

Hassane MEZINE  
présents



فانون البارح  
اليوم

# FANON YESTERDAY, TODAY

Directed By HASSANE MEZINE



Alternative  
Espaces  
Citoyens

## ESPACE FRANTZ FANON

“ Chaque génération doit dans une relative opacité,  
découvrir sa mission, la remplir ou la trahir ”.

With the Voices of  
Olivier FANON  
Marie TSAKALA

Music By  
Yaz FENTAZI

WITH THE PARTICIPATION of  
Abelhamid MEHRI - Jacques LADSOUS - Olivier FANON - Marie-Jeanne MANUELLAN - Mohamed Salah SEDDIK - Ousmane  
DAN GALADIMA - Lylia KESTELOOT - Arnaldo PALACIOS - Raphaël CONFIANT - Flavio ALMADA «LBC SOLDJAH» -  
Maboula SOUMAHORO - Houria BOUTELDJA - Cornell WEST - Ibrahim DIORI - Salima GHEZALI - Masixole MLANDU - Samah JABR

IMAGE & SOUND : Omar BENDERRA - Tomislav JANCAR - Diana MATEUS GOMES - Hassane MEZINE EDITING : Oriane BRUN MOSCHETTI GRAPHIC DESIGN : Dhia BEN NASER -  
IMAGE GRADING : Christophe LENOIR - SOUND MIX & DESIGN : Benoit FLEURY - Éric NAVARRO  
TRANSLATION : Fatimata VETU TRAORE - Rachida LAMRI - DINA BENDERRA - Kamel BOUZEBOUDJEN - Susan GIBBS

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avec le soutien des





A faded, grayscale portrait of Frantz Fanon, a Black man with short hair, wearing a light-colored shirt and a dark jacket. The portrait is centered in the background of the page.

## **2021, SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF FRANTZ FANON**

## **2021, SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RELEASE OF « THE WRETCHED OF THE EARTH »**

A pivotal year of many crises, 2021 is the sixtieth anniversary of Frantz Fanon's passing and of the publication of *The Wretched of the Earth*, his final work. Much more than a political testament, this ultimate book remains one of the fundamental works for the emancipation of the peoples of the South. The conditions prevailing in the early 1960s have certainly changed. But the contradictions between exploiting North and dominated South remain the norm of international relations; as unambiguously demonstrated by the situations in Africa and in Latin America. Liberal globalisation and the use of a work force from the South have transposed, in new ways, into Europe and North America, the conflicts inherited from colonialism. Racism and xenophobia, islamophobia and necrophobia disfigure the wealthy societies of the North, eaten away by social injustice, the misery of many facing the boundless enrichment of predatory elites. Liberation, according to Fanon, occurs through the struggle against all forms of alienation, whether political or psychological. Colonialism and its new forms are the vectors of psychic suffering which is an integral part of the apparatus of imperialist domination. Fanon's diagnostic of these psychopathological dimensions as well as of the nature of politico-economic and socio-cultural antagonisms has not lost its validity and its relevance, far from it. Contrary to what his detractors have hoped, the sharp gaze of the flint-Warrior, as Césaire called him, enlightens the debate on an unfinished process of decolonisation.

The warm and attentive welcome reserved to the documentary film *Fanon, Yesterday and Today* at many festivals and throughout the circuit of academic exchanges, the recognition of director Hassan Mezine's work, notably through the two awards granted by the Festival Santiago Alvarez in Cuba all indicate the relevance of Mujahid Frantz Fanon's analyses. The voices of those who have crossed paths with Fanon in the 1950s add a human dimension and sensitive depth to a man who had pledged his existence to political liberation and the emancipation of all. Political actors and activists as well as psychotherapists and social workers across the globe are taking on the torch of the fight for humanity and resistance against oppression, in the South and in the South. *Fanon, Yesterday and Today* is an important contribution to understanding current decolonial struggles, on the cusp of major changes.

Director :	Hassane MEZINE	Category :	Feature Oocumentary
Producer :	TENGOUT PROD/ H. MEZINE	Year of production :	2019
Editing :	Oriane BRUN-MOSCHTETI	Screeningformat :	DCP/ProRes/H264
Music :	Yazid FENTAZI	Subtitles :	French,English, Spanish, Portuguese
Country :	Algéria/France	Lengh :	87min

**SYNOPSIS:**

Who was Frantz Fanon and what is his legacy today? From yesterday to today, film maker Hassane Mezine turns his camera towards women and men who knew and shared privileged moments with the "flint warrior", as per the beautiful formula by Aime Cesaire, in the course of the struggle, but also in family and friendly intimacy. Fanon died on December 1961, yet his thoughts irrigate numerous lands of struggle across the globe. What views on the thinker and the man of action do those who are engaged today on different fronts against injustice and the arbitrary bear?

The director brings the viewer on a journey from the homeland to the loci of political and social struggles passing through the land where Fanon is buried.

In the north and in the south of the world, activists speak about their struggles and testify about their relationships to Frantz Fanon. The transmission is thus established between the historical dimension and the diverse contemporary spaces swept by the Fanonian breath.

**FESTIVAL OFFICIAL SÉLECTION**

2018

ALGERIA	• Rencontres Cinématographiques Bejaia	GUADELOUPE	• Festival des Droits Humains
SPAIN	• Festival Conciencia Afro, Madrid	TUNISIA	• Festival Documed, Tunis

2019

CUBA	• Festival Santiago Alvarez, Santiago de Cuba	1st Best Screenplay
		2nd Best Director

BELGIUM	• Festival à films Ouverts, Bruxelles
MARTINIQUE	• Rencontres Cinéma Martinique
GUADELOUPE	• Festival Cri de Femmes • Festival du Réel

USA	• African Film Festival, New-York
	• African Diaspora International Festival, Washington DC
FRANCE	• Festival Douarnenez
	• Semaines anticoloniales et antiracistes 2019, St-julien-Molin-Molette
	• Festival Cinemagnalre, Argelès-sur-Mer
	• Festival Cinemafrika, Stockholm, SWEDEN
	• Africa In motion festival, Edinbourg, SCOTLAND
	• Arabisch Film Festival, Tlbingen, GERMANY
SOUTH AFRICA	• Encounters South Afrlcan International Documentary Festival Cap Town & Johannesburg

2021

USA	• Harlem International Film Festival, New-York
BURKINA FASO	• Koudougou Doc, Koudougou
	• FESPACO, Ouagadougou

**UNIVERSITIES/INSTITUTIONS**

**USA :** • Brown University, Providence • Tuft University, Boston • Emerson College, Boston  
UMASS, Amherst • Colby College, Waterville • NYU, New-York • UCONN, Storrs

**CANADA :** Simon Fraser UBC, Vancouver • Alternatives, Montréal

**COLOMBIA :** Carribean Studies Association, Universidad Santa de Marta • Universidad Nacional, Bogota

**EUROPE :**

UK:	• Goldsmith College, London • Warwick University, Birmingham • Rich Mix, London
	• Maynooth University, Dublin
FINLAND :	• University of Helsinki • Museum of Impossible (MIF)
SWEDEN :	• Upsala University • University Of Malmo • Lund University
NORWAY :	• Melahuset, Oslo •
PORTUGAL:	• Asociation Plataforma Getto, Lisbon • University of Coimbra
NETHERLANDS:	• Universiteit Amsterdam • Pakhuls de Zwijger, Amsterdam • Inspiratie Inc, Almere
FRANCE :	• Cité scolaire Frantz Fanon, Martinique • Université de Montpellier • Lycée Nord, Saint-Denis la Réunion
ITALY :	• Associazione Frantz Fanon, Torino & Napoli
SPAIN:	• Campus Poligono, Universidad Sevilla

**AFRICA :**

SOUTH AFRICA :	• University of SA (UNISA), Pretoria • Tshismanl Centre for Activist Education, Jo'burg •
ALGERIA :	• Université Alger 3 • Cinémathèque Algérienne, Alger • Ciné-Clubs de Mascara et Tlemcen
PALESTINE :	• University of Bethléem, Bethléem • Khalil Sakakini Cultural Center, Ramallah
TOGO :	• CineReflex, Woelab Prime, Lomé
MALI :	• Université de Kalaba, Bamako
BURKINA FASO:	• Université Kédougou, Kédougou
	• Thomas Sankara Center, Ouagadougou

## Biography summary

Frantz Fanon was born in Fort-de-France (Martinique-France) on July 20th 1925. He died at Bethesda, Maryland (United-States) on December 6th 1963, at the age of thirty-six. Trained as a psychiatrist, Frantz Fanon is an author and a decolonial activist. He is considered as one of the main thinker of the decolonisation and the role of the third world.

At the age of 18, during the second world war, he joins the French anti-Nazi forces and participates in particular in the battle of the Vosges. Once demobilized, he goes back to Martinique to obtain his high-school certificate. Thanks to scholarships, Fanon comes back to France to study medicine and philosophy. At the end of his studies, in the middle of the 1950's, he publishes his first book "Black skin, White masks", in which he talks about racism in the French society.

Appointed at the Blida hospital (Algeria) in 1953, he fights against the racist theories of the school of psychiatry of Algiers founded upon the inferiorization of the algerians : "without cortex". He joins the F.L.N (Front of National Liberation) in Tunis in 1956 where he contributes to the journal "Al Moudjahid"; and he is appointed ambassador of the GPRA (provisional government of the Algerian Republique) and charged with other leaders to open a military front in the south of the Sahara. Suffering from leukemia, he managed nonetheless to finish his major work "The Wretched of the Earth". Fanon is buried in Algeria.



**« O my body, make of me always a man who questions! ».**

## **Black Skin, White Masks**

The documentary presents Fanon through the testimonials of people who met him at different moments of his brief existence; it is an illustration of his work through the perception of political actors and activists working in diverse regions of the world.

The idea behind the process consists in demystifying a key author of decolonization often presented in a Manichean way, so as to humanize and to verify the current state of his analysis.

Supporting the director's personal, financial, and technical contribution, the project has benefited from the contribution of friends and their personal network. This is how we have received access to original recordings never diffused before of figures of the decolonisation, respected social actors, and renowned academics. At this stage of production, the bulk of the mobilized budget came from a crowdfunding fundraiser. These contributions helped to fund travels to interview important witnesses and perform a significant portion of the structuring and editing work.

## **Intentions**

**« If you do not reclaim the man who is before you,  
how can I assume that you reclaim the man that is in you? »**

## **Toward The African Revolution**

Even though the name Fanon is known, it is clear that his precise path and his contribution stay surrounded by some blur and some contradictions. Precisely, for some, Fanon is an advocate for violence. For others, those who have studied his work, the psychiatrist born in Martinique is above all a humanist penetrated with ideals of justice.

What is it really? The purpose is to bring to a diverse audience, but also to researchers and students, a nuanced portrait of an emblematic figure of the decolonization: a theoretician of the struggles for liberation and a doctor in psychiatry adept of institutional psychotherapy.

The objective of this film is thus to lift some ambiguities and let the viewer make his opinion about the preoccupations of a man whose short life ( he died in December 1961 at the age of 36 years old ) did not give him the time to deepen his original thought away from all dogma.

## Fanon in History

« Each generation must out of relative obscurity discover its mission, fulfill it, or betray it. »

### The Wretched of the Earth

How this doctor arrives in Algeria as a psychiatrist and how quickly does he make contact with the leaders of the Algerian independence movement. This inaugural phase is sketched by the warm and lively descriptions given by Abdelhamid Mehri, minister of the GPRA, and by Jacques Ladsous responsible for the social action. Both met Fanon at the psychiatric hospital of Blida, south of Algiers.

Fanon's political action is evocated with emotion and precision by Lilyan Kesteloot, author of numerous books about african literature and about Fanon. This scholar and africanist of high renown brushes an expressive painting of Fanon during the second Congress of Black Writers and Artists of 1959 in Rome.

Arnoldo Palacios, Afro-Colombian author of the famous "Estrellas Negras", was also present in Rome where he recalls Fanon's tenacity to defend the african revolution.

Ousmane Dan Galadima, ancient activist for the Sawaba movement in Niger, having joined the south front opened by the FLN at the Algerio-Malian border, dresses a portrait of Fanon in his diplomatic action and in his engagement on the field.

Marie-Jeanne Manuellan, social worker and Fanon's collaborator at the hospital Charles Nicolles of Tunis in the 1950's, typed under his dictation two of Fanon's work : " The year V of the Algerian Revolution" , and mostly, " The Wretched of the Earth". She herself wrote " Under Fanon's dictation" recently published by the editions Amourier. Marie-Jeanne Manuellan describes a Fanon at the antipodes of the intellectual ice and intransigence that sometimes accompany his description.

Mohamed Salah Seddik, editor at The Resistance, journal from the Front animated by several eminent members of the FLN, depicts the man in the atmosphere of writing.

The interventions by Olivier Fanon, Frantz Fanon and Josie Fanon's son, contribute to polish the portrait by enriching it with emotional and personal dimensions.



## What legacy?

« Now, political education means opening their minds, awakening them,  
and allowing the birth of their intelligence; as Cesaire said,  
it is "to invent souls." »

### The Wretched of the Earth

With Fanon's personality sketched as such we can now evaluate the impact of his work upon the people evolving from various contexts of social and political struggles. Are the analysis from the author of the "Wretched of the Earth" and "Black skin, White masks" still relevant? In which way do they influence activists across the world today?

From his native Martinique to South Africa, where he wished to go after the Algerian independence, crossing through France and his beloved Algeria. A long journey permits beautiful encounters with those who chose to fight for their convictions of a better world and a more-just society.

Women and men, authors and journalists, academics and activists testify of their actions and what they owe to Frantz Fanon. From different horizons and with various paths, these intellectuals and activists tell what those struggles against racism and injustice owe to the Fanonian fulgurances.

The political present is thus connected to History and what it brings in terms of victories and failures. Fanon continues to strongly enlighten the claims for a fraternal world freed from racism and oppression.





## Presentation of the Director

### **HASSANE MEZINE**

Born in 1972, Hassane Mezine is a professional photographer with 12 years of experience as an educator in digital photography and multimedia. In 2004 he enriches his technic by participating in the shooting of the movie "Algerie Tours/Détours" by Leila Morouche and Oriane Brun-Moschetti, and in the company of René Vautier the dauntless anti-colonial filmmaker. This experience marks a turn in his work.

In 2015, he starts his first documentary "Fanon yesterday, today".

In 2016, he works as Director of photography for "Delou" a TV series in 52 episodes made in Niger in Hausa language by Souleymane Mahamane. In between projects, he continues to work on his documentary. In 2018-2019, Hassane has been travelling across France, Europe, north Africa and the French caribbean to present his documentary "Fanon yesterday, today" in cinemas, community centers and universities.

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Teaser : <https://vimeo.com/262526390>

