

Algerian cinema celebrated at Film Africa 2014!



THE ROYAL AFRICAN SOCIETY'S
- ANNUAL -
FILM FESTIVAL

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Film Africa - the Royal African Society's annual film festival and London's biggest celebration of African cinema - returns with 85 titles and 56 Premieres from across 23 different African countries.

Running from Friday 31 October to Sunday 9 November, Film Africa 2014 takes place across 11 London venues, including the Hackney Picturehouse, Ritzy Brixton, BFI Southbank, RichMix, the Roxy and the Genesis.

To mark the 60th anniversary of Algeria's revolution on 1st November 2014, Film Africa is delighted to present **Algerian Cinema: Towards a New Wave**, a special programme curated by Rosa Abidi. Over 15 Algerian films highlight the fresh, whimsical and illuminating work of a new generation of filmmakers who are unmistakably shifting Algeria's cinematic landscape. Grouped thematically and in chronological order, this first showcase of its kind includes 14 UK Premieres, a European Premiere and two 1960s' classics.

The programme opens with a double-bill at the Hackney Picturehouse with the European Premiere of **Fadhma n'Soumer**, and a Q&A with director **Belkacem Hadjadj**. This stunning historical biopic set in 19th century Kabylia will be followed by Pontecorvo's classic **The Battle of Algiers** (Saturday 1st November).

At RichMix, Dr Karima Laachir of the University of London will introduce documentary films about author Cervantes in Algiers; the Spaniards who fled the 1930's Civil War, and about psychiatrist, theorist and revolutionary **Frantz Fanon: Memories from the Asylum** (Sunday 2 November).

Back at the Hackney Picturehouse on Monday 3 November for a programme of award-winning shorts **Life and Death in the 1990's**; follow two rare, prescient and bold documentaries about Algeria's protests and forgotten "Spring": **Before Crossing the Horizon** by Habiba Djahnine and **Equivocal Chronicles** by Lamine Ammar-khodja. The screening will be followed by a discussion with Algerian author and activist Hamza Hamouchene.

The Roxy hosts an evening of Algerian film and music on Wednesday 5 November: bringing us up to date is the packed programme **And Life Goes On...** followed by a documentary on the first Algerian national women's football team. Director Sarah Tikanouine will be present for a Q&A about **The Desert Foxes**. London's **El Andaluz Quartet** led by Algerian oud virtuoso Yazid Fentazi will then take the stage for **Film Africa Live!**

The Algerian programme closes at the Genesis on Thursday 6 November with the cult 1969 documentary **The Pan-African Cultural Festival of Algiers** by photographer and filmmaker William Klein. The film will be followed by a discussion with Pan-African activists Hamza Hamouchene and Kevin Bismarck Cobham.

To view the full Film Africa 2014 festival programme, please visit www.filmafrica.org.uk

Zeinab Badawi, Chair of the Royal African Society, says:

"Film Africa 2014 is presenting a variety of powerful and compelling narratives from the continent on film. I think Film Africa is doing a marvellous job in bringing untold stories to the fore."

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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. We disseminate knowledge and insight to make a positive difference to Africa's development and celebrate the diversity and depth of African cultures.

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