



OPENING THIS WEEK: A SEASON OF GROUNDBREAKING FILMS FROM SOUTH AFRICA



SOUTH AFRICA AT 20: THE FREEDOM TOUR is the name of a truly ground-breaking season of South African films that will screen in cinemas across the UK from October 2014 to February 2015. A high quality programme of 11 titles will showcase brand new work alongside re-mastered classics by a diverse group of hugely talented South African filmmakers, some of whom will be visiting the UK to introduce their own films and to host post-screening discussions.

Venues include Aberystwyth Arts Centre, The Albany, Hackney Picturehouse, Cambridge Picturehouse, Glasgow Centre for Contemporary Arts, Edinburgh Filmhouse, Birmingham mac, Cardigan Mwldan, Bangor Pontio, Bracknell South Hill Park, Swansea Taliesin, Newcastle Tyneside Cinema, Bristol Watershed and many more.



SA at 20 director and executive producer **Lizelle Bisschoff** (left) says: “*South Africa at 20: The Freedom Tour* will bring a hugely exciting selection of South African cinema, past and present, to audiences all over the UK. The timing could not be more appropriate; South Africa is celebrating its second decade of democracy and freedom this year, and the eyes of the world are on this young nation.

“With Mandela’s sad passing in December last year, the country is now forced to tackle its future head-on; to learn from the wisdoms and mistakes of the past, and to listen to the voices, young and old, that advocate for a better, brighter future. Film has become a primary creative tool for expressing the realities, hopes and dreams of this rainbow nation, and the selection of films in *The Freedom Tour* is as diverse as the colours of the country itself. From previously banned anti-apartheid classics and probing contemporary documentaries, to gritty dramas and world-class animation, *The Freedom Tour* will tell the stories of South Africa in all their diversity.”

All the films chosen for **South Africa at 20** – fiction and documentary – depict the history, cultures and stories of South Africa and are grouped in three themes:

Freedom Struggles:

- Come Back, Africa (Dir: Lionel Rogosin, 1959)
- 1994: The Bloody Miracle (Dir: Meg Rickards, 2013)
- Soft Vengeance: Albie Sachs and the New South Africa (Abby Ginzberg)

Post-apartheid Challenges:

- Four Corners (Dir: Ian Gabriel, 2014)
- Life Above All (Dir: Oliver Schmitz, 2011)
- Miners Shot Down (Dir: Rehad Desai, 2014)
- Nelson Mandela: The Myth and Me (Dir: Khalo Matabane, 2014)

Young South African Voices:

- Felix (Dir: Roberta Durrant, 2013)
- Future Sounds of Mzansi (Dir: Spoek Mathambo & Lebogang Rasethaba, 2014)
- Hear Me Move (Dir: Scottnes L. Smith, 2014)
- Khumba (Dir: Anthony Silverston, 2013)

October screenings:

October 12 th	Birmingham mac	<i>Life Above All</i>
October 13 th	Swansea Taliesin	<i>Dear Mandela, Felix</i>
October 14 th	Hereford Courtyard	<i>White Wedding</i>
October 15 th -18 th	London Albany	<i>The African Cypher, Tsotsi, Khumba, Sea Point Days</i>
October 19 th	London Stratford East PictureHouse	<i>The African Cypher, The Future Sounds of Mzansi</i>
October 20 th -22 nd	Cardiff Chapter Arts Centre	<i>1994: Bloody Miracle, Tsotsi, Four Corners, Life Above All</i>
October 24 th	Hereford Courtyard	<i>Nelson Mandela: The Myth and Me</i>
October 24 th -25 th	Cardiff Chapter Arts Centre	<i>Siliva the Zulu, Felix, Hear Me Move</i>
October 25 th 26 th	Edinburgh Filmhouse	<i>Come Back Africa, Khumba, Siliva the Zulu</i>
October 25 th -27 th	Bracknell South Hill Park	<i>Felix, Khumba, Come Back Africa, Mpantsula</i>
October 27 th	Aberystwyth Arts Centre	<i>Dear Mandela, Four Corners</i>
October 29 th	Edinburgh Filmhouse	<i>Four Corners</i>
October 30 th	Glasgow Film Theatre	<i>Khumba</i>

The season will also include one-off screenings of a further 14 titles including the 2006 Oscar winning *Tsotsi*, the multi-award winning documentary *Dear Mandela*, the brilliant 1987 *Mapantsula* directed by the then 27 year old Oliver Schmitz, the fascinating 2010 documentary *Surfing Soweto* about trains rather than waves, and the hilarious romantic comedy *White Wedding* which was South Africa's official submission to the 82nd Academy Awards for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film.

Marking the 20th anniversary of democratic elections in South Africa, SA at 20: The Film Tour is a collaboration between the five African film festivals in the UK:

Africa in Motion (AiM) Film Festival in Scotland

Film Africa in London

Afrika Eye in Bristol

Watch-Africa in Wales

Cambridge African Film Festival



Directors Meg Rickards, Ian Gabriel, Khalo Matabane, Scottness L Smith, and choreographer Paul Modjadji will be visiting the UK to introduce their films and take part in talks, events and discussions.

Meg Rickards is the director of **1994: The Bloody Miracle**, a chilling look at how those who were determined to derail democracy in South Africa 20 years ago have made an uneasy peace with the Rainbow Nation.

Ian Gabriel is the director of **Four Corners**, a high-octane, multi-thread coming of age crime drama set in the unique and volatile South African prison and gangland subculture of the Cape Flats townships.

Khalo Matabane, director of **Nelson Mandela: The Myth and Me**, asks global thinkers, Apartheid-victims and Mandela's entourage to classify Nelson Mandela's achievements, thereby providing a multi-faceted approach to his myth.

Scottness Smith is the director and **Paul Modjadji** the choreographer of the highly entertaining **Hear Me Move** in which Muzi, the son of a pantsula dancer (the highly energetic dance form that originated in the black suburbs of South Africa during the Apartheid era) embarks on a journey of self-discovery.

Other standout titles include **Come Back Africa** co-written, directed and produced by Lionel Rogosin in 1959. Shot clandestinely and featuring, among others, a young Miriam Makeba, this film brings to life the injustices of the apartheid system in a unique way. It remains a work of historical and cultural importance by preserving the unique heritage of the townships of South Africa in the 1950s.

Miners Shot Down by director Rehad Desai commemorates the terrible events of 2012 when mineworkers in one of South Africa's biggest platinum mines began an isolated fight against the combined forces of the mine owners, Lonmin. The strike ended in one of the most brutal tragedies of the post-apartheid era.

Khumba directed by Anthony Silverston is about a half-striped zebra who leaves home in search of the magic waterhole that will cure his anomaly. This colourful animation features the voices of Jake T. Austin, Steve Buscemi, Loretta Devine, Laurence Fishburne, Richard E. Grant, and Liam Neeson.

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