



**KALANDA**  
**The Knowledge of the Bush**

**A documentary about *donsoya*, the knowledge of initiated hunters in Burkina Faso**

**A documentary by Lorenzo Ferrarini  
UK-Burkina Faso, 2014, 62 min.**



In some parts of West Africa, hunting is much more than killing animals. A *donso* is no common hunter, but a healer, a diviner, a ritual specialist and amulet maker.

*KALANDA - The Knowledge of the Bush* is a unique initiatory journey into the knowledge of *donsoya* from the perspective of the filmmaker. It was filmed during a year of research in Burkina Faso, thanks to the filmmaker's initiation and practice of *donsoya*. His teacher becomes a narrator who carries him and the viewer through a variety of experiences that show the richness of the knowledge of the hunters.

The camera and sound recording techniques work to position the viewer in the shoes of an apprentice: the whole documentary mixes autobiography and reconstruction, continuously blurring

the line between teachings and fiction. Filming involved the hunters in a collaborative process, layering observational footage, experimental video, out-of-sync sound and still photography.