

**Film Africa 2017**  
**– Celebrating Africa's Brave New Female Voices**  
**Friday 27 October to Sunday 5 November, venues across London**  
**[www.filmafrica.org.uk](http://www.filmafrica.org.uk)**

**18 October 2017**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



Film Africa, London's biggest celebration of African and African diaspora cinema presented by the Royal African Society, returns to London cinemas for its seventh edition from **Friday 27 October to Sunday 5 November**.

Taking place at six venues across London, Film Africa 2017 will showcase the latest and best feature, documentary, experimental and short films with **38 titles from 21 African countries, including 19 UK, European or World premieres**.

A total of 12 filmmakers, onscreen talent and musicians will present their latest work and take part in Q&As, discussions and live music events. This year's festival also gives **particular focus to women's stories**, a testament to **the growing presence of the female voice and stories in African cinema**.

**LONDON PREMIERE: *I STILL HIDE TO SMOKE [À MON AGE JE ME CACHE ENCORE POUR FUMER]* + Q&A with director Rayhana**

**Sat 28 Oct | 18:00 | Rich Mix**

Dir. Rayhana. Algeria, France, Greece. 2016. 90mins. Arabic and French with English subtitles.

Watch trailer [here](#)

**Against the backdrop of the 1995 Civil War, in the heart of the hammam, mothers, daughters, lovers, virgins, rebels and religious fanatics converge.** Some come for the laughter and gossip, some for peace and quiet, and others come to cleanse themselves of the physical and mental traumas suffered at the hands of the patriarchal, fundamentalist society in which they live. Writer/director Rayhana adapts her own play for the screen (despite having been physically attacked in the street for its content during its run on the Parisian stage), using the formation of the Greek chorus to display an important, contemporary indictment of the woman's role in Algeria. At a time when few such narratives ever make it to the cinema screen, this is a daring debut from a filmmaker to watch. Followed by a Q&A with director Rayhana.

**Please get in touch to discuss interview opportunities with director Rayhana.**

### **WINNIE + Q&A with director Pascale Lamche**

**Fri 3 Nov | 20:20 | BFI Southbank**

*Dir. Pascale Lamche. France/Netherlands/South Africa 2017. 98 min. Doc.*

Watch trailer [here](#)

Intriguing, controversial and misunderstood in equal measure, **Winnie Mandela's rise and seeming fall from grace bear the hallmarks of epic tragedy.** Winnie fought the South African liberation movement against apartheid tooth and nail, far from the isolation of the prison cell where her husband Nelson Mandela served 27 long years. While Nelson became the movement's hero, Winnie's struggle to bring down the regime from the front line was met with condemnation from the global press. Featuring unseen archival footage and interviews with Winnie herself, **Pascale Lamche's intimate documentary depicts a complex figure who came to symbolise the oppression of her people**, while asking the broader question of why history habitually silences strong female leaders. Followed by a Q&A with director Pascale Lamche.

**Please get in touch to discuss interview opportunities with director Pascale Lamche.**

### **CLOSING NIGHT: FOREIGN BODY**

**Sun 5 Nov | 18:30 | Ciné Lumière**

*Dir. Raja Amari. [SEP]Tunisia, France. 2016. 92 mins. Arabic, French with English subtitles.*

Watch trailer [here](#)

Described by *The Hollywood Reporter* as a movie that “**passes the Bechdel test with flying colors**”, Raja Amari’s revealing portrait of life for female migrants in Europe receives its **London premiere** at this year’s Film Africa. Seeking refuge from her radical Islamist brother, Samia longs for her independence and freedom and, like hundreds before her, heads for European shores. Haunted by fears of being followed by her brother whom she had denounced to the authorities, Samia first finds refuge with Imed (Salim Kechioche), a former acquaintance from her village, before ending up working for a rich widow, Leila. Her professional relationship with Leila soon turns into a deeper connection, leaving Imed torn between his religious beliefs and his desires. **Tunisian director Raja Amari’s** (*Satin Rouge*) fourth feature boasts [SEP] **a terrific cast, including Sarra Hannachi** (*Child of the Sun*) as Samia and multi-award winning Hiam Abbass (*The Lemon Tree*) as Leila.

**Please get in touch to discuss remote interview opportunities with director Raja Amari.**

### **FÉLICITÉ**

**Sat 28 Oct | 20:30 | Rich Mix [SEP]** Fri 3 Nov | 19:00 | South London Gallery

*Dir. Alain Gomis. France, Senegal, Belgium, Germany, Lebanon. 2016. 123 mins. Lingala with English subtitles.*

Watch trailer [here](#)

Félicité makes her living by singing in a popular Kinshasa bar, where audiences are quickly infected by her powerful, melancholic melodies. When her son suffers a sudden accident, Félicité embarks on a breathless tour through the Congolese capital as she tries desperately to raise the money for an urgent operation. Ladies man and bar regular, Tabu, offers to help and she reluctantly accepts, despite knowing that his actions are unlikely to be entirely benevolent. **Winner of the Grand Jury Prix at Berlin**, music is the beating heart of Alain Gomis' compelling drama, while a **remarkable central performance from Véro Tshanda Beya Mputu (Best Actress - AMAA 2017)** poignantly captures **the harsh realities of a woman habitually harassed by the patriarchal world around her**.

*The screening at South London Gallery will be accompanied by a filmmaking masterclass.*

**Please get in touch to discuss interview opportunities with actress Véro Tshanda Beya Mputu.**

### **EUROPEAN PREMIERE: KETEKE**

**Tue 31 Oct | 18:15 | Rich Mix** [L] **Thu 2 Nov | 19:00 | Bernie Grant Arts Centre**

Dir. Peter Sedufia [L] **Ghana**. 2017. 98 mins. English.

Watch trailer [here](#)

It's the '80s in rural Ghana. Atswei is heavily pregnant and desperate to get to Ateke to deliver her baby. But when she and husband Boi miss the morning train, the only means of transport to the city, the hapless couple are left stranded in the blazing sun with only Boi's ghetto blaster for encouragement. A madcap race against time follows in this **colourful screwball comedy**, with a **wry but affectionate nod to Ghanaian traditions and gender dynamics, and a poignant reminder of pregnant women travelling miles by train to give birth**. Accra-based band Worlasi provides the kinetic heartbeat to this impressive debut that illustrates Ghana's vibrant contemporary film scene. **Screening as part of Film Africa's *Ghana @ 60* strand, marking 60 years of independence.**

*Followed by a post-screening discussion with director Peter Sedufia.*

**Please get in touch to discuss interview opportunities with director Peter Sedufia.**

### **A DAY FOR WOMEN [YOM LEL SETAT]**

**Mon 30 Oct | 20:30 | Rich Mix**

Dir. Kamla Abu Zekry [L] **Egypt**. 2016. 111 mins. Arabic with English subtitles.

Watch trailer [here](#)

When a local swimming pool announces that Sunday is a day for women, it's the talk of the neighbourhood. But bringing together a diverse group of women proves to be an unexpected equaliser, and no one is more excited than Azza, who dreams of wearing a swimsuit. Previously shunned Shamiya suddenly finds an inquisitive and supportive poolside audience. Even grief-stricken Lula ventures along. Naturally, men are curious, and find their own colourful way [L] of protesting against the women's day. But there is also a darker undercurrent at play – Lula's brother is becoming more extremist in his views. Kamla Abu Zekry's film is a **reflection on community, co-existence and freedom in Egyptian society**.

### **LONDON PREMIERE: BORDERS [FRONTIÈRES]**

**Fri 3 Nov | 18:30 | RichMix**

Dir. Apolline Traoré. **Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Nigeria, Benin, Sénégal**. 2016. 90 mins. French with English subtitles.

Watch trailer [here](#)

The paths of four very different women converge in this **free spirited road movie across western Africa**. Each is making the long trip from Bamako in Mali to Nigeria's bustling Capital, Lagos, passing through Burkina Faso and Benin on the way. Crammed together on a stifling bus, they take in the breathtaking landscapes of coastal and Sahelian countries. But when bus breakdowns, traffic jams,

highway robbers, fights between passengers and, worst of all, corrupt and violent border customs officers ensues, these initially private women join forces. ***Borders*** is an affecting and at times funny drama about female friendship and empowerment, which also highlights a growing regional problem in west Africa, where lack of integration is thwarting policies on the free circulation of people and goods.

## **FATMA 75**

**Sat 4 Nov | 19:00 | South London Gallery**

Dir. Selma Baccar. *Tunisia. 1976. 60 mins. Arabic with English subtitles.*

*Fatma 75* is a pioneering film: it is the first non-fiction work by a woman from Tunisia, a feminist essay-film, and the first in a series of powerful films about strong female figures in the country. It was made in the UN International Women's Year, 1975, and has long been recognised as one of the most important films from North Africa, but has never officially been seen before due to censorship. Now, in collaboration with Quinta Gammarth in Tunis, this remarkable documentary has been restored and subtitled. Don't miss this rare gem.

### **Visiting filmmakers and festival guests for Film Africa 2017:**

Abraham Gezahegne, Director, *I Will Not Bear Tomorrow*

Bogdan Hirstov, Producer, *Di Journey*

Daryne Joshua, Director, *Call Me Thief*

Maria Khan, Director, *Di Journey*

Nakhane, Actor and Musician, *The Wound*

Véro Tshanda Beya Mputu, Actor, *Félicité*

Rayhana, Director, *I Still Hide to Smoke*

Peter Sedufia, Director, *Keteke*

Shirley Frimpong Manson, Director, *Potato Potahto* (TBC)

Raja Amari, Director, *Foreign Body* (TBC)

### **Ghana @ 60 filmmakers and guests:**

King Ampaw, Director, *Kukurantumi – Road to Accra*

Osmo Kwame Addo, Founder Accra International Film Festival

Honorable Katherine Afeku, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Creative Arts

Kenneth Amankwah, Ghana @ 60 planning committee chairman

David Dontoh, Actor, *Kukurantumi – Road to Accra*

Mark Okraku Mantey, President of Ghana Creative Arts Council

RedRed, Band

**Tickets go on sale on Tuesday, 3 October.**

To access Film Africa 2017 publicity materials, please visit: [bit.ly/FA17Press](http://bit.ly/FA17Press)

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### **Notes to Editors**

- **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.

- **Film Africa** is the Royal African Society's annual festival celebrating the best contemporary cinema from Africa and its Diaspora. Now in its seventh year, the festival offers a platform for African film in the UK and increased film choice for diverse London audiences. @FilmAfrica #FilmAfrica
- **Okiki** is a movie streaming social app built for lovers of African film to connect with the growing diversity of mainstream and independent content, and the globally based talent by whom it is produced. It aims to become the home of the African story. Okiki is building partnerships to better attract, engage and bring original content to new audiences. You can download Okiki on iOS, Android and desktop devices [here](#).
- **De Charles**, is a consulting firm based in London and Lagos, which builds digital and physical products and brand defining narratives for game-changing companies growing in Africa. Through its work it is committed to fusing impact and profits and bettering global perceptions of Africa.
- **Film Africa 2017 supporters and sponsors** are the BFI Audience Fund, Miles Morland Foundation, British Council, Sigrid Rausing Trust, Air France, Standard Chartered Bank, The Foyle Foundation, What We Seee, and the Arts and Humanities Research Council, who support the Africa's Lost Classics project.
- **What We Seee** is a curated content network that reaches over a billion people a year.