

ELEM Magazine

PLUS
Asmara: City of
Radiance
(New DVD)

7 Myths about
First Aid

**Reader
Debate: On
Marriage**

**Finding Your
Other Half**

**ROLE MODELS
FILE**

**Running to
Save Lives**

SPECIAL
The Scourge of
Domestic
Abuse

RAHWA
'Miss East Africa'
Runner Up

**Interview with
Rahel Asghedom
Writer and Poet**



28



24

contents

Regulars

- ELEM Agony Aunt 10
- Homeless: PART ELEVEN – My new life 9
- Émigré: Can't have the cake and eat it 14
- Reader Debate: On Marriage 6
- The Gadget Watcher 15
- Interesting stories from around the world 15

Features

- Finding your other half 39
- Bullying and your Children 21
- Making the literary landscape navigable: a call to critics 43
- The scourge of domestic violence 37
- 11 tips on raising children bilingually 48
- Medebber: Asmara's Mecca for inventors and innovators 34
- DK Entertainment and pictures 26
- RESFNA Sports Festival 46

Lifestyle

People

BELGIUM: Desta Haile – singer, song writer 28

COVER STORY UK: The people's choice for Miss East Africa 2008, beauty queen Rahwa 16

USA: Eritrean DVD Project: Issayas Tesfamariam, the man behind the idea 11

The Role Model Files: UK Habtom Tesfay 23

ERITREA: Interview with writer Rahel Asghedom 24

UPDATE: Eskindir Tesfay 41

Food , Health & Beauty

- 45 Top 7 myths about first aid – what not to do
- 42 15-minute recipe

Money & Travel

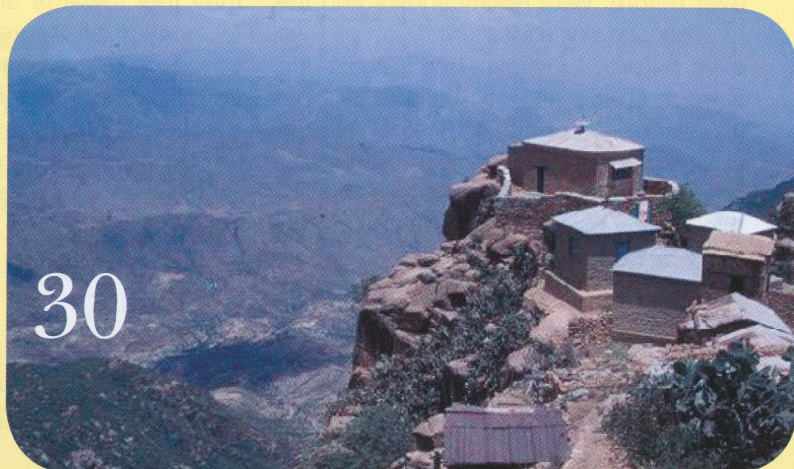
- 20 5 tips to save money on grocery shopping
- 30 Debre Bizen Monastery

Art, Culture and History

- 40 Kiss: a short story in two parts by Beyene Haile
- 33 National Museum of Eritrea (NME)
- 49 Poetry Pick: I see Africa

Books

- 49 Book Review: Before She Breaks My Heart by Rahel Asghedom
- Reviewed by Lula Beyan



30



The
man
behind
the
idea

Eritrean DVD Project: **idea**

Issayas Tesfamariam tells **ELEM's Million Isaac** about the need to tell Eritrea's story from the point of view of Eritreans

All great achievements are children of seemingly small ideas and dreams – if nobody has said that already, then there you go – it has now been said. The idea of the 'Eritrean DVD Project' was born in 2004 and the man behind the idea was Issayas Tesfamariam.

Born and raised in Addis Ababa, Issayas arrived in the United States in 1980. The father of two studied history and film there and currently works as head of the microfilming department at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. He has

also been teaching in the African and Middle Eastern Department at the same university since 1994 and in the past, he has taught at the Department of Linguistics for two years under the auspices of the African Studies Department at the University of California, Berkeley.

"I've been travelling to Eritrea since 1993," says Issayas. "I volunteered to help set up a microfilming department at the Research and Documentation Center of Eritrea (RDC), the de facto National Archives of Eritrea, in 1993/1994. Since 2000,

I've been involved in chronicling Eritrean history, experience and narrative in film."

In 2003, Issayas produced a documentary entitled **ERITREA 2000: Under the Sycamore Tree and More'**. The documentary was what he calls 'a personal chronicle of Eritrea in the year 2000' which included an account of development projects and a celebration of African languages and literatures.

A year later, based on his varied experiences, he conceived of the idea for the Eritrea DVD Project. The

project was very much driven by his belief that Eritreans needed to tell their story to the rest of the world.

“We Eritreans, as makers and guardians of our own history, should be our own storytellers,” says Issayas. “Our stories and experiences should not be confined to ourselves, but rather we should be able to share them with the rest of the world since our stories are human stories and experiences. Eritrean people’s resilience, resolve, commitment and determination to survive and excel had created and continue to create an unbelievable number of stories.”

The first product of the project materialised in 2006, when, in collaboration with the Audio Visual Institute of Eritrea (AVIE) and co-written by Philip Safarik, Issayas published a coffee table book.

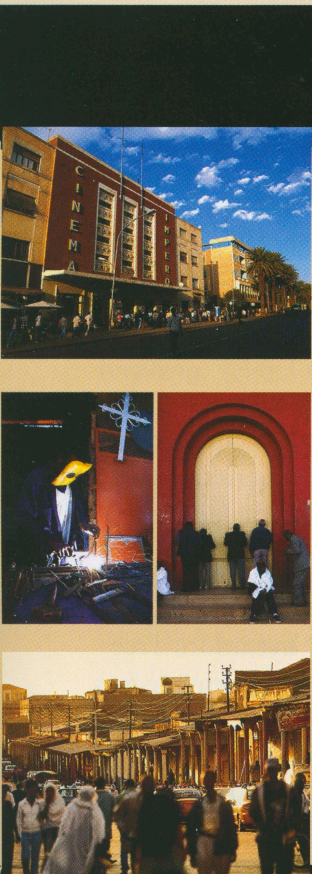
“The concept for the book of photography was not developed by design but by circumstances.” Issayas explains. “I went to Eritrea in the summer of 2006 to direct a series of documentaries on Eritrea under the banner of the Eritrean DVD Project. When the crew and I returned to the United States of America, we had

over forty hours of footage and over one thousand still pictures.

“At the suggestion of Professor Nubra Floyd of San Jose State University in California, I submitted three pictures for the San Jose State University Global Studies Department’s Global Lens 2006 photo contest and a photograph entitled ‘Firewood’ won first prize.”

Encouraged by the achievement, Issayas decided to work on a book of photography that would later be published under the title of Eritrea: Colors in Motion.

“The ancient Greeks used to be baffled by Africa – Egypt, Nubia, Punt, which is believed to be in Eritrea, Meroe, and etc”, says Issayas. “Pliny the Elder wrote that ‘Ex Africa semper aliquid novi - something new always comes out of Africa. I would like to say the same thing when it comes to Eritrea - Ex Eritrea semper aliquid novi. Every time I go back to Eritrea, I’m always amazed to hear new stories more fascinating than the previous ones. I argue that Eritrea is a platinum mine of stories of the resilience of the human spirit.”



S M A R A

Eritrea is the oldest new nation. It has a Red Sea coastline of over 800 miles. Eritrea is located on the Horn of Africa and borders Ethiopia, Sudan and Djibouti.

Asmara is the capital city of Eritrea. Asmara’s humble beginnings started when the women of four villages, tired of continuous warfare, united their villages and men folk and brought about peace. Even today, Asmara is the safest city in the world.

In 52 minutes, discover why one can easily fall in love with this city of radiance.

REAL LIFE TO REEL LIFE FILMS & AUDIO VISUAL INSTITUTE OF ERITREA PRESENTS "ASMARA: City of Radiance"

CREATED BY PHILIP SAFARIK DIRECTED BY AZMERA FITWI, SAMUEL ALAZAR CO-DIRECTED BY PHILIP SAFARIK

NARRATED BY JENNIFER HIGBEE MUSIC BY ELIAS AMARE EDITED BY ABREHET BERHANE PRODUCED BY YONAS GHIRMAY & BELAJI AWALOM

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ISSAYAS TESFAMARIAM

1

ISSAYAS TESFAMARIAM


COLOR

NTSC

English Subtitles

Stereo

52 Mins



city

A S M A R A

radiance

Issayas Tesfamariam

With each travel to Eritrea, Issayas has also produced a series of diary entries chronicling his experience and impressions of his trip. His sketches, as he calls them, are essentially an extension of his vision to narrate the Eritrean story. The diary entries are posted on his blog and are freely accessible to visitors. During his last trip to Eritrea between 2007 and 2008, he wrote six sketches focussing on history – particularly, 1960's Eritrea.

“The late Professor John Henrik Clarke stated that history is a clock that people use to tell their political time of day,” says Issayas. “It’s also a compass that people use to find themselves on the map of human geography. History tells a people where they have been and what they have been.

“It also tells a people where they are and what they are. Most importantly, history tells a people where they still must go and what they still

must be. By doing my bit, I hope to contribute to a fuller picture of Eritrean history.”

Issayas has been doing different researches for the purpose of piecing together historical events in Eritrea. Two of his research interests are posted on his blog. He has written various articles based on the findings of his research including a six-part series on the story of the late tegadalay Kidane Kiflu who was murdered in Kassala, Sudan in the late 1960s.

“Kidane’s handwritten letters are located at the Hoover Institution and were donated by journalist Jack Kramer, who was one of the first journalists who reported on Eritrea,” explains Issayas. “The other research I’ve been involved in for some time is to do with the Eritrean ancestry of the greatest Russian poet, Alexander S. Pushkin, through his maternal great grandfather, Abraham P. Hannibal.”

Currently, Issayas is working on his great uncle, Fissehation Beyene, who received his pilot’s license in Italy in 1928. Also in the pipeline of his documentary project are three DVDs including a 30-minute DVD entitled, ‘Eritrea: The Undiscovered Gem’, a 55-minute DVD on Eritrea’s development activities and a 55-minute DVD on the “ancientness” of Eritrea entitled ‘Eritrea: The Oldest New Nation’.

“Remember,” says Issayas, “Eritrea always brings forth something new.” A statement, no doubt, that will aid our man to hatch yet another great idea.

Issayas’s Blog: “<http://kemey.blogspot.com>”
Eritrea: Colors In Motion, by Issayas Tesfamariam and Philip Safarik can be purchased from “<http://www.lulu.com>” www.lulu.com

Moderna

coffee shop
patisserie

Harnet Avenue
ASMARA
Tel. 120020
Mobile. 07112136 or
07111289
Fax. 125435

