



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

## Public Library

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Wednesday, October 25, 2006

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### **Central Library to Screen Documentary “Ndeysaan” that Explores the Challenge of Forgiveness**

**SAN DIEGO** – The documentary film “Ndeysaan (The Price of Forgiveness)” will be screened at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 12, at the Central Library, located at 820 E St. in downtown San Diego. Co-sponsored by the San Diego Media Arts Center, the free screening will be held in the third floor auditorium.

“Ndeysaan” can be appreciated simply as a deeply moving, beautifully acted, visually stunning story of love, betrayal and redemption. But it can also be read as an attempt, conscious or unconscious, to reconcile or negotiate traditional and modern sensibilities, a film whose ambiguities are often as fascinating as its certainties.

“Ndeysaan’s” ambivalence stems from the artistic aspirations of the novelist who wrote it and the filmmaker who adapted it to the screen. Novelist Mbissane Ngom was educated in French colonial schools and wrote his novel “Le prix du pardon” in French; at the same time he wanted to preserve some memory of his own culture, the Lébou ethnic group of fishermen on the southern coast of Senegal. Director Mansour Sora Wade (also a Lébou) worked for eight years as an archivist on traditional culture for the Senegalese Ministry of Culture. In “Ndeysaan,” Wade moves beyond the folkloric, developing an epic style which resembles in spirit the storytelling techniques of a traditional griot. This does not prevent the film from experimenting with puppetry to recount mythic events, employing special visual effects and using a soundtrack by Youssou N'Dour and Wasis Diop.

“Ndeysaan” is ultimately a meditation on change, particularly the ability – or inability, in the villagers’ eyes – of a person to truly change, and the costs such change might entail. A visually arresting fable with a strong sense of character and place, adapted from a novel by the same title, this exquisitely beautiful film is a moving tale about love, betrayal and redemption.

This film is part of San Diego Public Library’s “Refugee Voices” program, a California Cultural Crossroads project, supported in whole or in part by the U.S. dept. of Education under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

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