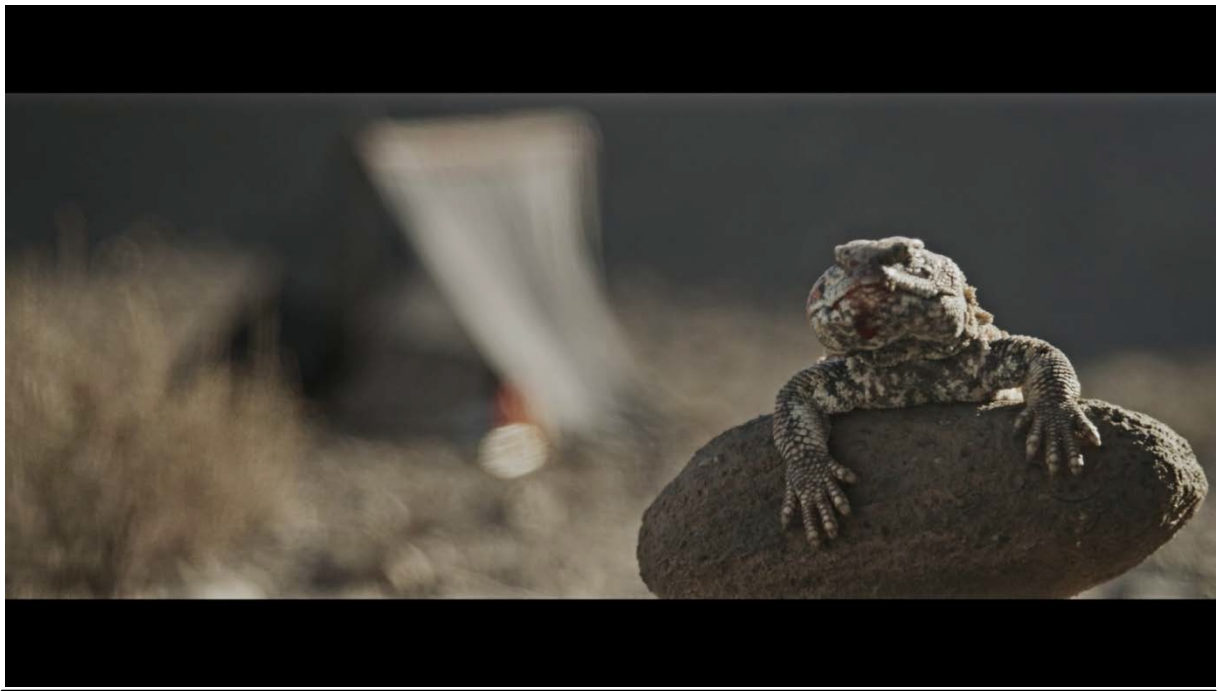












### On Set























**FINAL END CREDIT**

OLIVER BLACK

Modou MBOW  
Hassan RICHIOU  
Ilham OIJRI  
Mohamed ELKACHIR

PRODUCERS

Rabab ABOULHASSANI  
Tawfik BABA

SCREENPLAY BY

Tawfik BABA

CASTING

Mehdi JGHO

PRODUCTION DESIGN

Brahim MESSAOUDI

CAST

Vendredi (Friday)	Modou Mbow
Homme Blanc (White Man)	Hassan RICHIOU
The Girl	Ilham OIJRI
Anuk	Mohamed ELKACHIR
Friday's Mom	Fatima HOUKKA

EXTRAS



Pickup	Mustapha BELMEQUEDDEM Yassine JABER Tarik FIKRI Houcine JGHOU Babacar FAYE
Soldier	Ismail EL IDRISSE

#### PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT

Production Manager	Rabab ABOULHASSANI
Production Assistant	Amina ELHARRAS
Production Secretary	Noura ARGUIEN

#### LOCATION DEPARTMENT

Location Manager	Abderrahim ABDENOUR
Location Assistants	Abdeljalil JGHOU Hicham MOUJOUINE
Assistants	Ismail IDRISSE Boubker TAZNAKHTÉ Abidine AMZIL Tarik FIKRI

#### AD's DEPARTMENT

1st Assistant Director	Abdellatif TALEBY
2 <sup>nd</sup> Assistant Director	Moulay Khalid ELBOUMESHOULI
Script Supervisor	Marouane NEMSSAOUI
Casting	Mehdi JGHOU
Coach	Babacar FAYE

#### CAMERA DEPARTMENT

Director of Photography	Smail TOUIL
Assistants Camera	Essediq GHATOUS

Yassine JABER  
Fatima Ezzahra SEDDIK

Steadycam

Noureddine MECIFI

Making-off

Aziz Afkir

#### SOUND DEPARTMENT

Sound Engineer  
Boom Operators

Fouad ZRIOUIL  
Aissam RAJA  
Abbas DINOURI

#### PROPS DEPARTMENT

Production Designer  
Props Assistant

Ibrahim MESSAOUDI  
Abdellatif ESSABER

Props Master

Ibrahim MESSAOUDI

Animal Handler

Abdellatif ESSABER

#### COSTUME DESIGNER

Bouazza WARRADI

#### MAKEUP & HAIR ARTIST

Meryem OUBELLA

#### ELECTRICITY / GRIP

Gaffer  
Key Grip  
Assistants

Noureddine MECIFI  
Rachid AKHZAM  
Adil Zegnoun  
Abdelali ATEL

#### POST-PRODUCTION

Film Editor

Aissam RAJA

Assistant Editor	Yassine JABER
Colorist	Aissam RAJA
Sound Effects	Amine ARROM
Sound Mixer	Amine ARROM
Original Music	Zakaria NOUIH

Sound Effects and Sound Mixing made in ESAV MARRAKECH STUDIOS



#### CATERING

Fatima Zahra IGHIR  
Fadma HJJAJ  
Abdellatif AIT TALEB  
Ismail EL IDRISSE  
Salwa IGHIR

#### TRANSPORTATION

Mohamed ALLA  
Abdelhakim  
Aziz

#### THANKS

Mme. Rabiaa GHAFOURI  
Mme. Aicha SAIDY  
M. Abdellah ABOULHASSANI  
Mme. Meryam ABOULHASSANI  
M. Vincent MELLILI  
M. Abdelilah HILAL  
M. Nouredine ABERDINE  
M. Valter DE FILIPPIS

M. Mahjoub AHBID  
M. Mustapha AFAKKIR  
M. Yassine QUOUNINE  
M. Ismail AIT LAHCEN  
M. Said ANDAM  
Mme. Fadma BOURZIK

With our great gratitude to every person who cooperated from near or far in the  
making of this work, particularly the crew.

OLIVER BLACK

By  
Tawfik Baba

7th Sense  
2020 ©

**PRODUCTION COMPANY LOGO**

