



THE
ROYAL AFRICAN SOCIETY'S
- ANNUAL -
FILM FESTIVAL

27 OCT - 5 NOV 2017



Royal African Society

FILM AFRICA 2017 PARTNERS

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Royal African Society

Film Africa is brought to you by the Royal African Society. The festival has been made possible through the financial support of the BFI Audience Fund, Miles Morland Foundation, Sigrid Rausing Trust, Air France and Standard Chartered Bank. Film Africa 2017 also benefits from a strategic partnership between the British Council and the RAS and other collaborative partnerships forged with a number of venues, companies, institutions and organisations. We would like to express our gratitude to all our partners and the many individuals who contribute to making Film Africa a success.

Film Africa has been awarded the BFI Screen Diversity mark for good practice, meeting four out of four of the Diversity Standards.

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CELEBRATING AFRICA'S BRAVE NEW VOICES

We are delighted to present the 7th edition of Film Africa, London's annual and biggest celebration of African cinema brought to you by the Royal African Society.

Film Africa 2017 showcases 38 films from across 21 African countries, including 19 UK, European or World premieres screening across seven London venues. 12 filmmakers and onscreen talent will join us to present their latest work and take part in Q&As and discussions. We're also delighted to host the eclectic bands **RedRed** and **Nakhane** for two exclusive and much anticipated London performances.

This year we received a record 800+ submissions, which is testament to the continued growth and proliferation of African cinema. Our final programme is an exciting and wide-ranging selection of fiction and documentary features, experimental and short films, giving particular focus to **women's stories** and bold **debut features**.

From our opening film, John Trengove's debut feature **The Wound**, a daring exploration of sexuality, masculinity and the clash between traditional and contemporary values in modern-day South Africa, to our closing film, **Foreign Body**, Tunisian director Raja Amari's audacious and visceral fourth feature, Film Africa once again celebrates the newest and bravest voices in contemporary African cinema.

Our thematic strands this year include **Ghana @ 60**, marking the country's 60th anniversary of independence with three post-

colonial features that capture the spirit of one of the continent's most vivid and rapidly expanding film industries; and **Africa's Lost Classics**, a collaborative project of the five UK African film festivals, which features some of the greatest African titles that have been banned, censored, lost or forgotten, including the restoration of some important African women's films.

Another 2017 highlight is the launch of **Film Africa Young Audiences** – a programme of screenings for schools, university students and youth groups, which aims to provide educational tools, enhance film literacy and inspire critical thinking. We also bring back the Recreative Film School in partnership with the South London Gallery for young aspiring filmmakers and our Family Day at Rich Mix.

And if you cannot make it to London for one of our screenings, worry not! We have recently extended our reach beyond the capital and the silver screen through **Film Africa OnDemand**. In partnership with VOD platform Okiki, we have curated a collection of the most popular titles screened throughout Film Africa's six year history, opening up African cinema to global audiences. Anyone anywhere in the world with an iOS, Android or desktop device can now access our chosen films on the Okiki App, so check it out and tell a friend!

We look forward to welcoming you to some of our screenings and events. Please remember to book your tickets early so you don't miss out.

Film Africa Team

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Curious about the RAS?

The Royal African Society is Britain's prime Africa organisation. Our membership is open to all. We like to think of ourselves as a 'Big tent' for everyone interested in Africa.

We promote a better understanding of Africa in the UK through our publications, websites, annual film and literature festivals and our regular events, which are mostly free and open to the public.

If you like what you see – why not join us? If you do, you'll become part of the most vibrant and influential network of individuals and organisations committed to discussing, celebrating and promoting Africa in the UK and throughout the world.


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One of Film Africa's principle aims is to support the work of African and African diaspora filmmakers and provide a platform for titles that would otherwise be unknown to UK audiences. The Film Africa Audience for Best Feature has a cash prize of £1,500 and is particularly special because it is chosen by you. Nine new fiction feature films will vie for the Award and the line-up represents the exciting range of storytelling on offer in African cinema today.

You can vote for as many films as you attend. Voting cards are handed out at the start of all eligible screenings – simply cast your vote on your way out. The winner will be announced at the Film Africa Closing Gala on Sunday 5 November at Ciné Lumière and on social media. It's your opinion that matters most... Come and have your say!

A All eligible films are marked with this symbol throughout the brochure.

FILMS IN COMPETITION FOR THE FILM AFRICA 2017 AUDIENCE AWARD:

A DAY FOR WOMEN

CALL ME THIEF

FÉLICITÉ

FRONTIÈRES

HEADBANG LULLABY

I STILL HIDE TO SMOKE

I WON'T BEAR NO MORE

KETEKE

POTATO POTAHTO



Priscilla Anany, winner of the 2016 Audience Award for *Children of the Mountain*



THE WOUND [INXEBA] + AFTER PARTY

Dir. John Trengove

South Africa, Germany, Netherlands, France. 2017. 88 mins. Drama. Xhosa with English subtitles.

Eastern Cape, South Africa. Lonely factory worker Xolani (Nakhane Touré) travels to a mountain camp to assist teenage boys about to undergo the traditional Xhosa circumcision rite of passage into manhood. He is responsible for Kwanda (Niza Jay Ncoyini), a privileged city boy from Johannesburg, who soon notices an attraction building between Xolani and fellow caregiver, volatile and hyper-masculine Vija (Bongile Mantsai). Unwilling to conform to the age-old values espoused by the camp, Kwanda's intuition combine with his rebelliousness to push Xolani into an unbearable existential crisis. Following his short film *The Goat*, John Trengove's powerful feature debut delves deeper into the ritual of Xhosa male circumcision, resulting in a bold exploration of sexuality, masculinity and the clash between traditional and contemporary values in modern-day South Africa.

We will be joined by lead actor and musician Nakhane Touré for a post-screening discussion. Entry to the after party is included in the ticket price. Nakhane will also perform live at Rich Mix on Sunday 29 October [see pg.10]

Fri 27 Oct | 18:20 | BFI Southbank



FOREIGN BODY LONDON PREMIERE

Dir. Raja Amari

Tunisia, France. 2016. 92 mins. Arabic, French with English subtitles.

Seeking refuge from her radical Islamist brother, Samia longs for her independence and freedom and, like hundreds before her, heads for European shores. Haunted by fears of being followed by her brother whom she had denounced to the authorities, Samia first finds refuge at Imed's home, a former acquaintance from her village, before ending up working for a rich widow, Leila. Her professional relationship with Leila soon turns into a sensual connection, leaving Imed torn between his religious beliefs and his sexual desires. Film Africa is delighted to present the London premiere of Raja Amari's *(Satin Rouge)* fourth feature, which boasts a terrific cast, including Sarra Hannachi (*Child of the Sun*) as Samia and Hiam Abbass (*The Lemon Tree*) as Leila.

Sun 5 Nov | 18:30 | Ciné Lumière

2017 is a special year for the consortium of five African Film Festivals in the UK, TANO ('five' in Swahili). A collaboration revisits the history of African cinema through a project led by Africa in Motion (AiM) Film Festival in Scotland and funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). This project brings (back) to UK screens some of the greatest African films that have been banned, censored, lost or forgotten, including the restoration of some important women's films. Screenings are taking place at AiM, Film Africa in London, Africa Eye in Bristol, CAFF in Cambridge and Watch Africa in Wales. Including never-seen-before films, this is an unprecedented look at the long history behind some of the world's masterpieces of African cinema.



FATMA 75

Dir. Selma Baccar

Tunisia. 1976. 60 mins. Arabic with English subtitles.

Fatma 75 is a pioneering film: it is the first non-fiction work by a woman from Tunisia, a feminist essay-film, and the first in a series of powerful films about strong female figures in the country. It was made in the UN International Women's Year, 1975, and has long been recognised as one of the most important films from North Africa, but has never officially been seen before due to censorship. Now, in collaboration with Quinta Gammarth in Tunis, this remarkable documentary has been restored and subtitled. Don't miss this rare gem.

Sat 4 Nov | 19:00 | South London Gallery



MUEDA, MEMORY AND MASSACRE [MUEDA, MEMÓRIA E MASSACRE]

Dir. Ruy Guerra

Mozambique. 1979. 80 mins. Portuguese with English subtitles.

Lost until 2009, when it was rediscovered in Maputo's archives, *Mueda, Memória e Massacre* by Ruy Guerra is a central work of Cinema Novo. Generally considered to be the first fiction feature from independent Mozambique, it is a masterpiece of anti-colonial memory. The film shows a public re-enactment, staged by non-professionals, of the massacre in Mueda (a city in northern Mozambique) carried out by the Portuguese in 1960. This event triggered the armed resistance in Mozambique and was remembered regularly by means of popular re-enactments.

Mon 6 Nov | 18:30 | SOAS University



RAGE

Dir. Newton Aduaka

UK. 1999. 120 mins. English.

In '90s south London, three teenagers want to cut their first hip-hop record. Jamie, Godwin and Thomas have been friends for a long time, but lingering tensions surface as they realise that growing up is difficult in a racist society, and that they need money to make their dreams a reality. An early film by celebrated Nigerian director Newton Aduaka, made while he was living in London, *Rage* was a mouthpiece for youth culture that still resonates today, capturing the lack of opportunity and alienation for many on the streets of Peckham.

Mon 30 Oct | 18:30 | Ritzy Brixton

To mark 60 years of independence, Film Africa is spotlighting one of Africa's most vivid and prolific film industries with **Ghana @ 60**. This special strand features three post-colonial titles representing the best of contemporary Ghanaian cinema, including a Q&A with with an up-and-coming director and a chance to catch one of the country's most celebrated works, *Kukurantumi- Road to Accra*. The strand will also features an exclusive live performance from **RedRed**, an exciting collaboration between Hungarian DJ/Producer Elo Morton and pioneer of Ghana's contemporary Hiplife music genre, M3NSA, also one half of enigmatic rap duo FOKN BOIS. This will be the duo's highly-anticipated first UK gig.



KETEKE EUROPEAN PREMIERE

Dir. Peter Sedufia

Ghana. 2017. 98 mins. English.

It's the '80s in rural Ghana. Atswei is heavily pregnant and desperate to get to Ateke to deliver her baby. But when she and husband Boi miss the morning train, the only means of transport to the city, the hapless couple are left stranded in the blazing sun with only Boi's ghetto blaster for encouragement. A madcap race against time follows in this colourful screwball comedy, with a wry but affectionate nod to Ghanaian traditions and gender dynamics. Accra-based band Worlasi provides the kinetic heartbeat to this impressive debut that illustrates Ghana's vibrant contemporary film scene.

Followed by a post-screening discussion with director Peter Sedufia.

Tue 31 Oct | 18:15 | Rich Mix

Thu 2 Nov | 19:00 | Bernie Grant Arts Centre

A



I SING OF A WELL **UK PREMIERE**

Dir. Leila Djansi

Ghana. 2009. 100 mins. English.

Prince Wenambe (J.O.T. Agyeman) hands the troubled Kingdom of Kotengbi over to Mansa Musa for protection, allowing him to win the throne from his father. But in order to ascend the throne, Wenambe must first find a wife. He chooses the beautiful Soraya (Akofa E. Asiedu). Wenambe then watches helplessly as Emperor Mansa Musa sells the kingdom off to slave traders. Even the son borne by his new wife cannot lessen his shame at losing the respect and sovereignty of his people. What unfolds is an epic tale about the Atlantic slave trade told from an African perspective.

Sat 4 Nov | 18:00 | Rich Mix



KUKURANTUMI - ROAD TO ACCRA

Dir. King Ampaw

Ghana. 1984. 95 mins. English.

Industrious family man and lorry driver, Addey, makes ends meet by plying his trade between Accra and his village, Kukurantumi. When he loses his job for reasons beyond his control, he plots a marriage between his daughter, Abena, and an affluent businessman. But Abena loves the penniless Bob, and runs off with him for a better life in Accra, where things go from bad to worse. One of the most celebrated Ghanaian films to emerge before the country's video industry, *Kukurantumi* is intelligent filmmaking, situating the troubles of one family within the wider context of political corruption, poverty and class struggle within Ghanaian society.

Also part of the Africa's Lost Classics strand [see pg.7].

Sun 29 Oct | 20:30 | Rich Mix



NAKHANE

One of South Africa's most exciting talents, award-winning singer, songwriter and instrumentalist Nakhane plays in the UK for the first time. Since his acclaimed 2013 debut album *Brave Confusion*, Nakhane has collaborated with South African record producer Black Coffee on the hit single *We Dance Again*, showing an aptitude for moving effortlessly between genres. His latest EP, *Clairvoyant*, is an exciting glimpse of what is to come when Nakhane's album *You Will Not Die*, is released produced by Ben Christophers (Bat For Lashes, Hot Chip, Imogen Heap, Françoise Hardy), next March. Citing Malian singer and multi-instrumentalist Ali Farka Touré as an influence, Nakhane's music also shows traces of Radiohead and David Bowie in the melancholic, languid guitars and his beautiful soaring vocal harmonies. Performing for the first time in the UK, this is not to be missed.

Nakhane also stars in the Film Africa 2017 Opening Gala film The Wound [pg.6] on Friday 27 October and will take part in a Q&A after the screening.

Sun 29 Oct | 20:00 | Rich Mix



REDRED

RedRed is an exciting enterprise between Budapest based DJ/Producer ELO MORTON, of the multifaceted Hungarian reggae collective Irie Maffia, and MOBO nominated musician, filmmaker and pioneer of Ghana's contemporary Hiplife music genre, M3NSA, also one half of enigmatic rap duo FOKN BOIS. Woven with introspective lyrics and fusing dance music influences from M3NSA and ELO's African and European connections, RedRed's sound encompasses trap and afrobeat and pushes the dial back to charged up 90s house, warbly garage basslines, and dreamy synths. They have worked with Femi Kuti, Damon Albarn, Asa, Nneka, and Sena Dagadu's and their debut single, *Ghetto*, featured Ghana's biggest music star, Sarkodie. Now you can see the duo perform live for the first time in the UK.

Tue 31 Oct | 20:00 | Rich Mix



FILM AFRICA CLOSING PARTY: AFROBEAT TO AFROBEATS

Join us to celebrate the last Saturday of Film Africa 2017 with a musical journey of the best African rhythms and sounds that will take you from the 1970s right through to the present day! Our Afrobeat to Afrobeats party will celebrate these two global dance music genres with a live music band and a hypnotic DJ set. If you've been to any of our festival parties in the past, you know not to miss out! If you haven't, you need to come and experience the vibe first hand. See you on the dance floor!

Tickets are £10. Keep hold of your cinema ticket for Crazy, Lovely, Cool [see pg.12] for £5 entry.

Sat 4 Nov | 20:00 | Upstairs at the Ritzy

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and proudly sponsors Film Africa 2017.

www.airfrance.co.uk

*with partner KLM



NARRATIVE FEATURES



A DAY FOR WOMEN [YOM LEL SETAT]

Dir. Kamla Abu Zekry

Egypt. 2016. 111 mins. Arabic with English subtitles.

A

When a local swimming pool announces that Sunday is a day for women, it's the talk of the neighbourhood. But bringing together a diverse group of women proves to be an unexpected equaliser, and no one is more excited than Azza, who dreams of wearing a swimsuit. Previously shunned Shamiya suddenly finds an inquisitive and supportive poolside audience. Even grief-stricken Lula ventures along. Naturally, the men can't help but be curious, and find their own colourful way of protesting against the women's day. But there is also a darker undercurrent at play – Lula's brother is becoming more extremist in his views. Kamla Abu Zekry's film is a reflection on community, co-existence and freedom in Egyptian society.

Mon 30 Oct | 20:30 | Rich Mix



CALL ME THIEF [NOEM MY SKOLLIE] UK PREMIERE

Dir. Daryne Joshua

South Africa. 2016. 125 mins. Afrikaans with English subtitles.

A

Daryne Joshua's impressive debut is a portrait of life on the mean streets of 1960s Cape Town and is as much a paean to the human need for stories – and storytellers – as it is a realistic portrait of youth gang culture. Barely in their teens, Abraham and his three friends form a gang, more out of self-preservation than malice. As they grow up, their harmless antics inevitably evolve into petty crimes, and soon Abraham is in prison. It is there that his gift for telling stories protects him from the worst that prison life has to offer. Now that he's out he wants to become a writer, but will his gang friends and society give him a chance?

Followed by a Q&A with director Daryne Joshua.

Sun 29 Oct | 17:30 | Rich Mix



CRAZY, LOVELY, COOL UK PREMIERE

Dir. Obi Emelonye

UK, Nigeria. 2017. 50 mins. English.

Produced and directed by Obi Emelonye, *Crazy, Lovely, Cool* is a coming-of-age TV series (13 x 50 min), soaked in music, that takes a fond look at the lives, joys and struggles of a group of charismatic students whose paths cross on the campus of Nigeria's largest university via the shocking revelations of an eponymous gossip blog. Hip, trendy and fast-paced, *Crazy, Lovely, Cool* takes us deep inside university life, with all of its rites of passage, innocent beauty, emotional nakedness and uncomfortable moments.

TracePlay premiere their new series. Followed by a Q&A with members of the cast and crew and an Afrobeat to Afrobeats after party Upstairs at the Ritzy [pg.10]. Keep your cinema ticket for reduced price entry to the party.

Sat 4 Nov | 18:30 | Ritzy Brixton



FÉLICITÉ



Dir. Alain Gomis

France, Senegal, Belgium, Germany, Lebanon. 2016. 123 mins. Lingala with English subtitles.

Félicité makes her living by singing in a popular Kinshasa bar, where audiences are quickly infected by her powerful, melancholic melodies. When her son suffers a sudden accident, Félicité embarks on a breathless tour through the Congolese capital as she tries desperately to raise the money for an urgent operation. Ladies man and bar regular, Tabu, offers to help and she reluctantly accepts, despite knowing that his actions are unlikely to be entirely benevolent. The music is the beating heart of Gomis' award-winning and compelling drama, while the remarkable central performance from Véro Tshanda Beya Mputu poignantly captures the realities of what it is to be a woman habitually harassed by men.

The screening at South Londo Gallery will be accompanied by a filmmaking masterclass.

Sat 28 Oct | 20:30 | Rich Mix

Fri 3 Nov | 19:00 | South London Gallery



BORDERS [FRONTIÈRES]
LONDON PREMIERE



Dir. Apolline Traoré

Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Nigeria, Benin, Sénégal. 2016. 90 mins. French with English subtitles.

The paths of four very different women converge in this free spirited road movie across western Africa. Each is making the long trip from Bamako in Mali to Nigeria's bustling capital Lagos, passing through Burkina Faso and Benin on the way. Crammed together on a stifling bus, they take in the breathtaking landscapes of coastal and Sahelian countries. But when bus breakdowns, traffic jams, highway robbers, fights between passengers and, worst of all, corrupt and violent border customs officers ensues, these initially private women join forces. *Borders* is an affecting and at times funny drama about female friendship and empowerment, which also highlights a growing regional problem in west Africa, where lack of integration is thwarting policies on the free circulation of people and goods.

Fri 3 Nov | 18:30 | Rich Mix



HEADBANG LULLABY
UK PREMIERE



Dir. Hicham Lasri

Morocco. 2017. 112 mins. Arabic with English subtitles.

Hicham Lasri (*The Sea Is Behind, Starve Your Dog*) continues his surreally captivating exploration of Morocco's history in this satirical portrait of social absurdity. On the day after Morocco made football history by beating Portugal in the 1986 world cup, an embittered government official, Daoud, is sent by his dissatisfied superiors to spend a day on a bridge between two hostile neighbourhoods. Here, he is to await the expected but by no means guaranteed arrival of King Hussan II. Daoud meets a host of unusual characters and confronts his involvement in the bloody 'bread riots' of '81, before the euphoria of the football win transcends the abstract shadow of the monarchy.

Thu 2 Nov | 21:00 | Rich Mix

SCREENINGS VENUES

RICH MIX

35-47 Bethnal Green Road, London E1 6LA

Box Office: 020 7613 7498

Book online: www.richmix.org.uk

Ticket prices: £10.75/£8; Sat matinee £5;
£6/2 for £10 on Monday

Station: Shoreditch High Street, Old Street,
Liverpool Street, Bethnal Green, Aldgate
East

BFI SOUTHBANK

Belvedere Road, South Bank, London, SE1
8XT

Box Office: 020 7928 3232

Book online: www.bfi.org.uk

Ticket prices: £12.10/£9.70

Station: Waterloo, Embankment, Charing
Cross

RITZY BRIXTON

Brixton Oval, Coldharbour Lane, London,
SW2 1JG

Box Office: 0871 902 5739

Book online: [www.picturehouses.co.uk/
cinema/Ritzy_Picturehouse](http://www.picturehouses.co.uk/cinema/Ritzy_Picturehouse)

Ticket prices: £13.10-£13.80/£12.10-£12.80

Station: Brixton

BERNIE GRANT ARTS CENTRE

Town Hall Approach Road, Tottenham Green,
London, N15 4RX

Box office: 0208 365 5450

Book online: www.berniegrantcentre.co.uk

Ticket prices: £8

Email: boxoffice@berniegrantcentre.co.uk

Station: Seven Sisters, South Tottenham

CINÉ LUMIÈRE

17 Queensberry Place, London SW7 2DT

Box Office: 020 7871 3515

Book online: [www.institut-francais.org.uk/
cine-lumiere/](http://www.institut-francais.org.uk/cine-lumiere/)

Ticket prices: £12/£10

Station: South Kensington

SOUTH LONDON GALLERY

65-67 Peckham Road, London SE5 8UH

Box office: 020 7703 6120

Book Online: www.southlondongallery.org

Ticket prices: £5/ £3

Station: Oval Station, Peckham Rye,
Denmark Hill

SOAS, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London
WC1H 0XG

Eventbrite: bit.ly/FA17MUEDA

Station: Russell Square

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DATE	TIME	SCREENING / EVENT	VENUE	PAGE
Fri 27 Oct	18:30	Opening Gala + After Party: The Wound	BFI Southbank	6
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	14:00	Adama	Bernie Grant Arts Centre	23
	15:00	The African Who Wanted to Fly + Panel	Rich Mix	18
	18:00	I Still Hide to Smoke + Q&A	Rich Mix	16
	20:30	Félicité	Rich Mix	13
Sun 29 Oct	17:30	Call Me Thief + Q&A	Rich Mix	12
	20:00	Film Africa LIVE!: Nakhane	Rich Mix	10
	20:30	Kukurantumi - Road to Accra	Rich Mix	9
Mon 30 Oct	18:30	Sacred Water + Panel	Rich Mix	18
	18:30	Africa's Lost Classics: Rage	Ritzy Brixton	7
	20:30	A Day For Women	Rich Mix	12
Tue 31 Oct	18:15	Keteke + Q&A	Rich Mix	8
	20:00	Film Africa LIVE!: RedRed	Rich Mix	10
Wed 1 Nov	18:30	Potato Potahto + Q&A	Rich Mix	16
	20:30	Bangaologia - The Science of Style	Rich Mix	18
Thu 2 Nov	18:00	I Will Not Bear Tomorrow + Q&A	Rich Mix	16
	18:30	Di Journey + Q&A	Ritzy Brixton	18
	19:00	Keteke + Q&A	Bernie Grant Arts Centre	8
	21:00	Headbang Lullaby	Rich Mix	13
Fri 3 Nov	18:30	Borders	Rich Mix	13
	19:00	Félicité	South London Gallery	13
	19:00	I Will Not Bear Tomorrow + Q&A	Bernie Grant Arts Centre	16
	20:20	Winnie + Q&A	BFI Southbank	17
Sat 4 Nov	14:30	Baobab Award for Best Short Film	Rich Mix	19
	18:00	I Sing of a Well	Rich Mix	9
	18:30	Crazy, Lovely, Cool + Q&A	Ritzy Brixton	12
	19:00	Africa's Lost Classics: Fatma 75	South London Gallery	7
	20:00	Film Africa Closing Party: Afrobeat to Afrobeats	Upstairs at the Ritzy Brixton	10
Sun 5 Nov	18:30	Closing Gala: Foreign Body	Ciné Lumière	6
Mon 6 Nov	18:30	Africa's Lost Classics: Mueda, Memory and Massacre	SOAS University	7

GALLERY



I STILL HIDE TO SMOKE (À MON ÂGE JE ME CACHE ENCORE POUR FUMER) A
LONDON PREMIERE

Dir. Rayhana

Algeria, France, Greece. 2016. 90mins. Arabic and French with English subtitles.

In the heart of the hammam, mothers, daughters, lovers, virgins, rebels and religious fanatics converge. Some come for the laughter and gossip, some for peace and quiet, and others come to cleanse themselves of the physical and mental traumas suffered at the hands of the patriarchal, fundamentalist society in which they live. Set against the backdrop of the 1995 Civil War, Rayhana uses the formation of the Greek chorus to display an incredibly important, contemporary indictment of the woman's role in Algeria. At a time when few such narratives ever make it to the cinema screen, this is a daring debut from a filmmaker to watch.

Followed by a Q&A with director Rayhana

Sat 28 Oct | 18:00 | Rich Mix



I WILL NOT BEAR TOMORROW A
EUROPEAN PREMIERE

Dir. Abraham Gezahagne

Ethiopia. 2016. 117 mins. Amharic with English subtitles.

At a time of round-the-clock curfews, government surveillance, and streets littered with the bodies of 'anti-revolutionaries', Adugna (played by veteran journalist Berhanu Degafe) vehemently struggles to maintain some normality and train his football team. When the team's rising stars are put under surveillance, Adugna's wife pleads with him to quit his passion and conform, but he knows this would mean forcible recruitment into the government-approved security force. Based on the book by sports journalist Genene Mekuria, Abraham Gezahagne's film depicts one of Ethiopia's darkest moments and uses football as a beacon of hope and distraction from the impounding fear of the Qey Shibir (Red Terror) of 1977-78.

Both screenings are followed by a Q&A with director Abraham Gezahagne.

Thu 2 Nov | 18:00 | Rich Mix

Fri 3 Nov | 19:00 | Bernie Grant Arts Centre



POTATO POTAHTO A
EUROPEAN PREMIERE

Dir. Shirley Frimpong Manso

Nigeria, Ghana. 2017. 70 mins. English.

A divorced couple who decide to share equal space in their ex-matrimonial home soon realise that this ingenious idea is easier said than done. Bent on flexing their egos and scoring points, Tony (OC Ukeje) and Lulu (Joselyn Dumas) devise various hilarious tactics that soon inflame jealous emotions and turn an already complicated situation into a roller coaster ride. Prolific Ghanaian director, Shirley Frimpong Manso, unites Ukeje and Dumas again, following their roles in her 2014 film *Love Or Something Like It*, and the duo reproduces their onscreen chemistry in this colourful comedy of manners. A strong supporting cast includes Joke Silva, Blossom Chukwujekwu, Chris Attoh, Lala Akindoju, Nikki Samonas, Adjetey Anang and Victoria Micheals.

Followed by a Q&A with members of the cast and crew.

Wed 1 Nov | 18:30 | Rich Mix

WINNIE

Dir. Pascale Lamche

France, Netherlands, South Africa. 2017. 98 mins. English.

Intriguing, controversial and misunderstood, Winnie Mandela's rise and seeming fall from grace bear the hallmarks of epic tragedy. Winnie fought the South African liberation movement against apartheid tooth and nail, far from the isolation of the prison cell where her husband Nelson Mandela served 27 long years. While Nelson became the movement's hero, Winnie's struggle to bring down the regime from the front line was met with condemnation from the global press. Featuring unseen archival footage and interviews with Winnie herself, Pascale Lamche's seminal documentary depicts a complex figure who came to symbolise the oppression of her people, while asking the broader question of why history habitually silences strong female leaders.

Followed by a Q&A with director Pascale Lamache.

Fri 3 Nov | 20:20 | BFI Southbank



DI JOURNEY **WORLD PREMIERE**

Dir. Maria Khan

UK. 2017. 110 mins. English.

A comprehensive historical exploration of immigration and race relations in the UK's African-Caribbean community, *Di Journey* follows the dramatic multi-generational mobilisation of the British Caribbean people to settle in and change modern Britain. It's also a story about the rebellious spirit and important cultural contribution of this community to a uniquely vibrant and diverse London and Albion. Prominent intellectuals, academics, activists and artists discuss the colonisation of Jamaica up to present day issues faced by the Black British community, alongside the personal existential experience, told through the stories of four members from three generations of a London Jamaican family - the Baileys.

Followed by a post-screening discussion with members of the cast and crew.

Thu 2 Nov | 18:30 | Ritzy Brixton



SACRED WATER **UK PREMIERE**

Dir. Jourdain Olivier

Rwanda. 2016. 56mins. Kinyarwanda with English subtitles.

In the Western world, the female orgasm is often shrouded in mystery. Not so in Rwanda, where according to legend, the great Lake Kivu was formed by the orgasmic flow of a queen. Extravagant radio host, Vestine Dusabe, is on a mission to celebrate and revive the practice of *Kunyaza* – the female ejaculation. Vestine visits villages and gives lectures in schools, and even facilitates some on-air *kunyaza* performances in her bid to honour this sacred tradition. Olivier Jourdain's cheeky, playful and light-hearted film is as warm as its subjects, who are quick to point out what Western ladies are missing out on.

Followed by a discussion and personal reflections on female sexuality.

Mon 30 Oct | 18:30 | Rich Mix



THE AFRICAN WHO WANTED TO FLY [L'AFRICAIN QUI VOULAIT VOLER]

UK PREMIERE

Dir. Samantha Biffot

Gabon, Belgium, France, China. 2016. 70mins. Chinese, French with English subtitles.

1979, Gabon. 9-year-old Luc sees a Kung Fu movie for the first time and it's a revelation: Chinese can fly. Against his family's wishes and to the bewilderment of his local community, Luc is determined to travel to China and fly like his hero, Jackie Chan. Fast-forward to the present day, Luc Bendza has been living in China for 31 years, is a member of the prestigious wushu community, and is the star of dozens of Kung Fu movies. How is it that a little boy from Gabon could go on to become a figurehead in an artform so integral to Chinese traditions and culture?

Followed by a panel discussing spirituality, well being and identity within the African context.

Sat 28 Oct | 15:00 | Rich Mix



BANGAOLGIA – THE SCIENCE OF STYLE

Dir. Coréon Dú

Angola, Portugal, United States. 83 mins. Portuguese, English with English subtitles.

Africa is generally considered the 'birthplace of humanity', but could it also be the birthplace of style? Africans and their cultures are inspiring the aesthetic world today more than ever. From high fashion runways to the meccas of visual art, there is an undeniable presence of African influence and a growing number of African trendsetters. *Bangaologia* sets out to explore the *raison d'être* behind the recent growth of the African aesthetic, taking a voyage that spans from Angola to the US and Europe to discover how 'banga' has been inspiring so many in and out of Africa, and how it is bringing the world closer to the Motherland of style.

Wed 1 Nov | 20:30 | Rich Mix

BAOBAB AWARD SCREENING
SAT 4 NOV 14:30
RICH MIX
TICKETS £5

SPONSORED BY



Film Africa has partnered with the **National Film & Television School** on the Baobab Award for Best Short Film. Students on the recently created MA in Film Studies, Programming & Curation watched over 450 submitted shorts and provided the festival programme committee with a shortlist of 100, from which eight were selected. The partnership is aimed at encouraging an appreciation and knowledge of African cinema in the next generation of film programmers.

Established in 2011, the Baobab Award exists to recognise and support new filmmaking voices emerging from across Africa and the African diaspora. Sponsored by curated content network **What**

We See, the Award consists of a £1,500 cash prize. This year's jury members are: British film writer/director Destiny Ekaragha; Film Programme Manager as the British Council, Jemma Desai; and Misan Harriman, founder of What We See. The winning short will be announced and screened for a second time the day after the public screening, at the Film Africa Closing Gala on Sunday 5 November at the Ciné Lumière. Join us for a fascinating afternoon of the best future African filmmaking talent, all for just £5!



DIRTY SKIN UK PREMIERE

Dir. Bruno Ribeiro
Brazil. 2016. 14mins. Portuguese with English subtitles.

In a Rio de Janeiro's upper middle class neighbourhood, a teenage boy comes to terms with his skin colour and sexuality in this beautifully shot coming of age story that subtly captures the isolation, excitement and confusion of adolescence.

Bruno Ribeiro was born in Rio de Janeiro and spent most of his childhood in Portugal. He has now returned to Rio and is studying Cinema and Audiovisual Studies at the Universidade Federal Fluminense. *Dirty Skin* is his first short and he is currently working in his second, *BR3*.



TRANSITIONS UK PREMIERE

Dir. Alamork Davidian and Kobi Davidian
Ethiopia, Israel. 2016. 15 mins. Amharic and Hebrew with English subtitles.

Mimi reconstructs her immigration story. As her memories from the past mix with the present and future through a stream of consciousness, her identity dissolves and is lost between Ethiopia and Israel.

Alamork Davidian was born in Ethiopia and moved to Israel in '91, where she graduated from the Sam Spiegel Film & TV School in '12. Her student films *Korki* and *Cleaning Time* screened at festivals around the world and her '16 short, *Facing the Wall*, won top prize at the Jerusalem International FF. **Kobi Davidian** was born in Israel and worked as a TV researcher before filmmaking. His documentary *Turbulence* has screened at several festivals and is studied in the law faculties of Harvard, Duke and Tel Aviv Universities. Together they started a film production house and worked on *Transitions* together.

BAOBAB AWARD FOR BEST SHORT FILM



PIECE OF WOOD UK PREMIERE

Dir. Yassin Koptan

Egypt. 2016. 16 mins. Arabic with English subtitles.

All Adam wants to do is land the perfect skateboarding trick at his local mall. When his board is confiscated by a grumpy security guard, it's up to him and best friend George to get it back in this charming comedy about friendship and following your dreams.

Born and raised in Alexandria, **Yassin Koptan** grew up skateboarding and made *Piece of Wood* as an interpretation of the struggle between two generations in Egypt where dreams are discouraged. He recently finished studying at the New York Film Academy and is now living and working in LA. *Piece of Wood* is Yassin's second short film.



PANTHEON UK PREMIERE

Dir. Ange-Régis Hounkpatin

Benin, France. 2017. 25 mins. French with English subtitles.

Son of a Beninese immigrant, 35 year old Solomon works as taxi driver in Strasbourg. Cut off from his family roots, he is about to donate his deceased father's Voodoo costume to a museum when a young street-dancer reminds him that the ancestor soul lingers on.

Ange-Régis Hounkpatin was born and raised in Cotonou, Benin, and moved to France to study at the Femis school for cinema. His short films have screened at festivals around the world, including Champs Elysées Film Festival and Paris Courts Devant Festival, and his final-year student film, *Rêves du Lions*, won the Youth Award at the Côté Court Festival of Pantin 2014. *Pantheon* is Ange-Régis' fifth short and will be broadcast on the Channel 2 in France.



NOMFUNDO UK PREMIERE

Dir. Sihle Hlophe

South Africa. 2017. 15 mins. SiSwati with English subtitles.

When Nomfundo is betrayed by the two people she holds closest to her heart she makes an erratic decision that unleashes a tragic chain of events, changing the course of her life forever. A visually stunning portrait of betrayal and revenge also notable for its use of SiSwati, a minority language that is largely unrepresented in the South African media.

Writer/director **Sihle Hlophe** is multi-degree earner, a Hot Docs Blue Ice Docs Grantee and a National Fellow at the University of Cape Town's Institute For Creative Arts. She has written and directed two shorts and a handful of documentaries and has worked as a scriptwriter and story-liner for popular South African TV shows. Sihle's work promotes minority languages and gives a platform to marginalised voices.



WALY'S PROBLEM [DIAFEE DIAFEEY WALY] EUROPEAN PREMIERE

Dir. El Hadj Gueye
Senegal, Belgium. 2017. 13 mins. Afrikaans and French with English subtitles.

13 year old Waly has not yet been circumcised. He is a laughing stock at work and the shame of the neighbourhood. Even the girl he has fallen for has rejected him. What can he do... that's Waly's problem!

El Hadj Gueye is from Touba, Senegal. Theatre is his passion and he founded Gëm Gëm Africa (Believe in Africa) Theatre Company in 2003, which has exhibited shows in cities across Senegal and in many festivals, including the Negro Arts Festival. *Waly's Problem* is El Hadj's first short film.



THE CRYING CONCH [LE CRI DU LAMBI] UK PREMIERE

Dir. Vincent Toi
Canada, Haiti, Mauritius. 2017. 20 mins. Creole with English subtitles.

A man follows in the footsteps of Franswa Mackandal, who in the 18th century was abducted and taken to Haiti as a slave, only to become the leader of the revolt against French colonial rule. This searing modern fable uses the structure of a Greek tragedy chorus to characterise its dark beginnings.

Born on Mauritius, **Vincent Toi** moved to Canada at 19 to study design in Toronto and filmmaking in Montreal. He is currently an art director at two major art institutions in Canada, the Phi Centre and the DHC/ART Foundation for Contemporary Art, both in Montreal. His recent feature-length documentary *I've Seen the Unicorn* screened at numerous international festivals. This is his third short film.



WE ARE JUST FINE LIKE THIS UK PREMIERE

Dir. Mehdi M. Barsaoui
Tunisia. 2016. 19 mins. Arabic with English subtitles.

In his old age, Baba Azizi (played by renowned filmmaker Nouri Bouzid) is passed from house to house by his children, ending up at his daughter's. Fed up with his lack of freedom, he invents a clever way of getting his own way. But can he trust his grandson to keep quiet?

Mehdi M. Barsaoui is a graduate of the Higher Institute of Multimedia Arts in Tunis and DAMS in Bologna, Italy. He has directed three short films that have won awards and screened at several international festivals. Medhi is currently developing his first feature film with support from Rawi Sundance Screenwriters Lab.

FILM AFRICA YOUNG AUDIENCES

This year, we continue to grow Film Africa Young Audiences: an educational programme of screenings by filmmakers from Africa and the African diaspora for schools, university students and youth groups. At Film Africa we believe that film is a key educational tool to engage, inspire and educate children, young people and their teachers. We work in partnership with cinemas to host screenings of new and retrospective works for both schools and the public. For more information about how to arrange a screening for your school, please contact our Education Programme Manager, Joanna Brown at ras_education@soas.ac.uk.

HOW TO BOOK

PUBLIC SCREENINGS P

Screenings at BGAC are public
See pg. 14 for booking information

SCHOOL SCREENINGS S

All screenings at Picturehouse venues are for schools
Visit picturehouses.com/education
Email ryan.p@picturehouses.co.uk



QUEEN OF KATWE

Dir: Mira Nair. USA. 2016. 124 mins. English. PG.

Living in the slum of Katwe in Kampala, Uganda, is a constant struggle for 10-year-old Phiona and her family. Her world changes one day when she meets Robert Katende, a missionary who teaches children how to play chess. Phiona becomes fascinated with the game and soon becomes a top player under Katende's guidance. Her success in local competitions and tournaments opens the door to a bright future and a golden chance to escape from a life of poverty.

Suitability: Age 9+ Primary Years 5 & 6; Secondary Years 7-11

Subjects: English, Geography, Citizenship.

Event length: 135 minutes

Wed 11 Oct | 10:00 | Ritzzy Brixton

Tues 17 Oct | 10:00 | Hackney Picturehouse

Fri 20 Oct | 10:00 | Stratford East Picturehouse



ANIMATING AFRICA

S

Dir. Various. 2015–17. 50 mins. Animation. U.

Have you ever wondered how the waves of the ocean came to be? Have you heard the creation stories of the Orishas of Brazil and beyond? Join us for this enchanting programme of animated films exploring the mythical beginnings of the Yoruba culture of West Africa and beyond. These incredible stories originated in Africa, and have travelled the world, thanks to storytellers all over the globe. The films will be brought to life through an exciting interactive workshop with our very own Orisha storyteller, Nicole-Rachelle Moore.

Suitability: Age 5+ Primary Years 1-5.

Subjects: English, Art.

Event length: 90 minutes

Tues 3 Oct | 10:00 | Hackney Picturehouse

Wed 4 Oct | 10:00 | Ritzy Brixton

Thur 12 Oct | 10:00 | Stratford East Picturehouse

Mon 16 Oct | 10:00 | Crouch End Picturehouse



WWI FOCUS: ADAMA

P S

Dir. Simon Rouby.

France. 2015. 85 mins. Animation. French with English subtitles. PG.

12-year-old Adama lives in a remote West African village. Beyond the cliffs lies the World of Winds, where the Nassaras reign. One night his older brother, Samba, disappears. Defying the village elders, Adama decides to set off in search of him. With the steadfast determination of a child coming of age, he embarks on a quest that takes him over the seas, to the North, to the frontline of the First World War. An important insight into the involvement of African nations in WWI.

Suitability: Age 9+ Primary Years 5 and 6; Secondary Years 7-11

Subjects: History, Geography, Citizenship, French, English.

Event length: 105 minutes

Fri 20 Oct | 10:30 | Stratford East Picturehouse

Sat 28 Oct | 14:00 | Bernie Grant Arts Centre



SHAKESPEARE FOCUS: MAKIBEFO

P S

Dir. Alexander Abela

France, Madagascar, 2001. Malagasy/French with English subtitles. 15.

This screening celebrates the influence of Shakespeare on African film, as this intriguing tragedy is given a new twist. *Makibefo* is a stunning, mysterious re-telling of Macbeth set and shot on the island of Madagascar. Action and gesture take centre stage over dialogue, with Shakespeare's text woven seamlessly into the narrative in the form of a griot-like observer.

Suitability: Age 15+ Secondary years 11-13

Subjects: English, Media, Drama.

Event length: 95 minutes

Wed 11 Oct | 10:30 | Ritzy Brixton

Tues 17 Oct | 10:30 | Hackney Picturehouse

Sat 25 Nov | 14:00 | Bernie Grants Arts Centre



STORIES OF OUR LIVES

P

Dir. Jim Chuchu
Kenya, South Africa. 2014. 50 mins. colour. English, Swahili with English subtitles. 15.

Two young women are in trouble for their ‘peculiar’ relationship; a farmhand is tormented when the woman he has a crush on begins courting another woman; a young DVD seller is drawn by the sounds emanating from a clandestine gay bar. These are among the tales featured in this beautifully rendered collection of narratives from LGBTI Kenyans. *Stories of Our Lives* started out as an archival project by the multi-disciplinary Nest Collective, and the testimonies given have been tenderly wrought into funny, endearing – and at times heartbreaking – sketches.

Sat 30 Sept | 19:00 | Bernie Grants Arts Centre



ZARAFÀ

P

Dir. Rémi Bezançon and Jean-Christophe
France, Belgium. 2014. 78 mins. Dubbed in English. PG.

Under a baobab tree, an old man tells a story to a group of children: the story of the undying friendship between 10-year-old Maki and Zarafa, an orphaned giraffe who is a gift from the Pasha of Egypt to the King of France. But Maki doesn’t want Zarafa to go to France. Instead, he goes on a mission to bring his friend back to his native land – even if it means risking his life. Their adventure takes Maki and Zarafa from Sudan to Paris, passing Alexandria, Marseille and the snow-capped Alps, crossing paths with a pilot, a pirate, and a pair of very unusual cows called Mounh and Sounh. Will they succeed in getting Zarafa back to Egypt?

Sat 30 Sept | 14:00 | Bernie Grants Arts Centre



RECREATIVE FILM SCHOOL FREE

P

Are you a young filmmaker interested in learning about filmmaking, scriptwriting and film theory? A five-day workshop, coinciding with Film Africa 2017, and led by director Saeed Taji Farouky. The sessions will explore a range of film genres including feature film, documentary and music video through practical workshops, screenings and talks by invited specialists working in the industry. We are looking for students who are at the beginning of their film career, and in particular those who are from backgrounds which are underrepresented in the film industry. Experience isn’t necessary but you need to have a passion to learn about film and a willingness to work together as a group.

Sat 4, 11, 18, 25 Nov, 2 Dec | South London Gallery

BOOKING: Places are limited. For more information and to apply contact Laura at SLG: laura@southlondongallery.org

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A photograph of two women sitting on a stage, laughing and clapping. The woman on the left is wearing a black top and a vibrant red and yellow patterned scarf. The woman on the right is wearing a grey top and a black headwrap. They are both smiling broadly. The background is a dark curtain. The image is partially obscured by a semi-transparent orange overlay containing text.

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We take this opportunity to thank all our host venues, partners, supporters, sponsors and programme partners, as well as the many visiting directors, guests, staff and volunteers who have contributed to making the festival happen.

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