



Film Africa 2018: the innovators, musicians and rebels redefining African stories

2 - 11 November, venues across London

www.filmafrica.org

London, Tuesday 23 October 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

- Special strands include *The Naija New Wave*, *Afrobubblegum: Kenya's Movie Mavericks*, *Young Rebels* and *(Up)Rooted*
- The best African music on screen and on stage with *Film Africa LIVE!*
- Interactive foodie *Dine and View* screenings return in 2018
- **FREE** family screening and activities at the *Film Africa Family Day*

Film Africa, the Royal African Society's celebration of African and African diaspora cinema, returns for its eighth consecutive year on **Friday 2 to Sunday 11 November 2018**. Showcasing **39 titles** from **15 African countries**, including **18 UK, EU and world premieres**, Film Africa will take place at five venues across London: **BFI Southbank, Rich Mix, Ritzy Cinema, Bernie Grant Arts Centre and South London Gallery**. The festival is an exhilarating mix of film screenings, Q&As, panel discussions and live performances.

[Click here to watch the Film Africa 2018 trailer](#)

[The Naija New Wave](#)

Directors pushing the boundaries of traditional Nigerian cinema with a fresh 'new wave' aesthetic. Major titles include the **UK premiere of Ema Edosio's debut feature *Kasala!*** – a tale of four young Lagos street hustlers in race against the dock; the **UK premiere of Nigeria's first silent movie**, Akin Omotoso's [A Hotel Called Memory](#) featuring Nollywood star Nse Ikpe-Etim; plus the **UK premiere of *Sylvia***, an intense psychological thriller from director Daniel Oriahi. The strand also showcases emerging Nigerian filmmakers via a collection of **innovative and experimental shorts**, [Tales from Contemporary Nigeria](#).

Please get in touch to discuss interview opportunities with Ema Edosio or Nse Ikpe-Etim.

[Afrobubblegum: Kenya's Movie Mavericks](#)

"A fun, fierce and frivolous representation of Africa!" Wanuri Kahiu's words exemplify the quirky sensibility of the Afrobubblegum movement - her feature [Rafiki](#) was initially banned by the Kenyan Film Board and is now **the country's second highest grossing movie ever**. Screening alongside is a moving documentary about a **young Kenyan trans and inter-sex group**, [Sidney and Friends](#), directed by Tristan Aitchison. Other key titles include **Kenya's 2019 Oscar entry** [Supa Modo](#) from first-time director Likarion Wainaina; [We Need Prayers](#), the latest collection of shorts by The Nest Collective; and [New Moon](#), **an experimental documentary** by Philippa Ndisi-Herrmann about the impact of Lamu's economic development on her own spirituality.

Please get in touch to discuss interview opportunities with Wanjeri Garuku (Supa Modo screenwriter) and Philippa Ndisi-Herrmann.

[Young Rebels](#)

Representing those young Africans mobilising their talents, cameras and imaginations to challenge the status quo. This special strand includes: [aKasha](#), from **award-winning Sudanese director Hajooj Kuka**, satirically explores village life and the ideology of rebel-held Sudan in a tragi-comic take on a serious subject matter; Nasib Farah and Søren Steen Jespersen's [Lost Warrior](#) documents **deported ex-Londoner Mohammed**, now hiding from Al-Shabaab in Somalia with his young wife and child back home in Tower Hamlets; and director Mohamed Siam follows young Egyptian [Amal](#), a 14-year-old female activist coming of age in the wake of the Arab Spring revolution.

Please get in touch to discuss interview opportunities with Hajooj Kuka.

[\[Up\]Rooted](#)

Key titles in this strand include Cédric Ido and Modi Barry's [Chateau](#), **a heady tale of rival hairdressing salons** set in a vibrant Afro-Parisian neighbourhood; and [A Season in France](#), from **celebrated Chadian auteur Mahamat-Saleh Haroun**, offering a dark yet compassionate portrait of the struggling immigrant under-class living in Paris.

Please get in touch to discuss interview opportunities with Cédric Ido.

[Film Africa LIVE!](#)

Celebrating the rich musical cultures of the continent on-screen, through live performances and party nights, Film Africa *LIVE!* includes the **world premiere of** [Humanimals](#), **a wry musical** take on the challenges African artists face trying to get visas to visit the UK, directed by Emmanuel Owusu Bonsu (aka Ghanaian/Romanian musician *Wanlov the Kubolor*); the **EU premiere of** [The Ancestors](#), co-directed by Amil Shivji and Rebecca Corey, documenting the rebirth of **Tanzania's Zilipendwa music**; and the **UK premiere of** [The Man Behind the Microphone](#), **the remarkable story of the 'Frank Sinatra of Tunisia'** directed by Claire Belhassine. Live performances include [Afrika Jambo Band](#) (Upstairs at the Ritzy, 7 Nov) and [VILLY & The Xtreme Volumes](#) (Palm Wine Club x Juju Party, Upstairs at the Ritzy, 10 Nov). **Villy Odili is also the star and musical inspiration behind Humanimals (see above).**

Please get in touch to discuss interview opportunities with Emmanuel Owusu Bonsu, Villy Odili or Claire Belhassine.

Dine & View

Back by popular demand, on 7 and 8 November, **Film Africa's popular foodie strand** presents two screenings of the UK premiere of [*Deltas, Back to Shores*](#), two powerful stories of displacement directed by Charlie Petersmann.

Film Africa Family Day

Children and their parents can embark on an interactive journey of discovery on Sunday, 11 November, with a **FREE screening** of [*Thomas and Friends: Big World, Big Adventures!*](#) in partnership with Mattel. The film will be **followed by storytelling, arts and crafts, diverse children's books and a multicultural gifts sale**, courtesy of event partners Book Love and Pelican Post.

Accessibility

Film Africa will also present two **British Sign Language interpreted screenings**, [*Chateau*](#) (8 Nov) and [*aKasha*](#) (10 Nov), to enhance the cinema experience for audiences with a hearing loss or deafness.

For full programme information and ticket sales, please visit: filmafrica.org

For Film Africa 2018 publicity materials, please visit: bit.ly/FA18Press

For further information, please contact Hayley Willis at Contact PR: williscontact@gmail.com

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Notes to Editors

1. **The Royal African Society** is a membership organisation that provides opportunities for people to connect, celebrate and engage critically with a wide range of topics and ideas about Africa today. Through our events, publications and digital channels we share insight, instigate debate and facilitate mutual understanding between the UK and Africa. We amplify African voices and interests in academia, business, politics, the arts and education, reaching a network of more than one million people globally.
2. **Film Africa** is the Royal African Society's annual festival celebrating the best contemporary cinema from Africa and its diaspora. Established in 2011, the festival offers a respected platform for African film and increased film choice for London audiences.
3. Film Africa 2018 has been made possible through the financial support and partnership of the BFI Audience Fund, the Miles Morland Foundation and the British Council.
4. **Film Africa 2018 sponsors** are WorldRemit, Aduna, Divine Chocolate, Karma Cola, and Yojos!
5. **Film Africa 2018 media partners** are Colourful Radio, Nataal and gal-dem.