

We asked Yacouba...

What is your favorite Malian food?

People in Mali mainly eat dishes made from rice, or a special grain we have called fonio. My favorite food is niu-goona, a sauce for rice made of peanut butter and spinach.

What was it like growing up in Mali?

I was a little bit spoiled. I grew up with my grandparents, and I was their favorite. They used to take me everywhere, and trusted me with the stories (and some secrets!) of our ancestors. My grandparents were my best friends.

Were there special traditions in Mali?

When we were kids we had a three-month summer vacation. Two weeks before school would begin again, we would gather outside the city and have a big party and feast.

