



# The Lion Hunters

Chasse au lion à l'arc (La)

**Documentary - 1965 - Color**

Director : **Jean ROUCH**

70 minutes

Production : **Les Films de la Pléiade**

visa # 30 782

Participation à la Biennale de Venise 1965 - prix Lion de St Marc au Festival de Venise Sélection au Festival International du Film de Londres 1965

Sélectionné pour le Festival américain du film de New York City

Sélection officielle au XVe internationalen filmwoche de Maheim (1966)

*The film is restored in 2K with the support of the CNC*

## SUMMARY

We discover vanishing hunting customs in a village on the borders of Mali and Niger. The natives raise their herds in the brush where, oddly enough, cattle and lions get along. Sometimes, the lions "break the pact" and attack the herds. That is when the lion hunt is conducted — with bow and arrow and every four years. The hunters make their own bows and poison-tipped arrows. Rites, dances and incantations accompany preparation of the poison, called Boto. They exorcize the evil spells and lay the snares. The beast, caught in a snare, is shot at close range; the hunters sing the praises of the beast, whose throat will be cut so that its "soul" will not be baleful and its flesh will be edible. Returning to the village, the hunters relate their exploits to the children — exploits that will soon be legends.