The Royal African Society is delighted to present the 9th edition of Film Africa, taking place from Friday 30 October to Sunday 8 November 2020. Showcasing 46 titles from 14 different African countries, including 25 UK, European and World premieres, this year’s festival is yet another exciting and eclectic collection of some of the best contemporary cinema stemming from Africa and its global diaspora.

To mitigate the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Film Africa 2020 will consist of a venue programme of 12 socially distanced screenings at the Rich Mix and BFI Southbank, and an online offering of 8 fiction and documentary features, which will be available on the BFI Player’s subscription service throughout the 10 days of the festival. This new online access will enable audiences anywhere in the UK to enjoy Film Africa for the first time from the comfort of their own homes, which is very exciting for us.

The BFI Player offers a 14-day free trial period, which means you could watch our festival films for free and then decide whether to keep enjoying the diverse selection of cinema offered through their subscription. It is also worth highlighting that our venue screenings will have very limited capacity this year, so we strongly recommend booking in advance to secure your cinema tickets.

In addition to our core film programme, we will be hosting a series of virtual events - including live Director Q&As, panel debates and a masterclass on curating African cinema - which anyone in the world will be able to access and enjoy. As part of the online festival experience, we will also be hosting Watch Parties and at-home Dine & View screenings, which we hope will bring a sense of community to all those involved. Some of our festival events will be British Sign Language interpreted, so please look out for the BSL icon throughout the brochure.

Our special strands this year include BEYOND NOLLYWOOD, presented by guest curator Nadia Denton and celebrating new wave audio-visual content from Nigeria; and HERE / NOT HERE, presented in partnership with Deaffest, the UK’s leading Deaf-led Film & Arts Festival. To find out more about the main themes emerging from the main film programme, please see overleaf for our curators’ statement.

Our mission at Film Africa remains the same - to offer a platform to showcase and celebrate the best contemporary African cinema in London and the UK - and, as in previous years, we will be presenting the Baobab Award for Best Short Film and the Film Africa Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature Film to recognise and nurture emerging filmmaking talent. The Audience Award is a great way for you to get involved as a festival attendee, so make sure you cast your vote online for any fiction features you watch. For instructions on how to do so, please turn to page 7.

We hope you enjoy delving into this year’s stimulating programme and look forward to welcoming you online or in person!

Stay well,

Sheila Ruiz
Director, Film Africa
Deputy Director, Royal African Society
We are pleased to introduce the Film Africa 2020 programme – an eclectic collection of films, to be screened in cinemas and online. COVID-19 has disrupted the entire world and the film festival space is no exception. We hope and trust that this year’s Film Africa experience will still be one of community and sharing, in the cinemas and online at home with friends and family.

The selection mirrors the combined minds and sensibilities of three curators. Based in three corners of Africa; Ghana in the west, Kenya in the east and South Africa in the south. The films – feature-length and shorts; fiction and documentary – reflect a multitude of experiences, subject matters and styles, with stories unfolding on the African continent as well as in its Diaspora.

The filmmakers represented in the 2020 selection address new and old concerns, each in their own distinct and unique voice, with empathy, and in ways, that both reflect and stimulate boundless imagination. There are films that speak of secrets, taboos, of painful memories and unhealed wounds, at individual, family and community levels.

Belonging (acknowledged and contested) is a recurring theme and so is the inseparable issue of land. Land, in life and in this selection, represents identity, a place to rest (for the living as well as for the dead) and a crucial source for sustenance and survival. Migration in all its complexity, is also tackled, including planned departures that never happen; travellers who never reached their destination; family separation, reunification; and the precarious existence of exile, be it as documented or undocumented immigrants in a foreign space.

The 2020 film programme showcases a powerful blend of existential concerns in very real settings, where the socio-political circumstances impact the lives of human beings, but never out shadow them or define and determine who they are in the world.

These stories, while showcasing a plethora of ways in which human beings cause each other harm - willingly and unwillingly - are also a testament to human resilience and self-actualization; to our ability to forgive, love and support one another.

We would like to thank Film Africa for the confidence and each other for the joyous collaboration. We wish everyone a wonderful, thrilling, thought-provoking and comforting time at the movies and at home.

Katarina Hedrén in Johannesburg

Aseye Tamakloe in Accra

Nyambura M.Waruungi in Nairobi
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>SCREENING / EVENT</th>
<th>AT HOME / IN VENUE</th>
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<tr>
<td>FRI 30 OCT</td>
<td>18:00</td>
<td>Opening Film: The Ghost And The House Of Truth - Watch Party + Live Director Q&amp;A</td>
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<td></td>
<td>20:40</td>
<td>Opening Film: The Ghost And The House Of Truth + Pre-Recorded Director’s Intro</td>
<td>In Venue</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT 31 OCT</td>
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<td>HERE / NOT HERE - Watch Party + Live Cast &amp; Crew Panel</td>
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<td>Eyimofe (This Is My Desire) + Pre-Recorded Director’s Intro</td>
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<td>Live Panel: BEYOND NOLLYWOOD To The World</td>
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<td></td>
<td>18:00</td>
<td>You Will Die At 20 + Pre-Recorded Director’s Intro</td>
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<td></td>
<td>18:30</td>
<td>For Maria Ebun Pataki – Watch Party + Live Director Q&amp;A</td>
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<tr>
<td>MON 2 NOV</td>
<td>18:30</td>
<td>Film Africa 2020 Doc Shorts + Pre-Recorded Curator’s Intro</td>
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<tr>
<td>TUE 3 NOV</td>
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<td>The Letter (Doc) + Pre-Recorded Director’s Intro</td>
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<tr>
<td>WED 4 NOV</td>
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<td>The Letter - Watch Party + Live Director Q&amp;A</td>
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<td></td>
<td>18:30</td>
<td>I Am Samuel [Doc] + Kenyan, Christian, Queer (Short Doc) + Live Director Q&amp;A</td>
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<tr>
<td>THU 5 NOV</td>
<td>18:00</td>
<td>This Is Not A Burial, It’s A Resurrection + Pre-Recorded Director’s Intro</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18:30</td>
<td>Le Loupe D’Or De Balolé [Doc] - Watch Party + Live Director Q&amp;A</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRI 6 NOV</td>
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<td>Finding Sally [Doc] - Online Dine &amp; View Screening</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Becoming Black (Doc) + pre-recorded director’s intro</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT 7 NOV</td>
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<td>Film Africa 2020 Baobab Award Shorts + Live Intro</td>
<td>In Venue</td>
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<td></td>
<td>19:00</td>
<td>Goldcoast Lounge - Online Dine &amp; View Screening</td>
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<td></td>
<td>20:30</td>
<td>Farewell Amor + Pre-Recorded Director’s Intro</td>
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<td>SUN 8 NOV</td>
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<td>Masterclass: Programming African Cinema</td>
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<td>14:00</td>
<td>Baobab Award Winner Announcement - Watch Party + Live Director Q&amp;A</td>
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<td>Live Panel: To Be Kenyan, Christian, Queer</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Closing Film: Barakat + Pre-Recorded Director’s Intro</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18:00</td>
<td>Closing Film: Barakat - Watch Party + Live Director Q&amp;A</td>
<td>At Home</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
YOUR OPINION MATTERS MOST!

Our Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature Film offers a cash prize of £1,000 and is particularly special because it’s chosen by you!

You can vote for as many films as you attend or watch. This year’s voting will take place online for all of our cinema goers and streaming audiences to take part. Visit filmafrica.org/audience-award to vote and go into the running to win a BFI Southbank or Rich Mix membership, or BFI Player yearly subscription.

The winner will be announced online on Sunday, 8 November.

FILMS IN COMPETITION:

EYIMOFE

FAREWELL AMOR

FOR MARIA EBUN PATAKI

GOLDCOAST LOUNGE

THIS IS NOT A BURIAL, IT’S A RESURRECTION

YOU WILL DIE AT 20


All eligible films are marked with this symbol throughout the brochure.
Set in Lagos, Nigeria, the film follows Bola Ogun, a dedicated counselor who brokers reconciliation sessions between convicts and their victims. When her own daughter is murdered, she too must confront what it means to forgive. The film is notable for the spellbinding performance of BAFTA Breakthrough Brit Susan Wokoma as Bola, and award-winning Nigerian actress Kate Henshaw as Folashade, the police officer seeking justice for Bola.
CLOSING FILM: BARAKAT
EUROPEAN PREMIERE

Dir. Amy Jephta

How does a family reconcile with the death of a father? That is the question at the heart of this Afrikaans Muslim film, the first of its kind, to be produced in South Africa. The weight of this question is borne by the matriarch of the family, who not only has to deal with her own feelings of loss, but hold her family together, and rebuild a life for herself. Barakat (the Arabic word for blessings) is a story of love, forgiveness, reconciliation, and acceptance.

CINEMA SCREENING + PRE-RECORDED DIRECTOR’S INTRO
SUN 8 NOV | 6:00PM | BFI SOUTHBANK

ONLINE WATCH PARTY + LIVE DIRECTOR Q&A 🎥🔒
SUN 8 NOV | 6:00PM | BFI PLAYER / FACEBOOK

Book for the venue screening and register for the Watch Party at filmafrica.org. Film will also be available on the BFI Player throughout the 10 days of the festival.

@FilmAfrica /FilmAfricaUK #FilmAfrica20 filmafrica.org
YOU WILL DIE AT 20
Dir. Amjad Abu Alala
Sudan, France, Egypt, Germany, Norway, Qatar. 2019. 105 mins. Arabic with English subtitles.

Adapted from a short story by writer and activist Hammour Ziada, You Will Die at 20 is a metaphor for Sudan under the rule of the ousted dictator, Omar al-Bashir. When Muzamil was born, a prophecy by the holy man of the village predicts that he will die when he is 20 years old. Muzamil's father cannot stand the doom and travels away from home. Sakina, now a single mother, raises her son with over protection. Eventually, Muzamil shirks this, courting the dangers he has been shielded from. One day, Muzamil turns 19...

THE LETTER UK PREMIERE
Dirs. Maia Lekow, Christopher King
When Karisa receives a letter from relatives alerting him of accusations of witchcraft levelled against his grandmother, he rushes back home. And so this richly layered documentary unfolds, exposing tensions caused by a volatile mix of Christianity, consumerism, and misogyny. Young Kenyan men accuse their female elders of witchcraft to steal their land, begrudge them for their property because they are women. The Letter investigates the colonial triggers and the lingering structural injustices that give life to this unfortunate phenomenon.

This event is part of the "African Screen Worlds: Decolonising Film and Screen Studies" project, funded by the European Research Council (grant agreement number 819236), and the regular seminar series at the SOAS Centre for Creative Industries, Media and Screen Studies.

CINEMA SCREENING + PRE-RECORDED DIRECTOR INTRO
TUE 3 NOV | 6:30PM | RICH MIX

CINEMA SCREENING + PRE-RECORDED DIRECTOR INTRO
SUN 1 NOV | 6:00PM | RICH MIX

ONLINE WATCH PARTY + LIVE DIRECTOR Q&A
WED 4 NOV | 5:00PM | BFI PLAYER / FACEBOOK

Film available on the BFI Player throughout the 10 days of the festival.
KENYAN, CHRISTIAN, QUEER
UK PREMIERE
Dir. Aiwan Obinyani
Is it possible to be African, Christian and gay? The first LGBT church in Nairobi, Kenya, definitely believes so. The Cosmopolitan Affirming Community seeks to promote an inclusive and progressive form of Christianity, in a rather conservative society.

There will also be a live online panel discussion featuring both directors titled ‘To be Kenyan, Christian & Queer’, held in partnership with Africa in Motion Film Festival, on Sunday 8 November, at 3:30pm. For more info, see page 24.

I AM SAMUEL
Dir. Peter Murimi
This documentary, filmed over five years, follows Samuel, who grew up in a small Kenyan town and now lives in Nairobi. His life in the capital is in stark contrast to his upbringing in a traditional rural family. He loves them and they love him, but they wish that he would get married soon. A secret stands between them. I am Samuel is an intimate portrayal of one man’s conflict: on one hand, he must define love and freedom for himself, on the other, he is duty-bound to honour his family’s wishes.

THIS IS NOT A BURIAL, IT’S A RESURRECTION
Dir. Lemohang Jeremiah Mosese
Lesotho, South Africa, Italy 2019. 120 mins. Southern Sotho with English subtitles.
Amongst the pythonic mountains of land-locked Lesotho, an 80-year-old widow winds up her earthly affairs, makes arrangements for her burial and prepares to die. But when her village is threatened with forced resettlement due to the construction of a reservoir, she finds a new will to live and ignites a collective spirit of defiance within her community. In the final dramatic moments of her life, Mantoa’s legend is forged and made eternal.

CINEMA SCREENING + PRE-RECORDED DIRECTOR INTRO
THU 5 NOV | 6:00PM | RICH MIX
NARRATIVE AND DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

**LE LOUPE D’OR DE BALOLÉ**
*Dir. Chloé Aïcha Boro*
*Burkina Faso, France. 2019. 65 mins. Mooré, Dioula with English subtitles.*

This documentary film, set in Ouagadougou, capital of Burkina Faso, puts a stark spotlight on the dire working conditions of the labourers in a granite quarry. Typically on the margins of a society that refuses to see them, the film centers them, for once, as they revolt against the slaveholder-like terms of their employment. Le Loupe D’or de Balolé is a moving, visually stunning rendition of the Baloé quarry and its polemical characters.

**ONLINE WATCH PARTY + LIVE DIRECTOR Q&A**
*THU NOV | 6:30PM | BFI PLAYER / FACEBOOK*

Film available on the BFI Player throughout the 10 days of the festival.

**BECOMING BLACK UK PREMIERE**
*Dir. Ines Johnson-Spain*
*Germany 2019. 91 mins. German, French with English subtitles.*

Director Ines Johnson-Spain grew up in Germany thinking her dark skin, in contrast to the white of her parents and brother, was of no consequence. Her parents assured her that it was merely coincidental. Becoming Black is then an unraveling as Johnson-Spain discovers her hidden past. This deeply personal film follows her quest for the truth, reflecting on themes of identity and family.

**CINEMA SCREENING + PRE-RECORDED DIRECTOR INTRO**
*FRI 6 NOV | 8:30PM | BFI SOUTHBANK*

**FINDING SALLY**
*Dir. Tamara Dawit*

Finding Sally is a documentary based on inexplicable but true events. In the summer of 1973, Sally, a child of an upper-class family, travels to Ethiopia, her home country for holidays. There, she soon becomes an enemy of the state and a top-ranking member of the Communist Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Party. And then disappears. Four decades after the fact, director Tamara Dawit tries to put the pieces of her aunt’s disappearance back together in this film, which also exhumes a dark period in Ethiopian political history, marked for its violence, upheaval, and mass killings.

**DINE & VIEW ONLINE SCREENING**
*FRI 6 NOV | 7PM | BFI PLAYER / FACEBOOK*

Film available on the BFI Player throughout the 10 days of the festival.
FAREWELL AMOR
Dir. Ekwa Msangi
Farewell Amor is the feature directorial debut of Ekwa Msangi, a Tanzanian-American filmmaker. 17 years after he was forced to leave his wife and daughter in Angola, lead character Walter reunites with them as they join him in his new life in New York, U.S.A. Of course, much has changed and the film follows the journey of these three back to each other, back to becoming a family again. The film is a fine example of deeply personal, fully human, intergenerational storytelling that also homes in the American immigrant experience.

CINEMA SCREENING + PRE-RECORDED DIRECTOR INTRO
SAT 7 NOV | 8:30PM | RICH MIX

GOLDCOAST LOUNGE EUROPEAN PREMIERE
Dir. Pascal Aka
Set in Ghana, Goldcoast Lounge is a stylistically stimulating drama that follows a family of criminals who must clean up their act before the government shuts down their lounge. In so doing, murders, betrayal, secrets, rivalries rush to the fore. Shot in the noir style of 1940s American film, Goldcoast Lounge is an ambitious, statement-making feature debut by director Pascal Aka. The film merges elements of African high life, funk, jazz with the black and white picture, achieving something altogether unique.

DINE & VIEW ONLINE SCREENING
SAT 7 NOV | 7PM | BFI PLAYER / FACEBOOK
Film available on the BFI Player throughout the 10 days of the festival.

IN SEARCH...
Dir. Beryl Magoko
In Search is a personal journey that follows its courageous director, Magoko as she confronts her past and her own body. At the centre of this story is the weighty decision she must make: to undertake reconstructive surgery for the female genital mutilation she underwent as a young girl, or not. In Search… is heartbreaking and triumphant in its portrayal of life with and after female genital mutilation—an earnest quest for dignity.

Film available on the BFI Player throughout the 10 days of the festival.

filmafrica.org #FilmAfrica20 /FilmAfricaUK @FilmAfrica
BEYOND NOLLYWOOD

Film Africa 2020 is delighted to present this special BEYOND NOLLYWOOD strand.

BEYOND NOLLYWOOD is a term coined by the Curator and Author Nadia Denton to describe new wave audio-visual content from Nigeria such as short films, art house, animation, documentary, experimental and music videos. BEYOND NOLLYWOOD is a concept, curated event and collective of filmmakers.

For more information, visit beyondnollywood.com.

EYIMOFÉ (THIS IS MY DESIRE)

Dirs. Arie Esiri & Chuko Esiri

Set in Lagos, Nigeria, Eyiimofé follows the life and desires of Rosa, a hairdresser, and Mofe, a factory technician, two economically disadvantaged people who are set on seeking better fortunes abroad. It is the debut feature film of co-directors and brothers, Arie and Chuko Esiri. The film is an intimate portrait of the daily drudgery and struggles of ordinary Lagosians like its lead characters, trying to make a life for themselves. Eyiimofé is a heart song for freedom, resilience, and the choices we are often forced to make.

CINEMA SCREENING + PRE-RECORDED DIRECTOR INTRO
SAT 31 OCT | 8:30PM | RICH MIX

FOR MARIA EBUN PATAKI
WORLD PREMIERE

Dir. Damiola Orimugunje

After a complicated child delivery, Derin finds herself at odds with life and loved ones, including her newborn, Maria. Her bewildered mother-in-law insists that she is not a good enough parent. Her increasingly worried husband Afolabi watches from the sidelines. Made in a compelling art-house style, For Maria Ebun Pataki confronts the realities of postpartum depression.

ONLINE WATCH PARTY + LIVE DIRECTOR Q&A
SUN 1 NOV | 6:30PM | BFI PLAYER / FACEBOOK

Film available on the BFI Player throughout the 10 days of the festival.
‘STORY FOR THE GODS’ SHORTS PROGRAMME

From an exploration of digital love to the loss of religion, this selection of short narratives presents a vibrant West African perspective on the human experience.

BORN AGAIN
Dir. Candice Onyeama
UK, Cyprus. 2020. 10 mins.
Nwa is tormented by her inability to have children.

LOSING MY RELIGION UK PREMIERE
Dir. Damilola Orimogunje
Nigeria. 2018. 15 mins.
Junior is forced into religious devotion with devastating consequences.

DIGITAL LOVE UK PREMIERE
Dir. Mike Omonua
Nigeria. 2018. 5 mins.
A young lady envisions a transhuman, digitally controlled life.

SPECIALISED TECHNIQUE
Dir. Onyeka Igwe
UK. 2018. 7 mins.
A transformation of archival footage from studied spectacle to livingness.

TE’LA EUROPEAN PREMIERE
Dir. Peter Okojie
Nigeria. 2018. 3 mins.
A young tailor from the north of Nigeria migrates to Lagos for a better life.

FISH ON FIRE EUROPEAN PREMIERE
Dir. Peter Okojie
Nigeria. 2018. 5 mins.
The Liberian civil war may have stopped Sarah’s education but it couldn’t stop her resilience and desire for self-improvement.

BRADFORD YOUNG: CINEMA IS THE WEAPON
Dir. Corine Dhondee
UK. 2019. 9 mins.
Exploration of the work of a cinematographer whose work has been pivotal formulating a new black aesthetic.

SILENCE UK PREMIERE
Dir. Tolulope Ajayi
Nigeria. 2016. 13 mins.
Ire loses her innocence in the most brutal way.

‘BEYOND NOLLYWOOD TO THE WORLD’ PANEL DISCUSSION
As part of this special strand, Nadia Denton brings together a panel of BEYOND NOLLYWOOD leading lights, including Damilola Orimogunje, Chuko Esiri, Peter Okojie and Candice Onyeama. For more information on this event, please see page 24.

Register for the panel discussion at filmafrica.org.
This year Film Africa partners with the UK’s leading Deaf-led Film & Arts festival, Deaffest, to present HERE / NOT HERE, an event around Director Bim Ajadi’s latest work, which brings the visual vernacular art form into the mainstream.

ONLINE WATCH PARTY + LIVE CAST & CREW PANEL
SAT 31 OCT | 5:00-7:00PM | BSL ZONE / FACEBOOK

HERE / NOT HERE
Dir. Bim Ajadi

Here / Not Here is a hip hop music drama combining elements of hip hop dance, football, sign language and Visual Vernacular - a choreographic and poetic form of sign. Three rival groups - Deaf VVers, footballers and Krumpers - clash over who should use an abandoned warehouse space. Despite their differences, they find and inspire a common language through movement to communicate, collaborate and come together. The film is urban, funny and thought-provoking.
LIVE CAST & CREW PANEL

The Watch Party will be followed by a live online panel event with director Bim Ajadi, writer Jonzi D and members of the cast discussing the process of working together as a team of Deaf and hearing creatives. See page 24 for more details.

HERE / NOT HERE was commissioned by the British Sign Language Broadcasting Trust. Live events and panels are supported by Unlimited. Link to the film on BSL Zone: bslzone.co.uk/watch/herenot-here.

Register for the Watch Party and ‘cast & crew’ panel at filmafrica.org.
The Baobab Award for Best Short Film exists to recognise and support African filmmaking and to enhance the visibility of emerging new voices. The Award consists of a £1,000 cash prize awarded by a jury of filmmakers and industry professionals.

The Baobab Award is long listed in partnership with the National Film & Television School’s MA in Film Studies, Programming & Curation, with the objective of encouraging an appreciation and knowledge of African cinema in the next generation of film programmers.

SAT 7 NOV | 2PM | RICH MIX
TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 172 MINS

ARACHNID
Dir. Carl Earl-Ocran

Described by the director as the ‘ethereal’ break up story, this short recasts folklore as a contemporary story, in which we see Anansi, the trickster spider god try to win back Ama, an Ashanti goddess, and his estranged ex.

ARTIST, ACT OF LOVE UK PREMIERE
Dir. Kuukua Eshun
Ghana. 2019. 6 mins. English with English subtitles

This short is a visual poem, deftly written by the director, Kuukua Eshun. It celebrates what love looks like in its many forms. It asks the question, what does it mean to pledge allegiance to a nation, a person, a point in time, or the self?

DA YIE (GOOD NIGHT)
Dir. Anthony Nti

Set in Accra, Ghana, Da Yie is a semi-autobiographical story that explores the loss of innocence. Led by two breakthrough child actors, the story follows days in the lives of Matilda and Prince, two impressionable children as they encounter Bogah, an adult with nefarious intentions.
DOLÁPÔ IS FINE
Dir. Ethosheia Hylton

This is a beautiful coming-of-age story woven around the politics of hair and identity. At its centre is Dolapo, a young British, black woman who must make choices about her hair and name, in order to fit into a mainstream workforce. But how much of herself must she leave behind...

FAKH (THE TRAP) UK PREMIERE
Dir. Nada Riyadh
Egypt, Germany. 2019. 21 mins. Arabic with English subtitles.

In the peculiar set up of a deserted and run-down Egyptian seaside resort in wintertime, a young unmarried couple arrives to make love. The power dynamic between them is tested, when the girl reveals she wants their relationship to end.

*Triger warning: please note this film features some images of violence against women.

HENET WARD
Dir. Morad Mostafa

Henet Ward’s lead character, Halima, is a Sudanese henna artist who is called upon to paint the bride-to-be of a well-off Egyptian family. She goes in the company of her seven-year-old daughter, Ward. They are both refugees in Egypt. The day does not go to plan, for either of them. Henet Ward is a look into the experiences of Sudanese refugees inspired by the video of a bullied Sudanese student that went viral across Egypt last year.
BAOBAB AWARD FOR BEST SHORT FILM

TAB UK PREMIERE
Dir. Hlumela Matika
Khanya and Sandiswa are left outside the local horse gambling arena by their father, under the strict instructions to not leave the car. Khanya receives her period and makes the decision to enter the arena, when she is caught by her father, the true confines of their delicate relationship come to light.

WHAT DID YOU DREAM? UK PREMIERE
Dir. Karabo Lediga
It’s the summer school holidays in 1990 South Africa and 11-year-old Boipelo is back at her grandmother Koko’s four-roomed house in Atteridgeville. It’s a point of uncertainty for the country and for Boipelo who will be attending a multiracial school soon. As the holidays come to an end, she becomes consumed by the fact that, unlike her two cousins, she can no longer remember her dreams when her granny asks in order to play a local Chinese lottery called Mochaena. She has to devise a plan to dream again, before it is too late.

ÍFÉ EUROPEAN PREMIERE
Dir. Uyai Ikpe-Etim
ífè and Adaora fall in love over a three-day date, but their love comes under pressure when it tested by the realities of being in a same-sex relationship in a homophobic country like Nigeria.

ÌFÉ EUROPEAN PREMIERE
Dir. Uyai Ikpe-Etim
ífè and Adaora fall in love over a three-day date, but their love comes under pressure when it tested by the realities of being in a same-sex relationship in a homophobic country like Nigeria.
The winner of this year’s Baobab Award will join Gakuru Gachoki, Director of Kenya’s Slum Film Festival and one of this year’s judges, for a live Q&A following a watch party of the winning film.

WATCH PARTY + LIVE DIRECTOR Q&A
SUN 8 NOV | 2-3PM | VIMEO / FACEBOOK
Register for the online event at filmafrica.org

YENE FIKIR ETHIOPIA (MY LOVE, ETHIOPIA)
EUROPEAN PREMIERE
Dir. Gabrielle Tesfaye

Based on a true story, My Love, Ethiopia is a live-action animated picture that follows the turbulent and mystical journey of a young girl searching for freedom after being separated from her family. Set during Ethiopia’s political conflict in the 1970s, the story is unveiled through turbulent migration, visiting spirits from an ancient world, and ancestral magic.

MEET THE 2020 JUDGES

Aderinsola Ajao  
Journalist & Film Critic

Fibby Kioria  
Program Director, Maisha Film Lab

Gakuru Gachoki  
Director, Slum Film Festival
FILM AFRICA 2020 DOC SHORTS

A selection of documentary shorts exploring migration and exile, mental health and family histories, among other themes. With a pre-recorded intro from Film Africa programmer Katarina Hedrén.

MON 2 NOV | 6:30PM | RICH MIX

BREAKFAST IN KISUMU UK PREMIERE
Dir. Rebecca Achieng Ajulu-Bushell

Shot across 16mm, VHS, DV, and Digital, Breakfast in Kisumu is a personal homage to the 20-year journey of renowned professor and political activist Rok Ajulu. Filmed across six countries between Europe and Africa, with a proxy-archival quality, it follows Rok’s account of his struggles as an exiled freedom fighter of the post-colonial, apartheid era. In conversation with his daughter, he tells of his numerous deportations, prison sentences, and academic career. As Rok recounts the collapse of the apartheid regime, Breakfast in Kisumu shows us a homecoming: his journey back to Africa for the transition of the African National Congress (ANC) from a liberation movement into a governing party, his marriage into the Sisulu Family, and the continental significance of 1994.

DAFA METTI (DIFFICULT) Dir. Tal Amiran

Dafa Metti casts a spotlight on undocumented Senegalese migrants who make a living by selling souvenirs under the famed Eiffel Tower. Life is difficult (dafa metti) as they not only support their loved ones with their meagre earnings but their livelihoods and safety are constantly threatened by Parisien police. Deportation is also a constant fear. But they are relentless. Dafa Metti is an unflinching look at a chequered migrant experience.

ETHEREALITY Dir. Kantarama Gahigiri

This is a reflective, poetic and emotionally engaging documentary about migration and the layered concept of ‘home’ for immigrants.
FOOTSTEPS IN THE DARK
EUROPEAN PREMIERE
Dirs. Shuria Abdi, Azza Satti

Footsteps in the Dark is a poignant, live-action and animated documentary that follows two young people of Somali descent that discuss their experiences of mental health and stigma within the Nairobi Muslim community.

OJUMO TI MO
Dir. Simisolaolu Akande
UK, Czech Republic. 2019. 16 mins. English, Yoruba with English subtitles.

Ojumo Ti Mo is an inventive, gentle and personal documentary short that follows the experience of three daughters and their mother dealing with the loss of their father and husband, respectively, on camera. With phone conversations, text messages and family photos exchanged over three months, each family member unpacks their grief.

RIVER OF BROWN WATERS UK PREMIERE
Dir. Laissa Malih

River of Brown Waters is the story of a river called Ewaso Ng'iro in Northern Kenya that crosses through the pastoralist counties of Laikipia, Samburu, Isiolo and Marsabit. It is a lifeline to a huge number of pastoralists and their livelihood. The documentary follows the river's evolution through the eyes of generations who tell of its history, its importance and the threats it is facing.

VILLA VILLEKULLA UK PREMIERE
Dir. Patricia Bbaale Bandak
Denmark. 2019. 29 mins. Danish, Luganda, English with English subtitles.

In “Villa Villekulla”, we follow the Bbaale siblings, as they mix Danish traditions for meals and games, with Ugandan prayers, dances and songs. Playful moments alternate with painful intimate conversations between them, as they open up about their own experiences of dealing with trauma, pain, and the lack of adult supervision.

O TAMBOR ME CHAMOU (THE CALL OF THE DRUMS) EUROPEAN PREMIERE
Dir. Márcio Cruz
Brazil. 2019. 16 mins. Brazilian Portuguese with English subtitles.

On the eve of the Carnival Parade, ‘O Tambor Me Chamou’ introduces us to Ilú Obá de Min, an Afro-Brazilian Feminist group that energized and uplifted the 2019 São Paulo carnival – their most political parade to date. The 400-women strong group breaks with carnival’s traditional roles by playing the drums, the preserved domain of men. Music and dance, woman’s body and drum, all unite with the 7 voices and still images into a poetic portrayal, through the interaction between memory, bodies, and Afro-Brazilian percussion instruments. Demonstrating that the history of Afro-Brazilian women is one of resistance, creation and celebration, the film is a compelling vision of an inspiring ‘insurrection’, in the words of Ilú Obá, where ideas and movement are a very special call to arms.

MBAS MI UK PREMIERE
Dir. Joseph Gai Ramaka

In a time of physical distancing, artistic expression becomes an ever so important manifestation of our shared humanity. Mbas Mi (‘the pandemic’, in Wolof) takes the viewer on a walk through the narrow streets of Gorée Island, guided by the voice of Senegalese artist Goo Mamadou Ba, narrating an extract from The Plague by Albert Camus.

UNBURIED
Dir. Sally Feneaux Barleycorn

This moving documentary short gives an account of thousands of Africans that have drowned in the Mediterranean Sea while trying to migrate to Europe. Their bodies were never retrieved. They were never buried.
PANEL EVENTS & MASTERCLASS

This year Film Africa presents an online programme of live events, which will be accessible to audiences worldwide. You may register for all festival events at filmafrica.org.

HERE / NOT HERE ‘CAST & CREW’ PANEL DISCUSSION

Live panel event with director Bim Ajadi, writer Jonzi D and members of the HERE / NOT HERE cast discussing the process of working together as a team of Deaf and hearing creatives. HERE / NOT HERE was commissioned by the British Sign Language Broadcasting Trust. Live events and panels are supported by Unlimited. Link to the film on BSL Zone: bslzone.co.uk/watch/herenot-here

ONLINE WATCH PARTY + LIVE CAST & CREW PANEL
SAT 31 OCT | 5:00-7:00PM | BSL ZONE / FACEBOOK

‘BEYOND NOLLYWOOD TO THE WORLD’ PANEL DISCUSSION

Curator and author Nadia Denton will be joined by a panel of BEYOND NOLLYWOOD leading lights to discuss the prospects for Nigerian crossover success. The panel will explore why Africa’s most populous nation has not yet produced a breakout hit and debate which genres are most likely to appeal to international audiences. The conversation will also consider new styles of filmmaking coming from Nigeria and if the key to success lies amongst filmmakers in the diaspora. Discussion will feature film clips. Panellists: Damilola Orimogunje, Chuko Esiri, Peter Okojie and Candice Onyeama.

SUN 1 NOV | 3:00-4:30PM | ZOOM / FACEBOOK

‘TO BE KENYAN, CHRISTIAN AND QUEER’ PANEL DISCUSSION

Join directors Aiwan Obinyan and Peter Murimi in conversation about their films, Kenyan, Christian, Queer and I am Samuel, alongside Kenyan LGBTQ activists working on the ground. The panellists will discuss the broader context of life in Kenya’s LGBTQ community, as well as the eternal contradictions of Christianity, as the historical driving force behind much of the country’s homophobia, but also as a progressive site for queer inclusion, joy and acceptance. Panellists: Aiwan Obinyan, Director of Kenyan, Christian, Queer; Peter Murimi, Director of I am Samuel; Pastor David Ochar, Co-Founder of Cosmopolitan Affirming Community (CAC); and Festus Kisa, Director of Q-Initiative (C.B.O). Moderator: Kevin Mwachiro, writer, activist and founder of Out Film Festival.

In partnership with Scotland’s Africa in Motion Film Festival.

SUN 8 NOV | 3:30PM-5:00PM | ZOOM / FACEBOOK

‘CURATING AFRICAN CINEMA’ MASTERCLASS

A conversation about film curation approaches and sharing of experiences by Aseye Tamakloe, who is also a filmmaker and lecturer in film, and Katarina Hedrén, who combines curation with film criticism. The exchange between the two Film Africa 2020 co-curators and the participants will be facilitated by the third co-curator, Nyambura M. Waruingi.

SUN 8 NOV | 11:00AM-12:00PM | ZOOM / FACEBOOK
HOW TO ACCESS FILM AFRICA 2020

This year Film Africa presents 12 cinema screenings at the Rich Mix and BFI Southbank, which will include all our shorts and a selection of our narrative and documentary features. Audiences numbers will be reduced to allow for social distancing. We strongly encourage you to book your tickets in advance to avoid disappointment.

We will also host 8 narrative and documentary features on the BFI Player during the 10 days of the festival. The BFI Player offers a 14-day free subscription period, which means you could watch our Film Africa 2020 titles for FREE and then decide whether to keep enjoying the diverse selection of films offered through a BFI Player subscription. Please note that the player is only available in the UK. To register, please visit player.bfi.org.uk/sign-up.

As part of our online offer, we’ll be hosting a number of Watch Parties, featuring exclusive live Director’s Q&As, as well as Dine & View experiences for you to enjoy together with friends and family. There will also be a number of virtual events held on Zoom, which will require registration. Follow us on Facebook or visit filmafrica.org for more details on all our virtual events.

This year all of our films are only suitable for over 18’s.
We would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to our principal funders, our venue and programme partners, the BFI Player and all those individuals whose collaborative efforts have contributed to making Film Africa 2020 a success.

A special thank you to all our participating filmmakers and guest contributors.

Ahmed Akasha  Luisa Dias  Victoria Humphrys  Liz Parkinson
Negede Assefa  Lindiwe Dovey  Boko Inyudo  Jill Reading
Justine Atkinson  Mathilda Edwards  Fadhili Maghiya  James Rocarols
Zeinab Badawi  Sebastiana Etzo  John McKnight  Irene Silvera
Pam Beddard  Laura Glanville  Annie Menter  David Somerset
Paul Bowman  Sandra Hebron  Sarah-Jane Meredith  Carmen Thompson
Liz Chege  Carolyne Hill  Miles Morland  Selma Wilcocks
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<td>A Gender</td>
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<td>Barakat [Closing]</td>
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<td>Becoming Black [Doc]</td>
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<td>Born Again</td>
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<td>Bradford Young: Cinema Is the Weapon</td>
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<td>Breakfast in Kisumu</td>
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<td>Dafa Metti (Difficult)</td>
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<td>Fakh (The Trap)</td>
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<td>Farewell Amor</td>
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<td>Finding Sally [Doc]</td>
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<td>Fish on Fire</td>
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<td>Footsteps in the Dark</td>
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<td>For Maria Ebun Pataki</td>
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<td>Goldcoast Lounge</td>
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<td>Le Loupe d’Or de Balolé [Doc]</td>
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<td>The Call of the Drums</td>
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<td>The Ghost and the House of Truth [Opening]</td>
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<td>The Letter [Doc]</td>
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<td>This Is Not a Burial, It’s a Resurrection</td>
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<td>Unburied</td>
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<td>Villa Villekulla</td>
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<td>Yene Fikir Ethiopia (My Love, Ethiopia)</td>
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Zeinab Badawi
Chair of The Royal African Society