



THE  
ROYAL AFRICAN SOCIETY'S  
- ANNUAL -  
**FILM FESTIVAL**  
27 OCT - 5 NOV 2017

**That's a wrap! Film Africa 2017 comes to a close**  
Friday 27 October to Sunday 5 November, venues across London  
[www.filmafrica.org.uk](http://www.filmafrica.org.uk)

Monday, 6 November 2017

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Film Africa 2017: 38 films. 21 countries. 19 Premieres. 12 special guests. 10 days. 6 venues. Two Awards. Live Music, Events, School Screenings & More.**

Film Africa's 7th edition drew to a close last night, after 10 days of the latest and best feature, documentary, experimental and short films. The Closing Gala at Ciné Lumière hosted the London Premiere of Tunisian director Raja Amari's fourth feature ***Foreign Body*** [*Jassad Gharib*], as well as the announcement of the winners of the **Baobab Award for Best Short Film** and **Audience Award for Best Feature Film**.



Daryne Joshua, Director of *Call Me Thief* [*Noem My Skollie*] – by Amos Ruiz

The **Film Africa Audience Award for Best Feature** returned for its third consecutive year, with a £1,500 reward. The award went to **Daryne Joshua**'s powerful and impressive debut ***Call Me Thief*** [*Noem My Skollie*]. Based on the story of Cape Flats convict-turned-screenwriter John Fredericks, the film is a tale of redemption through storytelling and a portrait of life on the mean streets of 1960s Cape Town. In response to his win, Joshua said:

*"I am immensely proud and honoured to win the Film Africa 2017 Audience Award for Best Feature Film. I'd like to thank Film Africa and the Royal African Society for creating a platform for African filmmakers to share their stories. Most importantly, to the London audience - thank you for coming out and opening yourself to the diverse cinema of Africa - I'm glad you were engaged. I hope this is the beginning of a long and rewarding artistic relationship."*

The winner of the seventh **Baobab Award for Best Short Film** goes to ***Waly's Problem*** [*Diafee Diafeey Waly*] from first-time Senegalese filmmaker **El Hadj Gueye**. Vying for the £1,500 cash prize against seven other titles, the film centres on a 13-year-old boy who is shamed and rejected by his peers because he is not yet circumcised. Gueye said he made *Waly's Problem* to raise awareness amongst Senegalese parents. Jury member Jemma Desai, Programme Manager at the British Council, said:

*"Waly's Problem really impressed the jury with its insightful humour and confident direction of a largely non-professional cast. The film stood out with its exceptional storytelling whilst tackling important social issues on a modest budget."*

-- ENDS --

### **Notes to Editors**

- **The Royal African Society** is an inclusive pan-African membership charity based in London that aims to facilitate equitable relations and mutual understanding between the UK and Africa. Founded more than 100 years ago, it works in the fields of academia and education, business, policy and politics, and arts and culture. Through our events, publications and digital channels we share insight and instigate debate, reaching a network of more than one million people globally.
- **Film Africa** is London's biggest annual celebration of the best African cinema from across the continent and diaspora brought to you by the Royal African Society. Established in 2011, Film Africa exists to recognise and support new creative voices emerging from Africa and its diaspora, showcasing work that would otherwise be unknown to UK audiences. Film Africa 2017 took place at the following venues: Rich Mix, BFI Southbank, Ritzy Brixton, Ciné Lumière, South London Gallery and Bernie Grant Arts Centre.
- **What We Seee** is a curated content network that reaches over a billion people a year. WWS sponsored this year's Baobab Award for Best Short Film.