



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

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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 over ten days (**Friday 1 – Sunday 10 November**).

Organised by the Royal African Society, the UK’s prime Africa organisation, **Film Africa 2013** will also feature a vibrant programme of events including post-screening Q&As, directorial masterclasses, an Industry Forum, Film Africa *LIVE!* performances, schools screenings, young people’s workshops and other special events.

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 ‘Africa Rising’ headlines to tell stories of ordinary and extraordinary life in Africa."*

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.

In addition to director Jahmil X.T. Qubeka, this year’s festival will host 15 visiting filmmakers and guests, including: **Alain Gomis (Senegal/Paris)**, **Jean-Pierre Bekolo (Cameroon)**, **Judy Kibinge (Kenya)**, **Sami Tlili (Tunisia)**, **Pierre-Emmanuel Urcun (France)**, **Mensa Ansah - of FOKN Bois (Ghana)**, **Joao Viana (Guinea-Bissau)**, **Armand-Brice Tchikamen (Ivory Coast)**, **Josephat Torner (Tanzania)**, **Katrine Kjaer (Denmark)**, and UK-based **Pieter van der Houwen**, **Harry Freeland**, **Michael Adeyemi**, and **Ana de Sousa**.

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, experimental, fiction and documentary films."*

The 2013 programme profiles the work of three major names in African cinema. The trio of directors includes Chadian **Mahamat-Saleh Haroun**, one of the most respected auteurs in world cinema whose latest film, the charming and consistently surprising ***Grigris***, will be our Closing Night film; the 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 cult film, ***Touki Bouki***, will be screened to mark its 40 year anniversary alongside Diop's ***Mille Soleils***.

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*** and a 'Nollywood for Beginners' session. Additionally, during our industry forum, **The Business of Film in Africa**, an expert panel will discuss the shifting priorities in the Nigerian film market and the move to higher quality film.



Film Africa 2013 once again presents an exciting programme of innovative short films in competition for the annual **Baobab Short Film Award**, which this year will be judged 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**.

Other festival highlights include **Colonial Visions: Britain's African Empire on Film**, a special event which will screen and debate colonial-era films from British archive collections, and **Bonfires and Revolutions** - an evening of politics and protest in African cinema. This special programme includes **Something Necessary**, Judy Kibinge's powerful and sensitively observed film about the post-election violence in Kenya in 2007 and **Babylon**, a documentary by a trio of first-time directors from Tunisia, which follows the refugee crisis in Libya. Probably most topical of all is **La Pirogue** by Senegalese director Moussa Toure, which charts the precarious journey of 29 African men across the Atlantic to Spain aboard a small 'pirogue', candidly exploring the issue of illegal migration by sea into Europe.

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For interviews with visiting film-makers, festival curator and other guests, plus screeners and other press enquiries please contact:

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Notes to Editors:

To download the full festival programme, visiting filmmakers' BIOs, images and logos, visit the following link:
<http://bit.ly/19UnTMr>

The Royal African Society is a membership organisation that fosters a better understanding of Africa in the UK and throughout the world. Our goal is to promote Africa globally in the spheres of business, politics, academia, arts and culture.
www.royalafricansociety.org

Suzy Gillett, Film Africa curator - 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.