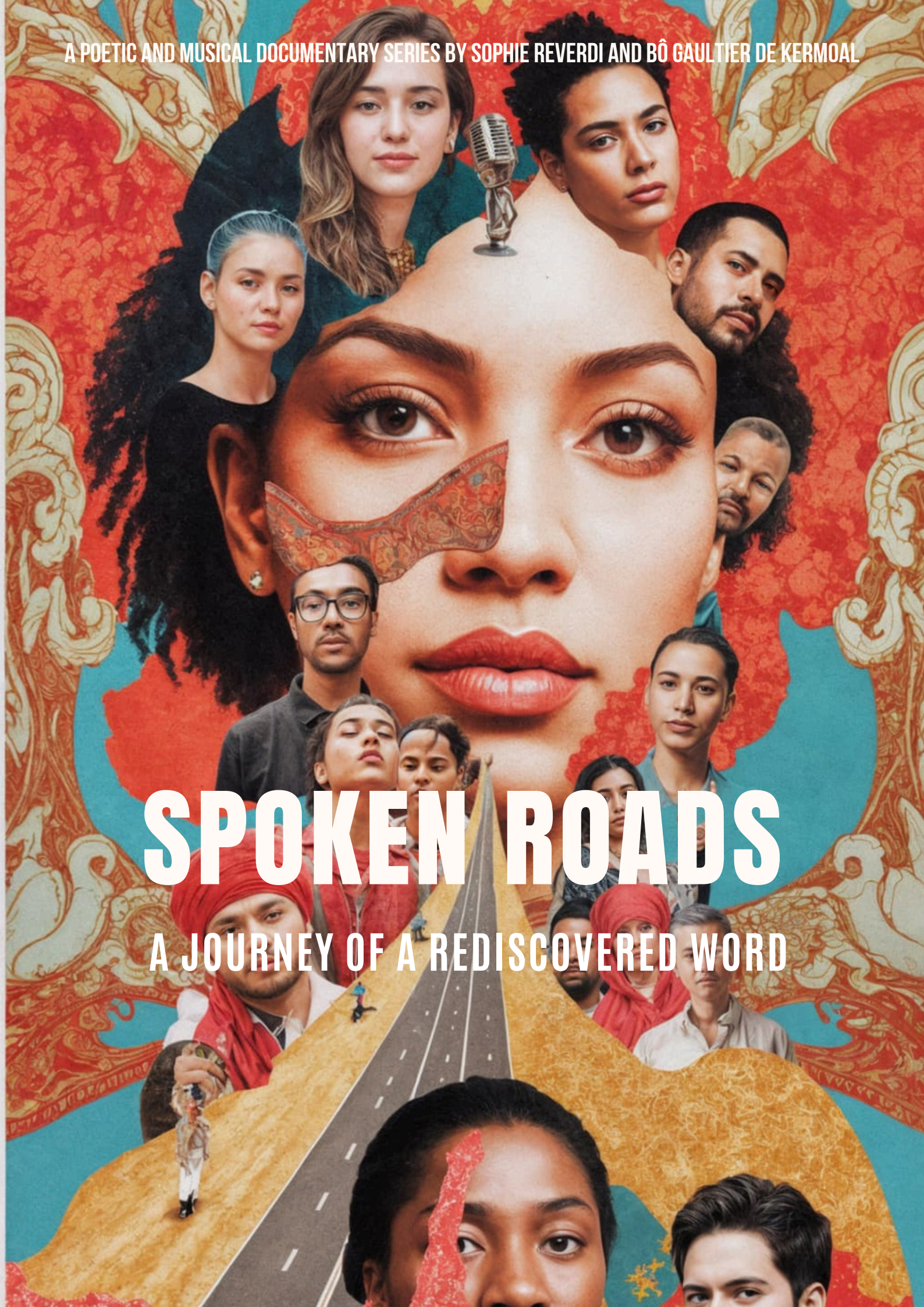
A POETIC AND MUSICAL DOCUMENTARY SERIES BY SOPHIE REVERDI AND BÔ GAULTIER DE KERMOAL



SPOKEN ROADS

A JOURNEY OF A REDISCOVERED WORD



Title
Spoken Roads

Genre
Poetic and Musical Documentary

Format
Documentary series – 6 episodes of 30 minutes

Languages
French / English / Romanian / Local languages (subtitled)

Director, Presenter & Narrator
Bô Gaultier de Kermoal

Writers, Producers & Presenters
Sophie Reverdi, Raluca Riquet, Lorianne Dimosi

SPOKEN WORD

Spoken Word, or spoken poetry, is the contemporary evolution of the poetic oral tradition. It has been the voice of peoples since the dawn of time, always seeking to heal the wounds of the world through the power of shared words.



For centuries, people entrusted their memory and imagination to the voices of African griots, the songs of bards, and the stories of Native American storytellers. From Homer's epic chants, the rhapsodes, Berber storytellers, troubadours, Sufi poets, and mystical singers, the tradition of the voice as the first instrument has endured. This living speech, passed from mouth to ear, is the direct ancestor of what we now call Spoken Word.

Spoken Word is political because it refuses silence. It is poetic because it transforms rage into beauty. It is musical because it knows rhythm is a way of being. It is universal because it connects us to those first nights when men and women, gathered around the fire, made stories vibrate on the edge of infinity.

RENAISSANCE

In the 20th century, the spirit of Spoken Word took on new forms. In the 1920s and 1930s, the Harlem Renaissance amplified the voices of an African American generation inventing a poetry infused with blues and jazz. Among them, Langston Hughes turned language into rhythm and poetry into music, foreshadowing what would become jazz poetry.



In the 1950s, the Beat poets – Allen Ginsberg, Jack Kerouac – revived this oral energy, bringing it into cafés, onto stages, and into recordings. In 1959, Ginsberg released Howl and Other Poems on record, a landmark in the history of modern Spoken Word.
In the 1970s, the Last Poets and Gil Scott-Heron politicized poetic speech, charging it with urgency and resistance, laying the foundation for rap (rhythm and poetry) and militant verse. Then, in the 1980s in Chicago, Marc Smith invented slam: poetry rediscovered its arena, its community, its collective breath. From militant voices like Nikki Giovanni, Maya Angelou, and James Baldwin to contemporary artists such as Kate Tempest, Saul Williams, MC Solaar, Sarah Kay, Kendrick Lamar, and 9 Avenue B, Spoken Word has drawn a path where poetry becomes weapon, memory, and celebration.

TODAY

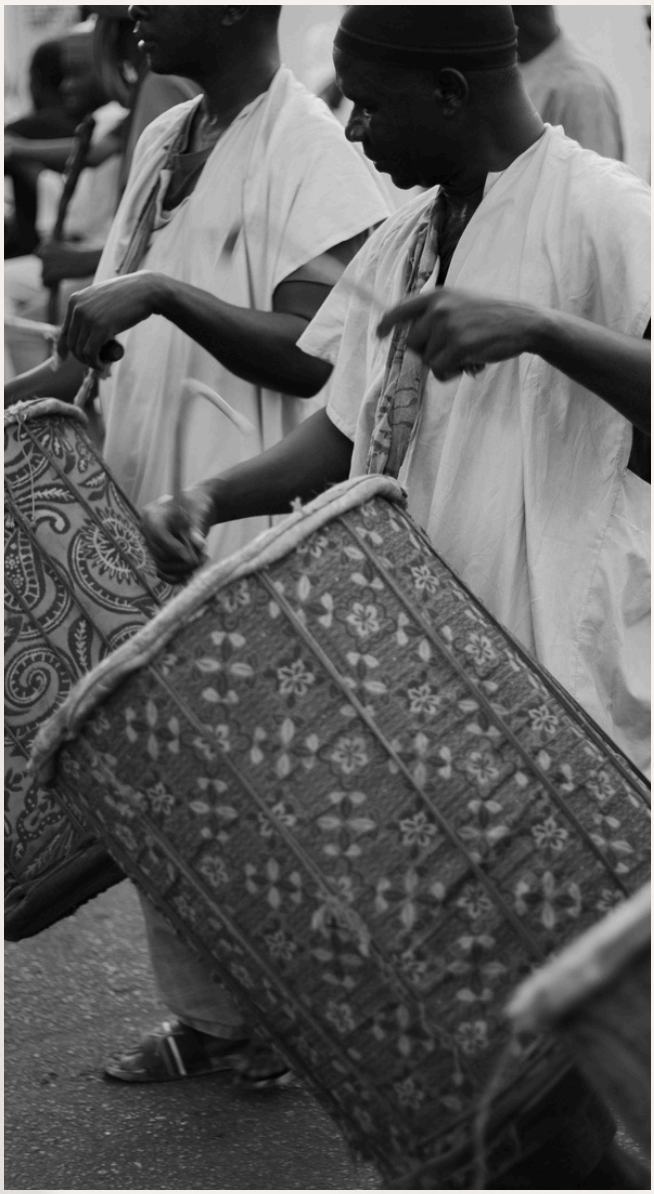


Spoken Word is a global constellation: it resonates at open mics in New York, in the streets of Dakar, on the squares of Beirut, in the cafés of Berlin. It can be a cry or a confession, a manifesto or a whisper—but it is always sharing and connection.

Its purpose is more urgent than ever. In a fragmented world, saturated with noise, injustice, and imposed silences, Spoken Word reminds us that words can still be a place of justice, memory, and resistance. It carries a promise: to pass on to our children not a closed and unequal world, but a fairer humanity—capable of listening, of dialogue, of recognizing the dignity of each person, of recognizing itself in the voice of the other.

CONCEPT

Spoken Roads is a poetic and initiatory documentary series that explores the healing power of speech. Guided by Sophie Reverdi and Bô Gaultier de Kermoal, we travel from forests to metropolises, from evening gatherings to improvised stages, meeting storytellers, griots, poets, and musicians who make words an act of memory, resistance, and creation.



From Romania to Senegal, from Indigenous territories in the Americas to the vibrant streets of New York and Bristol, the journey reveals that Spoken Word is not a modern invention but the living echo of ancient stories, sacred songs, whispered prayers, and cries of revolt. Each stop becomes an intimate passage where speech—sometimes breath, sometimes shout, sometimes song—connects people and worlds.

SOPHIE REVERDI'S STATEMENT OF INTENT



This documentary is a journey, a personal and collective quest to reclaim speech. It is a tribute to invisible voices, to words that heal, to the power of rhythm and embodiment. By exploring the roots of Spoken Word, connecting Indigenous, African, and urban oral traditions, and confronting imposed silences and intimate violences, we discover a path: one along which words repair, connect, soothe, and recreate.

I was born in Paris in 1964, to Romanian immigrant parents. My childhood was made of screams, terrifying scenes, and poisoned silences. Words hurt, like burning arrows, leaving indelible marks on my body and soul. So I drew, invented luminous worlds, poetic and filled with love and justice. Words scared me—until the day I dared to place one, then another, like a prayer, then a poem.

This series was born from that transformation: from screams to speech. Spoken Word, this fusion of oral poetry and music, saved me. Its pulse, its rhythm, its silences restored me to the world. It is the living heir of the voices and memories of the world: West African griots, Harlem poets, Celtic bards, queer activists, figures of the Beat Generation, and Jamaican dub poets. All of them returned poetry to the streets, to breath, to struggle. They opened a path that we continue, in our own way, in our own time, to reinvent the world through speech, rhythm, and human connection.

Spoken Roads is a declaration of love for all necessary words. It shows that to speak, to perform, to create, is to reinvent oneself and the world—that speech is power, healing, and a universal bond.

BECAUSE TO SPEAK IS TO EXIST.
BECAUSE TO SPEAK IS TO CREATE
THE WORLD WE WANT TO LEAVE.

PHILOSOPHIE

The word is a sacred tool. A weapon or a caress. It wounds or repairs. Spoken Roads explores forgotten, marginal, ritual, or revolutionary forms of speech and shows how they reconstruct identities, heal wounds, and reinvent our belonging. It is a tribute to all necessary words, whether intimate or collective, whispered or chanted, militant or sacred.

Speech is not a luxury: it is a vital necessity.
It has always been a tool of memory, survival, and reparation. From ancestral oral tradition to the contemporary slam scene, the word has survived centuries, dominations, and imposed silences. Spoken Roads pays homage to this invisible continuity.

FORMAT

Poetic documentary – Series of 6 episodes with an average duration of 26 minutes. Languages: French, English, local languages (subtitled).
Target audience : Festivals, documentary channels, platforms (Arte, Netflix, etc.).

PITCH : THE STORY

From Romanian forests to Native American sacred circles, from African drums to the dank alleys of Bristol, a woman traces the thread of her voice. An intimate and universal journey through memory, speech, screams, and poetry.

MAIN THEMES

- The speech
- Healing through speech
- Oral heritage• Struggles and invisible voices
- Spoken word as a language of life
- The body as rhythm and memory

OVERALL SYNOPSIS



An inner and collective journey .

Spoken Roads is a sensory and poetic road trip across continents and oral traditions. A journey where words are sought, transmitted, and transformed through contact with the voices of the world.
We follow Sophie Reverdi, author, singer, and spoken word artist, accompanied by Bô Gaultier de Kermoal, director, actor, and painter of Native American and Vietnamese descent. Together, they travel the roads, between past and present, between intimate memory and collective narrative.
This journey begins in Paris, then in Romania, Sophie's homeland, where the need to speak,to tell, to exist was born. From there, the road leads them to the griots of West Africa, guardians of ancestral memory, and then to the heart of Native American territories, where speech is medicine and ritual.

In New York, Sophie revisits the Spoken Word scene where her band 9 Avenue B was born, before delving into British countercultures, between punk poetry and politically engaged Spoken Word. The journey concludes in Paris, with a final performance uniting the voices encountered along the way.
In the car, on stage, in the forest, or on the street, words are woven into a raw and organic ballet. Speech becomes a living art, a shared pulse, a way of connecting worlds. Speech knows no boundaries. It is transmitted, transformed, recreated. Spoken Roads resonates with an ancient truth: to speak is to exist. To chant is to unite. To speak is to heal.

WHY IS SPOKEN ROADS UNIQUE?

Because no film has ever carried the whole of humanity in a single voice.

Because the spoken word knows no borders:
from African ancestors to Harlem poets,
from Europe's bards to Dakar's slammers,
from New York, from Bristol, from every corner of the earth.

A fire passed from mouth to mouth,
shifting tongues but never spirit.

Because this is not a documentary that observes, it is a journey that burns.
We walk alongside them.
Same breath. Same quest.

Because here there are no actors
only friends. Artists. Keepers of memory.
A circle bound by the promise to carry forward:

A world where words heal,
where words connect,
where words open paths toward peace.

WHY PRODUCE SPOKEN ROADS?

Because the world is breaking
and words can gather its fragments.

Because the cries are too loud,
because the silences are too heavy,
because no people must be erased.

Because festivals, platforms, and screens everywhere are searching for a story that speaks to all.
A story that excludes no one.
A story that unites.

Because this film was not born of industry,
but of friendship.
No spectators
only participants.
Every voice a witness.
Every witness a brother, a sister.

Because MC Solaar, Princess Erika, Joy Harjo, Saul Williams, Fatoumata Diawara, and so many more breathe their voices into ours,
to sing together a planetary song.

Because Spoken Roads is not a series.
It is an offering.
A poem stretched out toward our children.
A flame rekindled in the fractures.
A promise of peace, carried on the indomitable power of word.

THE TEAM
ARTISTIC SHEETS

Sophie Reverdi

Author & Producer



Author, protagonist, co-creator of the film. A spoken word artist, singer, and poet, Sophie founded the New York based band 9 Avenue B. French of Romanian parents, she is at the crossroads of several cultures.

She is also the author of two short films, Heartbroken in London, critically acclaimed and selected for Cannes, and Out of Basarabia, also selected for Cannes, about speech and nomadic communication. In Spoken Roads, she is the main narrator of the journey.



Bô Gaultier de Kermoal

Director

Director, actor, painter, and photographer, Bô Gaultier de Kermoal draws on his Amerindian and Vietnamese roots to create a sensitive and singular universe. Adopted as a child by a Breton family, he grew up between multiple cultures, learning early on to transform this uprooting into creative strength. This intimate experience informs his perspective, marked by delicacy and discretion, and runs through his films as a quest for memory and transmission.

In Spoken Roads, he directs, films, and embodies Sophie's alter ego with humor and precision. His previous works, Mémoires d'enfants and As the Crow Flies, already testify to this attention to plural identities and the traces left by childhood.

THE TEAM
ARTISTIC SHEETS

Lorianne Dimosi

Producer & Co-writer & Speaker



I also chose to be surrounded by an extraordinary woman, Lorianne Dimosi. Of Congolese origin and Parisian at heart, she has tenderly and rigorously supported major artists on the international music scene, from MC Solaar to Alicia Keys, from Daft Punk to Beyoncé, Britney Spears as well as Vanessa Paradis and Pharrell Williams.

She embodies gentleness, humility, and kindness, healing and soothing almost despite herself. Her industry knowledge and roots are invaluable assets, but it is above all her inner beauty that this documentary needs. Today my agent and friend, it was obvious that she would become a fully-fledged character in this journey.



Raluca Riquet

Producer, Co-writer & logistics manager for the financing operations

I also asked my dear and precious Romanian friend, Raluca, an icon of beauty, intelligence, culture, and delicacy, to contribute to the writing of this marvelous journey her immense literary talents, her mastery of words, and her brilliant complexity, as a Woman with a capital W, an incredible Mother with a capital M, and a great Friend with a capital F.

She is also my irrevocable and undeniable link to my Romanian origins; she is synonymous with my obligatory reconciliation with my native language, with the immensity of its beauty and poetry. She is an outstanding organizer and will be a major asset to this documentary, and for that I am sincerely grateful.

ARTISTIC AND TECHNICAL PRODUCTION TEAM



BÔ GAULTIER DE KERMOAL
Director



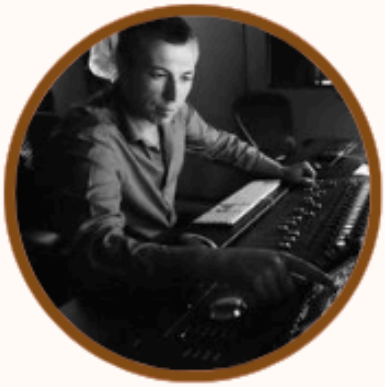
FLAVIEN MILON
Art Director



VINCENT TARTAR
Director of photography



DIDIER FREMONT
Camera operator



OLIVIER RABAT
Sound engineer



AURELIEN VIVES
Editing and color correction



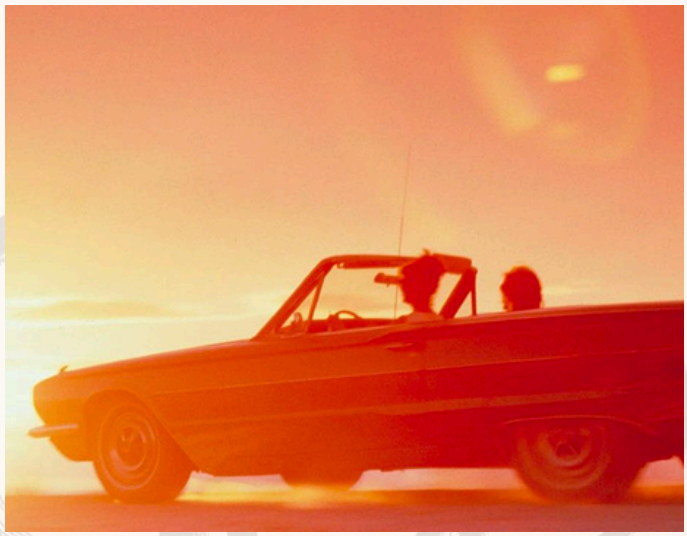
LÉANDRE ROUY
Production sound engineer



SENGTHE VANH BOUAPHA
Assistant Director

VISUAL AND SOUND DESIGN





The film adopts a sensory road movie aesthetic: onboard camera, natural lighting, and raw sounds. Each country offers its own sensory material: light, warmth, breath, voice.

The car becomes a space for creation and confidences. Silences matters as much as words. The landscapes crossed resonate with the recorded voices.

Sound is a character: echoes, breaths, traditional instruments, road noise, live poetry readings, live recorded samples.

OUR HONORED GUESTS OF THE SOUL



MC SOLAAR

Rapper, poet, and singer-songwriter

Claude MC Solaar is one of the pioneers of French rap, but above all, he is a true poet. With subtle and sophisticated language, he weaves together philosophy, humor, and social awareness. His lyrics blend literary, historical, and pop culture references, making him a unique figure in the French music landscape. He elevated street language without ever losing its essence.

Author of iconic tracks like “Bouge de là,” or “Caroline”, MC Solaar embodies the living memory of modern Spoken word — rooted both in the tradition of African griots and in the legacy of French chanson. His calm, precise voice stands firm in a noisy world. He is one of those who choose their words the way one cuts a diamond.

Lorianne Dimosi, co-author of Spoken Roads, worked for thirty years as a press agent in the music industry. She played a key role in developing many major French artists, including Claude MC Solaar and Princess Erika since their beginnings. A year ago, she became Sophie Reverdi’s agent and friend, continuing her mission to champion unique voices and ensure cultural legacy through artistic transmission. Her participation in Spoken Roads was born of this encounter.



OUR HONORED GUESTS OF THE SOUL



PRINCESS ERIKA

Author, Singer & Musician

Erika Dobong'na is a pioneer of the 1980s urban scene and contributed to the popularity of ragga in France. Her hit "Zéro blabla" is the first feminist text to be published. But she has a lot to live up to, as she is the daughter of the first African woman to publish a book in sub-Saharan Africa, a relatively feminist and therefore revolutionary, Marie-Claire Matip. The autobiographical text incorporates elements of oral tradition, important in this region, and provides a testimony to the etiological tales, myths, and traditional values passed on to children at the time.

It is an honor and a pure joy for Spoken Roads to have Princess Erika by our side. Erika and I were both signed in Gilbert Castro's Label, Mélodie, he is the father of World Music, and 25 years ago we spontaneously performed together a piece from 9 Avenue B, "Secret Love," a magnificent poem by John Clare. Our paths crossed again thanks to Lorianne Dimosi, who worked with her and developed her career, like those of many international artists.

The participation of these two icons, Claude MC Solaar and Princess Erika, in Spoken Roads is for me and the whole team, an utter blessing and a beautiful story. It was their talent among others, and their words that inspired me to become a poet and a singer—and now, to make Spoken Roads. I thank them from the bottom of my heart.



OUR SPECIAL GUESTS



DEMI MONDAINE
Singer, Actress, Performer & Poet



YOUSSOU N'DOUR
Singer, musician, composer, politician



LULU GAINSBOURG
Musician, pianist, composer



FATOUMATA DIAWARA
Singer, actress, singer-songwriter



JOY HARJO
Poet, saxophonist, musician, author, first Native American U.S. Poet Laureate



LOU DOILLON
Singer, songwriter, actress



MARIAM
Singer, musician



STEFF VIELLE
Author, rapper, President of the "Farrawo France" association, educator & French as a Foreign Language teacher (FLE)

OUR SPECIAL GUESTS



ROOTS PHENO
is a Malian roots-reggae artist, composer, musician, poet, and rapper.



ARTHUR HIGELIN
known as Arthur H, is a French singer-songwriter, performer, and musician.



TRICKY
is a British musician, regarded as one of the founding figures of trip-hop.



GIA SCOTT-HERON
is the daughter of Gil Scott-Heron, the "godfather of rap." She has taken up the torch of her famous father and continues to carry his voice into the world.



SAUL WILLIAMS
is an American poet, writer, actor, and rapper.



OXMO PUCCINO
is a Malian-born French rapper, songwriter, and actor.



GAÊL FAYE
is a French-Rwandan rapper, singer-songwriter, performer, and writer, recipient of the Prix Renaudot.



SKANDER GUETARI
Songwriter, performer

STORYBOARD

Romania

EPISODE 1 / PILOT EPISODE

ROOTS REDISCOVERED (ROMANIA / FRANCE)

In Paris, Raluca persuades Sophie to return to Romania, where old wounds lie hidden. With Princess Erika, Raluca, and Claude MC Solaar by her side, she steps back onto the soil of her origins.
For Erika and Claude, it is a revelation: they discover a culture unknown to them and exchange with local artists, weaving unexpected connections.
Together, they open a path Sophie would not have dared to walk alone. From there, Bô and Sophie journey to Manhattan, where, in 1996, Sophie first let her Spoken Word voice resound.

Spoken word: Traditional sung tale (Doïna)











STORYBOARD : SUBSEQUENT EPISODES

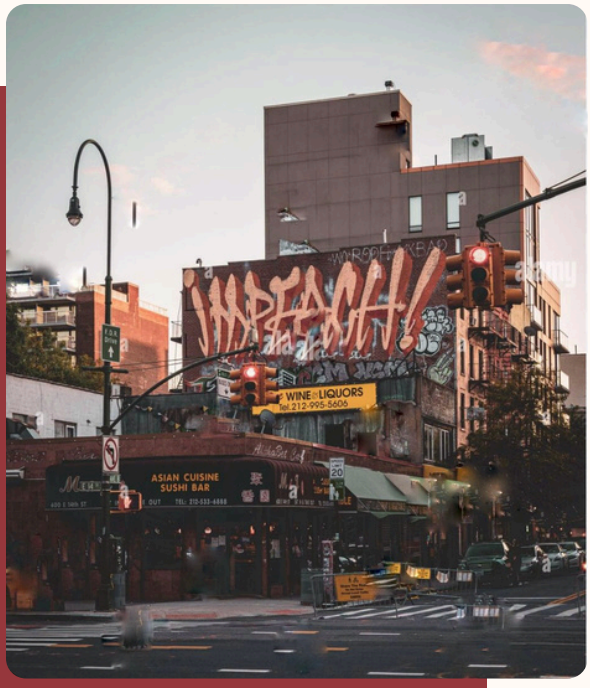
EPISODE 2

THE CITY OF SOUNDS AND WORDS (NEW-YORK)

In New-York, Sophie and Bô wander through the Lower East Side, where the voices of poets and musicians still resound. On intimate Spoken Word stages, words merge with urban rhythms, while tributes honor the memory of the Beat Generation, the Harlem Renaissance, and Gil Scott-Heron, prophet of committed speech. Sophie reconnects with the ancestral energy of the Lenape, while Bô recognizes, in these resonances, the echo of his own roots. The city of sounds and words becomes, for them, a city of struggles, memories, and rebirths.

Spoken word: Beat Generation, Harlem, Gil Scott-Heron









USA

STORYBOARD

CANADA

EPISODE 3

THE SONG OF THE EARTH (CANADA)

Sophie and Bô meet a medicine woman and an elder. In the sacred circle of a ritual, Sophie is given a name that consecrates her voice and seals her words. Through chants, ancestral stories, and immersion in nature, she discovers Spoken Word as a living memory, connecting generations. For Bô, the encounter is a moment of peace, an intimate reconciliation with the weight of his origins. Together, they realize that the Earth itself sings, and that its many voices are truths to be heard.

Spoken word: Native ritual, healing through song-prayer









EPISODE 4

THE VOICE OF THE ANCESTORS (WEST AFRICA)

Spoken Word unfolds here in many forms: the voice of the griots, both traditional and modern; the pulse of hip-hop; the verlan of the streets; the unifying rhythm of slam. In Congo, Lorianne rediscovers herself, aligning with both her identities and finding peace. In Cameroon, Erika takes up the torch of her mother, Marie-Claire Matip—the first African woman ever to publish a book—and brings her legacy to life. Finally, in Senegal, Claude, MC Solaar, reconnects with his roots and with the cultural and musical inspirations that first nourished his art.

Spoken word: Traditional and modern griot, hip-hop, verlan, slam...











STORYBOARD

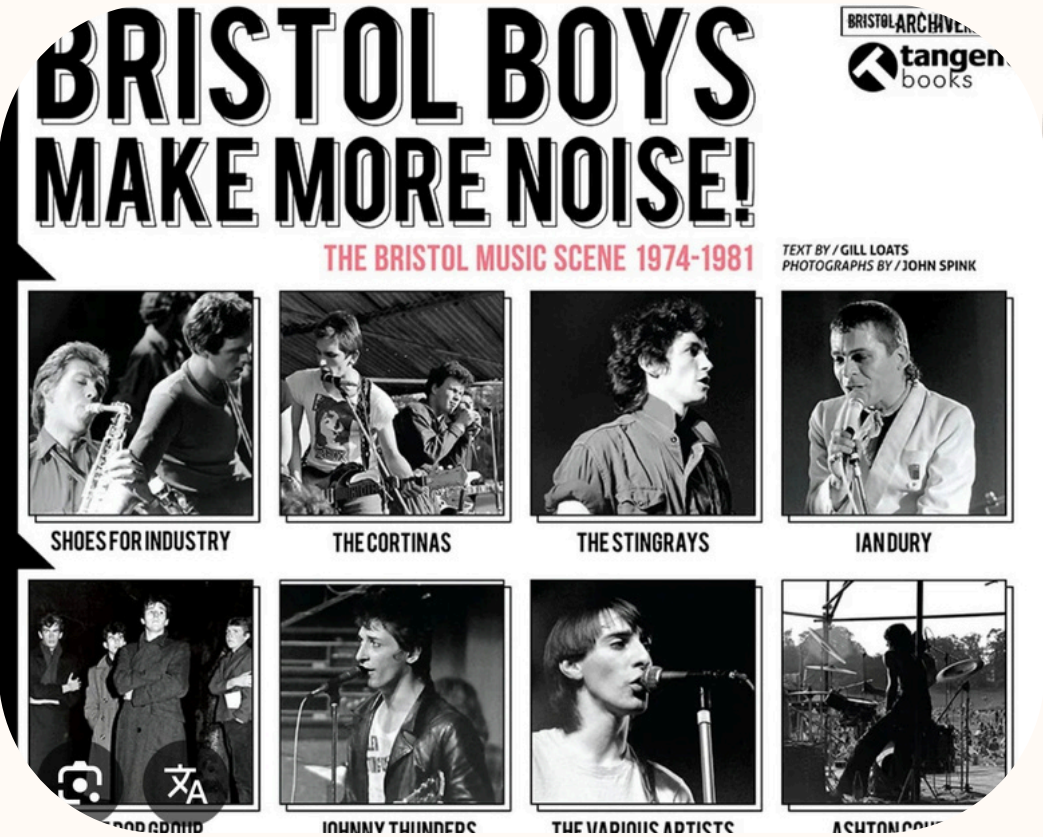
UK

EPISODE 5

THE ART OF SAYING OTHERWISE (BRISTOL)

In Bristol, Sophie reunites with Demi Mondaine and Steff Vielle, her two longtime artist friends. Together, they immerse themselves in the Spoken Word scene, where speech becomes both a weapon of resistance and a tool of reinvention. In this city, scarred by the legacy of slavery yet alive with vibrant musical and cultural energy, their voices rise, cross, and intertwine with those of local poets. Between painful inheritances and new creations, they discover that the art of saying otherwise is not only an aesthetic act: it is a way to transform memory into strength, and resistance into a shared celebration.

Spoken word: Trip-hop









STORYBOARD

EPISODE 6

BY THE RIVER, SPOKEN ROADS SYMPHONY TO THE WORLD (WORLD)

Back in France, Sophie feels the pull to withdraw. By her cherished river in Provence, time holds its breath: the bank becomes a threshold, the water a mirror, and, at the heart of a ritual, a clarity arises—the final performance must be a worldwide ceremony, a symphony.
She calls together the voices met along the journey and opens the circle to new guests — Abdal Malik, Gaël Faye, Arthur H. On stage, the montage turns into a weaving: timbres answer one another, languages join, breaths find their place. Each story becomes a note, each silence a measure, until a human polyphony emerges, where memory, resistance, and joy beat as one.
Spoken Roads Symphony is no longer merely a finale: it is an act of transmission, a gesture of gratitude, a song for the future.

Spoken Roads Symphony written by Sophie Reverdi and Steff Vielle
Music by Roots Phéno











WORLD

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