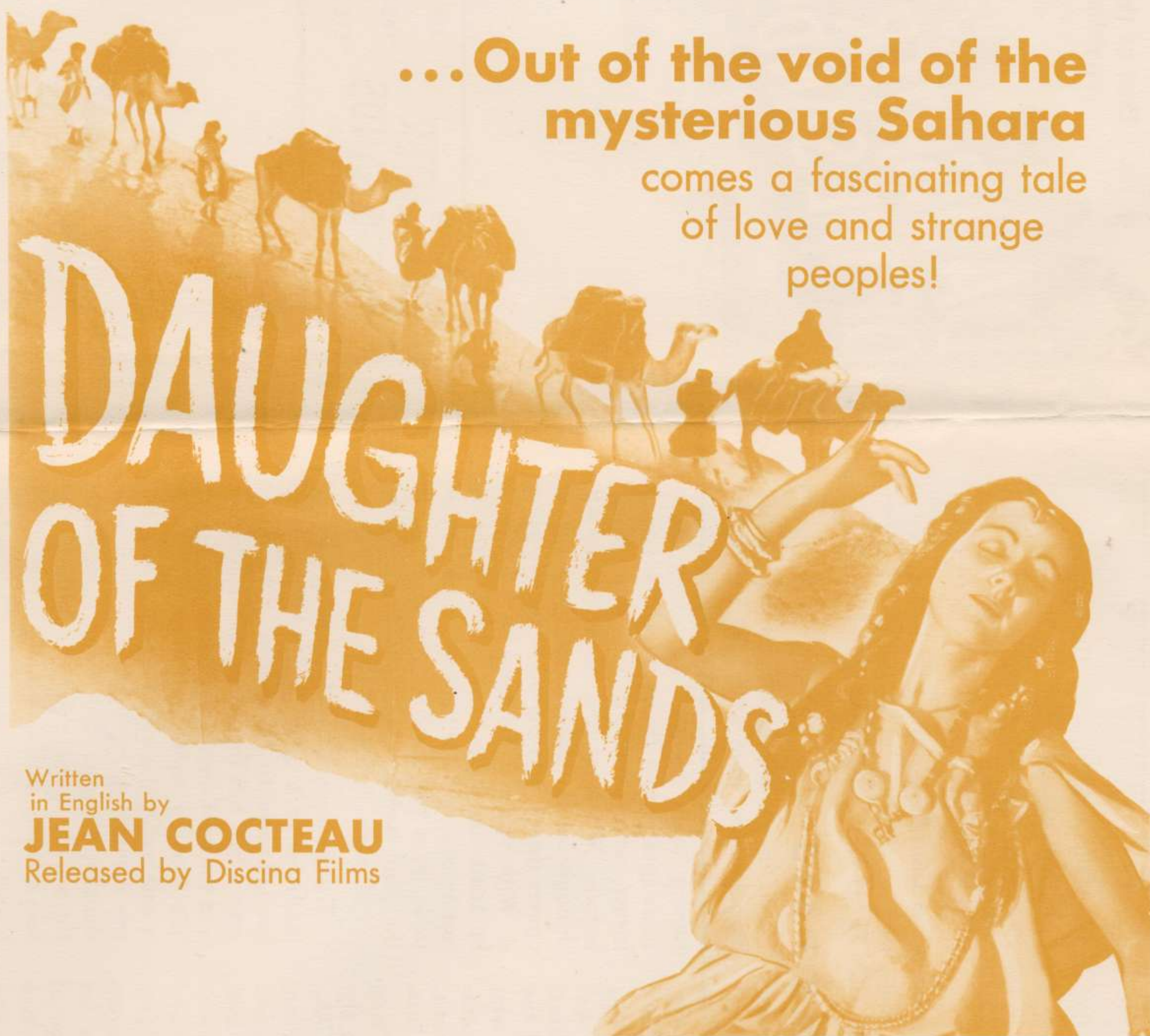


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**"THE FILM IS IMPECCABLE . . .
MAGNIFICENTLY CONVEYS AN UNDERSTANDING
OF PRIMITIVE SAHARA LIFE AND FOLKLORE . . .
A HANDSOMELY FRAMED AFRICA!"**—*N.Y. Times*
"ELOQUENT PANTOMIME!"—*N.Y. Mirror*



**...Out of the void of the
mysterious Sahara**
comes a fascinating tale
of love and strange
peoples!

Written
in English by
JEAN COCTEAU
Released by Discina Films

"Fascinating... haunting... like an impressionistic ballet
performed by the desert peoples and the elements of nature.
Zwobada's camera is never found wanting; each sequence
presents interesting detail in beautiful composition. Excellent
miming... very good screen work!"

— *N. Y. HERALD-TRIBUNE*

"A TRULY NEW EXPERIENCE IN FILM ENTERTAINMENT. AN UNUSUAL NEW FILM BY JEAN COCTEAU FILLED WITH LYRICAL BEAUTY"—EXHIBITOR

THE CAST

DENISE CARDI.....The Young Girl	ITTO BENT LAHSEN.....The Mad Woman
LARBI TOUNSI.....The Prince	HIMMOUD BRAHIMI.....The Buffoon

Director of Photography ANDRE BAC	Music GEORGES AURIC	Folklorique Advisor JEAN BESANDENOT	Narrator DUNCAN ELLIOTT
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Filmed entirely on location in the Atlas Mountains and Sahara Desert bordering French Morocco

From A Scenario by ANDRE ZWOBADA	Written by JEAN COCTEAU	Directed by ANDRE ZWOBADA
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SYNOPSIS

Once upon a time, there was a great caravan, lead by one of the chiefs of the desert, crossing the Sahara. One night, during a stop-over by the caravan, the chief's wife gave birth to a daughter.

The next day, a huge sandstorm whips through the desert, destroying the entire caravan, except for two survivors; the young girl (DENISE CARDI) and the crazy woman (ITTO BENT LAHSEN), who had stolen the girl away from the caravan. They find their way to an oasis, where they are taken in by the dwellers.

Sixteen years go by, the child of "bad luck" becomes the prettiest girl on the oasis. One day, the old sheik of the mountains, visits the oasis with his son, the young prince (LARBI TOUNSI) and his buffoon (HIMMOUD BRAHIMI). During a ceremonial dance by the townspeople for the sheik, the young girl and the prince see each other and fall in love.

The next day, the prince has to return to his mountain home. He leaves his horse with the young girl, as a sign of his love. The young girl filled with love for the prince, decides to follow him, and woman takes the body of the young girl back to their humble home. The prince arrives too late and the mad woman kills him so that the lovers may be reunited in death.

The lovers are buried on the barren mountainside from which the young girl had thrown herself, and a strange happening takes place. Two young palm trees sprout from the tomb of the young lovers, where nothing had ever grown before. Word of this miracle spreads throughout the desert and the buffoon comes down from the mountains to view it. With hatred in his heart for the lovers, he tears the palm trees from the tomb, but an even greater miracle occurs; water flows from the tomb of the lovers, and the poor barren oasis becomes the richest of oasis' in the Sahara.

The Buffoon sees the young girl and leads her to a tower where he imprisons her unknown to the prince. He tries to attack her, but the young girl resists him, and the next day escapes from the tower. She tries to rejoin the prince, who now is celebrating his coronation as sheik, but she cannot get through the mad, wild, dancing throngs. She understands that she will always be a stranger in this mountain country, and can never live with the prince.

The young girl runs off toward the oasis, where she throws herself from the mountain overlooking the oasis. The mad

RUNNING TIME: 74 MIN.

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