



Film Africa comes to a close and announces winners of its annual festival awards!

2 - 11 November, venues across London

www.filmafrica.org

London, Wednesday 14 November 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Film Africa 2018: 39 films. 18 world, EU and UK Premieres. 15 African countries. 10 days. 5 venues. Two festival awards. Q&As and panels, live music, parties, school screenings, family activities and other special events.

Film Africa's 8th edition drew to a close on Sunday, 11 November, to a sold out screening of ***Kasala!*** (UK premiere) by emerging Nigerian director Ema Edosio, who was present for a post-screening Q&A with the audience.

The Closing Gala also hosted the announcement of the winners of the Film Africa awards, both of which carry a cash prize of £1,000.

The **Audience Award for Best Feature Film**, presented for the fourth consecutive year, went to the deeply emotional ***Supa Modo*** by first-time director **Likarion Wainaina**.

Selected as Kenya's official entry to the 2019 Academy Awards for Best Foreign Language Film, *Supa Modo* is the uplifting tale of 9 yearold Jo, a terminally ill girl whose village comes together to fulfil her dream of becoming a superhero. In response to his win, Wainaina said:

"Thank you Film Africa for the love and appreciation. I dedicate this award to everyone who has suffered loss. May you find your smile, your joy, your hope, your dream and may you find your own Supa Modo. Asante sana."

The **Baobab Award for Best Short Film**, presented for the eighth consecutive year and selected by a jury of industry professionals, went to ***Bariga Sugar*** by young writer, producer and director **Ifeoma Chukwuogo** from Nigeria.

Set in a brothel compound in Lagos, *Bariga Sugar* tells the story of a tender friendship between Jamil and Ese, the children of two sex workers. In response to her win, Chukwuogo said:

"I am incredibly thrilled that Bariga Sugar was chosen to receive this award. Thank you to the esteemed jury for this honour, to the Film Africa team for including Bariga Sugar in this year's program, and to the audience for receiving it so wonderfully."

The Baobab Award jury members – filmmakers Shola Amoo and Cecile Emeke and Talent Development Executive Matimba Kabalika – said:

"We were incredibly impressed by the humanity and warmth brought to the characters in Bariga Sugar. As a director and writer Ifeoma displayed incredible control, creating a genuinely rich tonality to the narrative. We would love to see what a feature-length piece of work would look like and hope this award supports her on that journey."

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

-- ENDS --

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.