



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Friday, 18 October 2013**

## **UK's big four African film festivals unite to share films and filmmakers**

This year, for the first time, the UK's biggest four African film festivals - Africa in Motion (AiM) in **Edinburgh/Glasgow**, Afrika Eye in **Bristol**, the **Cambridge** African Film Festival and Film Africa, **London** – are uniting to share films and filmmakers in a drive to bring a greater variety of contemporary African cinema to a broader UK audience.

The festivals have joined forces to tour a trio of highly acclaimed African filmmakers and to share some of the best films emerging from the continent. The touring filmmakers are:

- **Judy Kibinge**, a rising star on the Kenyan cinema scene, presenting ***Something Necessary***, her riveting drama about political violence in Kenya, followed by a Q&A at AiM, Afrika Eye and Film Africa (with a screening at the Cambridge African Film Festival).
- South African **Jahmil X.T. Qubeka** presenting and discussing ***Of Good Report***, his controversial, Lolita-inspired, film noir, at AiM and Film Africa.
- Franco-Senegalese director **Alain Gomis** presenting and discussing his multiple award winning latest film ***Tey*** - a contemplative drama following a man (Saul Williams) through his last day of life - at Film Africa and Afrika Eye, with a screening at the Cambridge African Film Festival.

Speaking on behalf of the four festivals, AiM's founder and curator Lizelle Bisschoff said: "The collaboration by these four African film festivals, taking place in Edinburgh, London, Bristol and Cambridge in October and November this year maximises our ability to showcase the best of African cinema and excite audiences with what's available."

Filmmaker Simon Bright, the Zimbabwe-born co-Director of Bristol's Afrika Eye festival added: "Currently only 0.01 % of cinema screenings in the UK show African films. But Africa is where story-telling first began and a new generation of Africans is finding exciting ways to bring this ancient talent to the screen via features and documentaries that thoroughly deserve the attention of UK cinema-goers."

Suzy Gillett, Film Africa Curator, said: "Film Africa is thrilled to collaborate with the main UK's African film festivals to bring top African directors to present their films to UK-wide audiences. This joining of forces is a great initiative, which will increase our ability to bring talent from across the continent. We hope this will have a positive impact in terms of building audiences and raise the profile of African cinema in the UK."

The season of festivals begins with the Africa in Motion (AiM) Film Festival in Edinburgh and Glasgow (Thursday 24 October – Sunday 3 November) then continues with Film Africa in London (Friday 1 November to Sunday 10 November) and the Cambridge African Film Festival (3 – 7 November and other dates) before concluding with Afrika Eye in Bristol (Friday 8 November to Sunday 10 November).

All four festivals are showing many other shared films as well as other titles and feature debates and other cultural events. For programming details and bookings, please see:

**Africa in Motion (AiM) Film Festival** - [www.africa-in-motion.org.uk](http://www.africa-in-motion.org.uk)

**Film Africa, London** – [www.filmafrica.org.uk](http://www.filmafrica.org.uk)

**Cambridge African Film Festival** – [www.cambridgeafricanfilmfestival.org.uk](http://www.cambridgeafricanfilmfestival.org.uk)

**Afrika Eye** – [www.afrikaeye.org.uk](http://www.afrikaeye.org.uk)

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**Notes to editors:**

This year's new collaborations by the UK's four biggest festivals of African film results from an agreement reached at FESPACO, the Pan African film festival held annually in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Under the Ouagadougou Declaration, the festivals pledged not only to get more African films shown in the UK but also to encourage more co-productions.

Interview opportunities: As well as interviews with the visiting filmmakers, other potential interviewees include AiM's founder/curator Lizelle Bisschoff, Film Africa's curator Suzy Gillett, Afrika Eye founder/curator Ingrid Sinclair; filmmaker Simon Bright and Cambridge African Film Festival curator Michael Boyd.