



**BURLINGTON FILM SOCIETY**

[VTIFF.ORG/BFS](http://vtiff.org/bfs)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Area Theatrical Premiere of Academy Award Nominated *Timbuktu* in March**

Burlington, VT: (March 16, 2015) Main Street Landing, The Burlington Film Society (BFS), the Vermont International Film Foundation (VTIFF) are pleased to present an exclusive Burlington area theatrical premiere of the 2015 Academy Award nominee for Best Foreign Language film, Mauritanian/French production *Timbuktu*. The screening will take place on Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at The Main Street Landing Film House, 60 Lake Street in Burlington. Following the screening, there will be discussion lead by Laurence Clerfeuille, board member of Alliance Française and professor of French at Saint Michael's College.

This screening of *Timbuktu* is free for VTIFF Members, \$8 general admission, \$5 for students. Tickets can be purchased at the door or online at: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1360733>. To learn more about VTIFF Membership and benefits, please visit <http://vtiff.org/membership>.

Screening sponsored by Main Street Landing and Alliance Francaise of the Lake Champlain Region

About the film:

Timbuktu

2014, 97 Minutes, Mauritania/France, rated PG-13

Directed by Abderrahmane Sissako

Nominee – Best Foreign Language Film - 2015 Academy Awards

Official Competition 2014 Cannes Film Festival (Winner: Prix du Jury Ecuménique, François Chalais Award)

Not far from Timbuktu, now ruled by religious fundamentalists, Kidane lives peacefully in the dunes with his wife Satima, his daughter Toya, and Issan, their shepherd. In town, the people suffer, powerless, from the regime of terror imposed by the Jihadists. Music, laughter, cigarettes, even soccer have been banned. The women have become shadows but resist with dignity. Every day, the new improvised courts issue tragic and absurd sentences. Kidane and his family had been spared the chaos that prevails in Timbuktu, but when their destiny changes abruptly, Kidane must face the new laws of the foreign occupants.

Abderrahmane Sissako (born 13 October 1961) is a film director and producer who has often worked in Mali and France. Sissako is, along with Ousmane Sembène, Souleymane Cissé, Idrissa Ouedraogo and Djibril Diop Mambety, one of the few filmmakers from Sub-Saharan Africa to reach a measure of international influence. His film *Waiting for Happiness* (Heremakono) was screened at the 2002 Cannes Film Festival official selection under *Un Certain Regard*, winning the FIPRESCI Prize. His 2007 film *Bamako* received much attention. Sissako's themes include globalization, exile and the displacement of people. His 2014 film *Timbuktu* was selected to compete for the Palme d'Or in the main competition section at the 2014 Cannes Film Festival.

**Main Street Landing** is an environmentally and socially conscious redevelopment company in Burlington, Vermont that has created over 250,000 square feet of built environment on the Burlington Waterfront. The Film House, located at 60 Lake Street is used primarily for film screenings and presentations. It is equipped with a large screen that covers west facing windows, control room, Dolby surround sound, retractable screen, and smart podium and can fit up to 220 people. More information at [www.mainstreetlanding.com](http://www.mainstreetlanding.com).

**The Vermont International Film Foundation (VTIFF)** is a cultural non-profit organization whose mission is to enrich the community through film, celebrating 30 years, 1985-2015. VTIFF is a year-round organization that showcases community film screenings, hosts film series like the Global Roots Series, and supports Vermont filmmakers. The largest program of the Foundation is the annual Vermont International Film Festival. The festival is best known for featuring groundbreaking and independent films from around the world and Vermont and for the Vermont Filmmakers' Showcase™, the largest juried selection of Vermont-made films. More information at [www.vtiff.org](http://www.vtiff.org).

**The Burlington Film Society (BFS)** is a resource for local film events, meet-ups and an advocacy platform for cinema. The mission of the Film Society is to cultivate film culture in the greater Burlington

area through the creation of an organizational mechanism for cineastes; by working with area theaters, arts presenters, granting organizations, educational institutions, and businesses to generate opportunities for theatrical screenings of films; and by increasing opportunity for engagement with and appreciation of cinema. For more information about The Burlington Film Society, visit [vtiff.org/bfs](http://vtiff.org/bfs).

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