

# BEYOND TIMBUKTU SPONSORSHIPS

**Name in Credits:** Pledge \$15 or more, your name will appear in credits in the finished film.  
**2016 Photo Calendar:** Pledge \$25. This 12-month calendar (8.5x11) has pictures of most of Timbuktu's heritage sites, including mosques, monuments, and statues of famous Malians, as well as important Malian and Islamic holidays, etc... **NOTE:** If all goes as planned, calendars will be available in January, 2016.



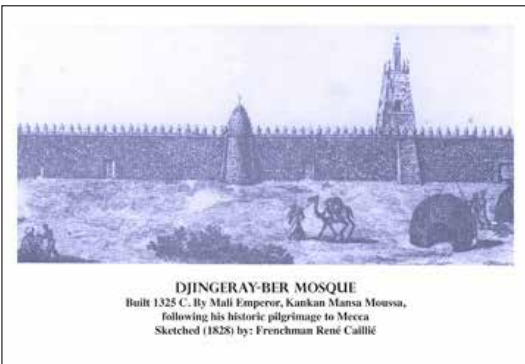
## Pledge \$50 25 Sponsors

**African Graffiti:** 8x10 color photograph of a graffiti of a pictograph of Allah (God) top right, the Prophet Muhammad on the left, and the Cross in the middle. The spray-paint work of art is symbolic of the cultural and religious 'Tolerance' preached and taught in Timbuktu, and Mali in general.



## Pledge \$55 25 Sponsors

**Tiny Devotee:** 8x10 color photograph of an African child praying. Her family invited me to dinner in Timbuktu. I forgot and left my camera running while I went to the restroom. During my brief absence, the camera secretly captured this amazing image of the little girl praying. All photos will be signed by me.



## Pledge \$65

### 50 Sponsors

**Djingeray-Ber Mosque Poster:** (13x19): The first and largest of 3 major mosques in Timbuktu, Djingeray-Ber was built in 1325 by Mali Emperor, Kankan Moussa, following his legendary Hajj to Mecca in 1324. This poster was drawn (1828) by the Frenchman René Caillié, who is noted as the first European to ever live in Timbuktu.



## Pledge \$65 50 Sponsors

**Sankoré Mosque Poster:** (13x19): Sankoré is the second largest mosque. It was built in 1375 and housed the Timbuktu University. Sankoré sketch was drawn (1853) by the German Explorer Heinrich Barth who also lived in Timbuktu. I discovered the two small drawings in the Timbuktu archives, during research; scanned them, retouched and added color as well as texture.

## Beyond Timbuktu DVD:

### Pledge \$100

25 Sponsors

A DVD copy of the finished movie, plus two complimentary tickets to opening night screenings and festivities in Houston, TX... These will be ready upon completion of film in Spring 2016. **Note:** You're not only getting the item you pledged for, you'll also receive one of every item below your pledge amount.



### Pledge \$1,200

10 sponsors

**Salt as Fuel:** Salt blocks inscribed in Arabic characters by professional calligrapher, Boubacar Sadeck, in Timbuktu. These Islamic scriptures, with English translations attached, include a poem by Timbuktu's most renowned scholar Ahmed Baba, and proverbs, as well as passages and quotes from the Holy Koran.

1. *"Heart is a raw material, Spirit is the original model. The pen of the calligrapher is a goldsmith; And the calligraphy itself is a jewel."* –Boubacar Sadeck (Calligrapher, Timbuktu).

2. *"Let us not run the world hastily. Let us not grasp at the ropes of wealth impatiently. What should be treated with mature judgment, let us not treat in a fit of temper."* 14th century West African Proverb.

3. *"God! There is no God; But He, --the Living, Self-Subsisting; Eternal."* Sura Ali'Imran (III), vse. 2, (The Holy Koran).

4. *"Oh you, who go to Gao make a detour by Timbuktu, murmur my name to my friends and bring them the scented greeting of the exile who sighs after the ground where his friends, his family and neighbors reside."* —Ahmed Baba (1556—1627) Ahmad Baba was a medieval African scholar and writer. Throughout his illustrious career, Ahmed Baba is credited to have written more than 40 books and is often noted as Timbuktu's greatest scholar. He and several other educators were taken into exile, during the Moroccan invasion of 1591. He wrote the poem in his prison cell in Marrakesh, Morocco.

5. *"Salt comes from north, gold from the south, and silver from the white man's country; but the word of God and the treasures of Wisdom are only to be found in Timbuktu."* --West African Proverb.

The salt is mined in a remote area, Taoudenni, located on the bed of an ancient salt lake in the desert region of northern Mali, 664 km (413 mi) north of Timbuktu. The miners use axes to dig pits, remove red surface dirt; then several layers of poor quality salt are removed before reaching the high quality salt, Kamala. It is then cut into slabs and transported via camel to Timbuktu. During the Middle Ages, Timbuktu and its neighboring West Africa states thrived on the trade of salt and gold for more than 300 years. Today, the camel caravans depart and return to Timbuktu in small groups only once or twice a year.

These museum pieces (inscribed salt blocks) aren't available anywhere in the world but Timbuktu. Each will be delivered in a clear acrylic display case. Note: You will also receive one of our special edition (Mosque) posters, which has the stamp of Timbuktu Mayor's office, signed and dated by the Grand Imam of Timbuktu, Allimam Ben Essayouti of Timbuktu.



## Pledge \$3,500

### 2 Sponsors

**Youth Fellowship:** Two (2) multi-colored camel skin rugs (round) 60" in diameter and (oval, below) 4 ft x 7 ft). Each comes with three pillow cases. Both designed, colored, and hand-stitched by women in Timbuktu. In ancient times, these floor coverings or wall hangings were made for kings, princes and other dignitaries as decoration for their palaces. Today, they are the most sought after souvenir item for tourists. However, they are not easily available, because



completing one of these pristine work of art rugs takes three months, and it demands discipline and immaculate artistry. Retail value in the tourist market, \$5,500.00. The two new rugs were reduced for me as gratitude and appreciation for the work I've started there, restoring the Madrassa (co-ed Koranic and French school) for both boys and girls in Timbuktu.

**Note:** With your donation, you'll also receive two (2) of our special edition (Mosque) posters of the mosques, which have the stamp of Timbuktu Mayor's office, signed and dated by the Grand Imam of Timbuktu, Allimam Ben Essayouti of Timbuktu. **Note:** You'll also receive one of every item below your pledge amount.



The goal of this GoFundMe project is to raise the necessary funds needed to complete post-production activities of the one-hour + documentary film, *BEYOND TIMBUKTU*. My aim is to restore and preserve, on film, and make accessible to the general public the rich and an exquisite medieval Islamic culture that set its roots in Timbuktu (Mali) more than a thousand years ago.

In 2012 and 2015, I traveled to Mali, West Africa and lived in Timbuktu for two months in order to complete research and shoot principal photography. During my stay, I had the opportunity to engage with the people, understand their way of life and to capture on film their creativity as well as sense of direction. It was my first time in Mali, and it was both captivating and informative. Upon evaluating the film footage and other important material associated with the history of the region, I realize that I do not want to make a film about Timbuktu the way a journalist would. I don't think that one can truly capture it's essence in a reportorial journalistic way. So I seek to poeticize it, because Timbuktu is a place that has a certain poetic quality, even though it might be a stark quality by Western standards.

So, in making this film, I aim to convey its essence by meshing together the imagery and aesthetic to get beyond a mere physical description or simple historical perspective of the place. Instead, side-step the conventional documentary format in order to recreate on film a kind of Timbuktu reality: both a real living city and also a place of fantasy. What emerges on-screen is the distinct character and voice of the place as it exists in the images, songs and words of those who call it home, as well as those who know the name, Timbuktu, only through legend, idiom or literature.

This is an urgent mission, and indeed, a timely and infinitely important work of benefit to community leaders, scholars and students alike. I hope that the project helps infuse hope into the people of this war-ravished area, as well as help empower their creativity and sense of direction toward stability and prosperity. Above all, I believe that the more we come to know, understand other people and societies beyond our own borders, to say the least, the better prepared we will be to act as global citizens. Fifty percent (50%) of all proceeds will go toward the restoration and preservation of the medieval manuscripts, relics, as well as renovation of the Madrassa (co-ed Koranic and French school) for both boys and girls in Timbuktu.

To learn more about the project, visit our website @ [www.talkingdrumproductions.com](http://www.talkingdrumproductions.com).

Thank you so much for your support!



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