

SHADE SEEKERS AND THE MIXER

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Shade Seekers and The Mixer is about an idea that lies at the heart of life among Moremi villagers in Botswana. *Seriti*, 'Shade' is their word for it, and it ties dignity and power to the light in which a person is seen by others, the dead and the ancestors above all. When a village healer, Rantii mixes practices and claims a God-given, original mission, he becomes suspect in the eyes of others, because he fails to respect the public good; some fear his practice pollutes the earth. Four village elders, including a local Bishop and the village oracle keeper, view an earlier film of his séances and discuss them with a former patient, now the anthropologist's research assistant. Against the background of the awesome Tswapong hills around Moremi village and its regional shrine of the Sedimo cult, The Shade Seekers also illuminates the play of light and darkness in a funeral, a wedding, and at a sacrifice to restore communication with the ancestors.

Duration: 59min, **Medium:** DV, **Year:** 2006, **Location:** Botswana

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