



## Film Africa 2018 is almost here!

2 - 11 November, venues across London

[www.filmafrica.org](http://www.filmafrica.org)

London, Tuesday 30 October 2018

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Film Africa, the Royal African Society's celebration of African and African diaspora cinema, launches its eighth edition this **Friday 2 November** and will run through 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**.

Film Africa 2018 presents an exhilarating programme of film screenings, accompanied by Q&As, panel discussions and live performances, including the following specialist strands:

- ***The Naija New Wave*** showcasing contemporary Nigerian cinema beyond Nollywood.
- ***Afrobubblegum: Kenya's Movie Mavericks*** celebrating Kenya's bourgeoning film industry.
- ***Young Rebels*** representing those young Africans mobilising their talents, cameras and imaginations to challenge the status quo.
- ***[Up]Rooted*** exploring the African migrants' experience in the context of global migration.
- ***Film Africa LIVE!*** highlighting some of the best African music on screen and on stage.
- ***Dine & View*** screenings that combine film and food for an immersive experience.
- ***Film Africa: Young Audiences***, the festival's annual programme of schools and family screenings.

The festival launches on Friday 2 November at BFI Southbank with Blitz Bazawule's (aka Blitz the Ambassador) debut feature ***The Burial of Kojo* (UK premiere)** and closes on Sunday 11 November at Rich Mix with the UK premiere of ***Kasala!*** by emerging Nigerian director Ema Edosio.

**Film Africa 2018 visiting filmmakers and festival guests:**

- **Blitz Bazawule, Writer/Director, *The Burial of Kojo* (UK premiere):** Ghana's biggest hip-hop star makes directorial debut with dream-like family drama set against the backdrop of the country's illegal mining industry.
- **Ema Edosio, Director, *Kasala!* (UK premiere):** Edosio's debut movie is a tale of young Lagos street hustlers, referencing *Naija*-style her love of Jackie Chan and Chuck Norris.
- **Nse Ikpe-Etim, Actor, *A Hotel Called Memory* (UK premiere):** Nollywood's beloved Nse Ikpe-Etim takes the lead in Nigeria's first ever silent movie as disaffected wife Lola.
- **Emmanuel Owusu Bonsu (Director) & Villy Odili (Actor/Composer), *Humanimals* (World premiere):** Bonsu, aka Afro-pop star *Wanlov the Kubolor*, addresses the issue of Africans being denied visas and the lack of leadership in Africa... by making a musical about it!
- **Claire Belhassine, Director, *The Man Behind the Microphone* (UK premiere):** granddaughter of Tunisia's *Frank Sinatra* explores his huge cultural impact and asks why he kept his fame a secret.
- **Philippa Ndisi-Herrmann, Director, *New Moon* (London premiere):** Visual artist Ndisi-Herrmann's experimental doc about the development of Kenya's Lamu port and its impact on her Islamic faith.
- **Wanjeri Garuku, Screenwriter, *Supa Modo*:** the screenwriter of Kenya's 2019 Oscar entry about a young terminally ill heroine who uses her super powers for the common good.
- **Hajooj Kuka, Director, *aKasha* (accessible screening):** award-winning director uses comedy in this highly original feature to portray the complexities of the Sudanese Civil War.
- **Cédric Ido, Director, *Chateau* (accessible screening):** Ido's fast-paced, comic tale about rival hairdressing salon hustlers on the streets of Paris.

Please [get in touch](#) to discuss interview opportunities with any of the above.

Film Africa 2018 will once again presents an exciting programme of innovative shorts in competition for the annual **Baobab Award for Best Short Film**, judged by a panel of industry experts, as well as the **Film Africa Audience Award for Best Feature Film** giving festival audiences a vote. Both awards carry a cash prize of £1,000 and will be announced at the Closing Gala ceremony on Sunday 11 November.

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.

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

For full programme information and ticket sales, please visit: [filmafrica.org](http://filmafrica.org)

For Film Africa 2018 publicity materials, please visit: [bit.ly/FA18Press](http://bit.ly/FA18Press)

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