

KAFS SESSION 3 2016.8.30 TUE 17:30-
at COLLEGE OF CROSS-CULTURAL AND
MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Les maîtres fous JEAN ROUCH



Kumamoto Anthropology Film Society (KAFS)
The 3rd Film Screening
Les maîtres fous (The Mad Masters)

Language: French with English subtitles
France; 1955; 28 min; Color

The work of Jean Rouch is some of the most influential and experimental in ethnographic filmmaking. In both West Africa and France, Rouch touches on not only on culture and ritual practice but also subjects of colonialism, racism and human relations. Influenced by surrealism, and developing reflexive friendships with his subjects, his work goes beyond documentary anthropology and creates an artistic and controversial style of ethnofiction.

Les maîtres fous

This early ethnofiction documents the Hauka movement in Niger. Rouch uses the film to show a spirit possession ritual in which the participants mimic and criticize the British colonial authorities ruling the country at that time. The film has been controversial among both Europeans and Africans and was first banned in British territories in Africa.

(by Joshua Rickard)

About KAFS/ Faculty of Letters, Keida Seminar HP:

<http://www.let.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/ihs/soc/anthropology/keida/2016/08/kafs-2-2nd-session-documenting-disability-karen-nakamuras-ethnographic-film.html>