

SYNOPSIS_SPEAK UP/MAKE YOUR WAY

SPEAK UP/MAKE YOUR WAY is a documentary about black women of African descent in France and Belgium written and directed by Amandine Gay. It's the director's first feature and, most importantly, the result of four years of guerilla filmmaking, supported by a crowdfunding campaign for the postproduction phase.

SPEAK UP/MAKE YOUR WAY shakes the "talking heads" documentary codes. Thought and edited as a great conversation between 24 black francophone women, the film begins with them discovering what their blackness means in Europe, as minorities, and ends with their aspirations for the future. It is also a tribute to her fellow artists since the filmmaker used to be an actress, thus, the film is punctuated with rehearsals and performances (burlesque, theater, etc.).

SPEAK UP/MAKE YOUR WAY is a work that allows us to rethink the universal from the perspective of Afro – descendant women. The film addresses the intersections of discrimination, but it also reveals the heterogeneity and great diversity within Afro communities, revealed through each woman's relationship to creativity, parenthood, depression, sexuality or religion.

SPEAK UP/MAKE YOUR WAY echoes the necessity for black francophone women to reclaim the narrative. This film gives an opportunity to those who are usually spoken for or silenced, to tell their story and to be in charge of their representation onscreen. It is therefore, and above all, a story of powerful and touching women.