**The UK’s five biggest festivals of African**

**film team up to present online showcase**

**10th September 2020**

**DIARY DATES Thursday 1 – Tuesday 20 October 2020**

 **WE ARE TANO**

*The UK’s five biggest festivals of African film team up online for the first time this October (Black History Month) to present 10 of the best examples of contemporary African cinema from the past decade.*

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

The UK’s five biggest festivals of African film – Africa in Motion in **Edinburgh/Glasgow**, Afrika Eye in **Bristol**, the **Cambridge** African Film Festival (CAFF), Film Africa in **London**, and Watch-Africa Cymru (**Wales**) – are teaming up online for the first time this October to present WE ARE TANO, showcasing 10 of the best examples of African cinema from the past decade.

The season, which draws its title from the Swahili word ‘tano’, meaning five, will run online from October 1st to 20th October, giving UK-wide audiences pay-what-you-want access to a choice of 10 African features.

The initiative is being co-ordinated by Sheila Ruiz, Director of London’s Film Africa and Deputy Director at the Royal African Society, who says: *“COVID-19 has presented major challenges to many film festivals this year. But, as with all crises, the current pandemic has also presented an opportunity to do things differently. All five festivals in the TANO network felt it important to carry on giving UK audiences access to the broad range of films coming out of Africa. Hence the decision to contribute to Black History Month with a jointly-curated online showcase, drawing on some of the most popular titles shown by TANO festivals since 2010.”*

Liz Chege, the newly-appointed Director of Scotland’s Africa in Motion, added: *“The purpose of this season is to continue our mission to highlight the vibrancy and rich diversity of African film-making and story-telling. We are passionate about expanding people’s understanding and appreciation of African film and cultures across the UK, and we aim to reach as wide an audience as possible, especially audiences that have not been able to attend our festivals before.”*

Full details of the 10 films on offer and the WE ARE TANO streaming calendar will be available shortly from [www.wearetano.org](http://www.wearetano.org). In return for a pay-what-you-can-afford donation, bookers will have up to 48 hours to view their choices, alone or with family/friends.

Meanwhile, further information about the Tano network and its previous collaborations can be accessed now via <https://www.africa-in-motion.org.uk/we-are-tano/>.

Other celebrations of African cinema taking place this autumn/winter by TANO network members include: **Africa in Motion** (Scotland): [www.africa-in-motion.org.uk](http://www.africa-in-motion.org.uk) | 30 October – 29 November 2020 and
**Film Africa** (London): [www.filmafrica.org](http://www.filmafrica.org) | 30 October – 8 November 2020

WE ARE TANO is supported by the BFI Audience Fund.

**– ends –**

**Media enquiries:***For more info about WE ARE TANO please contact:*Pam Beddard | 0117 987 0442 / 07767 621207| pam.beddard@btinternet.com

**Notes to Editors:**

‘Tano’ is the Swahili word for five and was adopted in 2015 as the umbrella name of the UK’s five biggest African film festivals. Each festival is independently run and curated, but the network collaborates to identify key films to screen nation-wide, bring in special guests, and generally raise the profile and visibility of African cinema in the UK. Tano Network members are:

**Africa In Motion**, Scotland: www.africa-in-motion.org.uk | @AiMfilmfest

**Afrika Eye**, Bristol and the SW: www.afrikaeye.org.uk | @AfrikaEyeFest

**Cambridge African Film Festival:** www.cambridgeafricanfilmfestival.org.uk | @africambridge

**Film Africa**, London and the SE: www.filmafrica.org.uk | @FilmAfrica

**Watch Africa,** Wales: www.watch-africa.co.uk | @Watch\_WAFF