

**RADIANT AND UNCOMPROMISING**

LIBÉRATION

**ENLIGHTENING**

HUFFINGTON POST

**MOVING AND LUCID**

LES INROCKUPTIBLES

**FASCINATING**

LE MONDE

**ESSENTIAL**

TÉLÉRAMA

# SPEAK UP

**WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY  
AMANDINE GAY**

**BRAS DE FER PRODUCTION PRESENTS SPEAK UP • WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY AMANDINE GAY**  
STARRING AÏSS BERG • AMÉLIA EWU • FANIA NOËL • FANNY AKA THISISKIYEMIS • LAURA AKA MRSROOTS • MABOULA SOUMAHORO  
MANY CHRONIQUES • MARIE LÉDA • MARIE-JULIE CHALU • MERCI MICHEL • NASS • NDELLA PAYE • ORNELLA AKA LOULOU • PO B. K. LOMAMI  
RACHEL KHAN • RÉBÉCCA CHAILLON • SABINE PAKORA • SANDRA • SANDRA SAINTE ROSE FANCHINE • SHARONE • TAÏNA • THARA • ZINA





BRAS DE FER PRODUCTION PRESENTS

# SPEAK UP

A FILM BY **AMANDINE GAY**

2017 – FRANCE – DOCUMENTARY – FRENCH – 122'

## **SYNOPSIS**

*Women of African descent converse about what it means to be a woman today and belong to the Afro community. By sharing their experiences and aspirations for the future, they speak up and take control again of their own representation.*

## **DIRECTOR'S NOTE**

SPEAK UP is born out of my desire to occupy public space and to explain why the intersection of discriminations faced by black women in France and Belgium is as problematic as it is political.

SPEAK UP is my response to the need for black francophone women to reclaim the narrative since we are too often silenced or presented as passive victims. This film is also a celebration of our diversity as Afro-descendants: black women born in France and Belgium, or elsewhere, from French, Belgian or immigrant parents, from all kinds of paths, faiths, sexual orientation, etc.

SPEAK UP is a political portrait of black women in francophone Europe, revealing the complexity and diversity of our lives and identities. Beyond personal anecdotes lie the political issues that black women have to face. That's the reason why I chose the form of a conversation through intertwined narratives so that my experience could be nuanced and enriched by that of other black women.

SPEAK UP is my way of celebrating the history of black women resistance, who, since marooning, through creolity, pan-africanism, negritude and afro-feminism have always invented tools enabling them not to be silenced. This film is for those who fought before us and a testimony to those who will come after us.

Amandine GAY

## DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Amandine Gay is a political author.

Following her graduation from the Institute of Political Studies in Lyon in 2007 with a masters in communication, Amandine joined the Conservatory of Dramatic Art in Paris 16 and began performing in theatre, film and television. Since 2012, she has also been working as a screenwriter and she's also been contributing as a freelance journalist for Slate.fr.

In 2014 she takes on directing with a reportage on the #BoycottExhibitB demonstrations, and that same year, she starts working on her first documentary, SPEAK UP, a feature-length about francophone black women.

Most recently, Amandine authored the preface of the first French translation of bell hooks' seminal, *Ain't I A Woman*. She is currently living in Montreal, completing her second master's degree in sociology, focusing on transracial adoption.

She is a director, writer, freelance journalist and speaker. She is regularly asked to speak about afro-feminism, intersectionality and adoption at events such as the Toronto and Winnipeg Spur Festival. Students were able to hear her at the University of Edinburgh, the Université du Québec à Montréal, at UOttawa, at the University of Lausanne, at the Université Lumière Lyon 2, at the École de Recherche Graphique in Brussels, at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris, etc.

You can follow her adventures in French and English on her Twitter account @OrpheoNegra or blog <https://badassafofem.wordpress.com>

## **CAST**

AISS BERG	ORNELLA AKA LOULOU
AMELIA EWU	PO B.K LOMAMI
ELEONORE	RACHEL KHAN
FANIA NOEL	REBECCA CHAILLON
FANNY AKA THISISKYEMIS	SABINE PAKORA
LAURA AKA MRSROOTS	SANDRA
MABOULA SOUMAHORO	SANDRA SAINTE ROSE
MANY CHRONIQUES	FANCHINE
MARIE LEDA	SHARONE
MARIE JULIE CHALU	TAINA
MERCI MICHEL	THARA
NASS	ZINA
NDELLA PAYE	

## **CREW**

Director	Amandine GAY
Editing	Enrico BARTOLUCCI
Dir. of photography	Enrico BARTOLUCCI
Sound	Enrico BARTOLUCCI
Additional camera	Coralie CHALON
Calibration	Valentin DAMON @Les machineurs
Sound mixing	Karim BERRAF
Production	Bras de Fer Production
International Sales	mk2 films

## INTERNATIONAL SALES



55 rue Traversière  
75012 Paris

**Juliette Schrameck**

Managing Director of mk2 films

[juliette.schrameck@mk2.com](mailto:juliette.schrameck@mk2.com)

**Fionnuala Jamison**

Head of International Sales & Acquisitions

[fionnuala.jamison@mk2.com](mailto:fionnuala.jamison@mk2.com)

**Ola Byszuk**

International Sales Executive

[ola.byszuk@mk2.com](mailto:ola.byszuk@mk2.com)

**Léa Cunat**

International Sales Executive

[lea.cunat@mk2.com](mailto:lea.cunat@mk2.com)

**Anne-Laure Barbarit**

Festivals Manager & Servicing

[anne-laure.barbarit@mk2.com](mailto:anne-laure.barbarit@mk2.com)