



Film Africa 2013 – the UK’s largest celebration of African Cinema returns for its 3rd year running

9th October 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1-10 November 2013 Film Africa - London’s annual celebration of African cinema - returns for a third year with a line-up of over 60 films from across the continent screening at six major venues across London.

Film Africa 2013 launches with the controversial new film, *Of Good Report*, from South African director **Jahmil X.T. Qubeka**. Briefly banned from showing at the Durban International Film Festival on account of its provocative, *Lolita*-inspired subject matter, *Of Good Report* is a thrilling, devilishly comic and supremely assured work from one of Africa’s most exciting up-and-coming filmmakers.

Film Africa 2013 also includes a new strand, **3 x 3**, featuring three films from major names in African cinema. We will profile the work of Chadian director **Mahamat-Saleh Haroun**, who has cemented his reputation as one of the most respected auteurs in world cinema in the last two decades. His latest film, the charming and consistently surprising *Grisgris* (our Closing Night film), will be screened alongside two of his other major works, *Dry Season* and *A Screaming Man*. Other directors featured in the 3 x 3 strand are award-winning Franco-Senegalese visionary **Alain Gomis**, who will present all three of his feature films in person; and the supremely talented experimental filmmaker and actor **Mati Diop**, niece of legendary Senegalese director Djibril Diop Mambety, whose film *Touki Bouki*, we are also screening in celebration of its 40 year anniversary.

On 5 November, Film Africa presents **Bonfires and Revolutions**: an evening of politics and protest in African cinema. We will screen a programme of films exploring the legacy and impact of revolutions and social change across the continent, including the astonishing documentary *Babylon* by a trio of first-time directors from Tunisia, and which follows the refugee crisis in Libya. Among other highlights, this special programme also includes *Something Necessary*, Kenyan director **Judy Kibinge**’s powerful and sensitively observed film about the post-election violence in Kenya in 2007.

Organised by the Royal African Society, the UK’s prime Africa organisation, Film Africa 2013 will also feature a vibrant programme of live events including music performances, directorial masterclasses and intimate Q&As with directors and other FREE special events for families and young people.

Richard Dowden, Director of the Royal African Society says: "The Royal African Society (RAS) is delighted to bring you Film Africa 2013. The films in this year’s festival continue to reveal new images of Africa –



wealthy, global and dynamic; still full of challenges, but brimming with confidence. These films go beneath the surface of the headlines to tell stories of ordinary and extraordinary life in Africa."

Film Africa 2013 also celebrates Nigeria's vibrant film industry with **Coming of age: Celebrating 21 years of Nollywood**, featuring special full length screenings of classics *Living in Bondage* and *Osuofia in London*. The festival will also feature an industry forum on *The Business of Film in Africa*.

Other festival highlights include a programme of innovative short films in competition for the **Baobab Award**. The winning film will be selected by a panel of industry experts comprised of **Kate Gerova**, Artistic Director of Birds Eye View film festival, **Nick Denes**, Co-Director of the Palestinian Film Foundation, and award-winning director **Yaba Badoe**. Visiting filmmakers include: **Jahmil X.T. Qubeka, Alain Gomis, Jean-Pierre Bekolo, Judy Kibinge, Dimeji Ajibola, Sami Tlili, Pierre-Emmanuel Urcun, Pieter van der Houwen, Mensa Ansah (of FOKN Bois), Harry Freeland, Katrine Kjaer and Michael Adeyemi**.

Suzy Gillett, Film Africa Curator, says: "Film Africa is thrilled to welcome some of the top directors of their generation to London to present their films. Our wide-ranging programme, which includes 25 UK premiers, brings together the best cinema from across the continent, blending contemporary, classic, and experimental fiction and documentary films."

Note to editors

1. To download the full festival programme, visiting filmmakers' BIOs, images and logos, visit the following link: <http://bit.ly/19UnTMr>
2. **Participating venues in Film Africa 2013 are:** BFI Southbank, Hackney Picturehouse, Rich Mix, Ritzy Brixton, South London Gallery and Cine Lumiere.
3. Tickets for all screenings and events will be on sale at participating venues and via www.filmafrica.org.uk
4. **The Royal African Society** is a membership organisation that fosters a better understanding of Africa in the UK and throughout the world. Its goal is to promote Africa globally in the spheres of business, politics, academia, arts and culture. It disseminates knowledge and insight to make a positive difference to Africa's development and celebrates the diversity and depth of African cultures. Alongside Film Africa, the RAS also organizes Africa Writes, an annual literature festival held in partnership with The British Library. www.royalafricansociety.org.uk
5. **Suzy Gillett, Film Africa curator (biography)** - Suzy Gillett is an accomplished programmer, curator and festival producer. She was the Artistic Director of the Mosaiques World Cinema Festival 2005-2008, and was co-curator of the Women's Cinema from Tangiers to Tehran (2008). In 2012, she was Film Curator for the Marrakech Biennale.

For Interviews with visiting film-makers, festival curator and other participants, plus screeners and other press enquiries please contact: Nadia Denton on pr@filmafrica.org.uk / 07930 941 080

Film Africa, Royal African Society, 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PD

Twitter: [@Filmafrica](https://twitter.com/Filmafrica) Facebook: www.facebook.com/filmafricaUK Web: www.filmafrica.org.uk