## CELEBRATING AFRICAN CINEMA 30 OCT- 8 NOV 2015

AF

Royal African Society

## FILM AFRICA 2015 PARTNERS

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Film Africa 2015 was made possible through the financial support of a range of organisations and institutions. We'd like to express our gratitude to all of our sponsors, supporters, venues and partners. Appreciate thanks to all of our visiting filmmakers and guests for bringing the programme to life.











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## INTRODUCTION

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Welcome to Film Africa 2015! We're celebrating our fifth anniversary and the wonderful journey that we have travelled since the first festival in 2011. Our purpose remains the same as then: to showcase the cinema and talent emerging from Africa and to screen the best new features, documentaries and short films, as well as some old favourites. We have another diverse programme brought to you from a range of venues across London. Sadly, the majority of these films will not enjoy general distribution and this will be your only chance of seeing them. Book early to avoid disappointment!

Putting on a film festival this size is a major undertaking and involves a lot of organisation and team work. Leading the team this year is Rachael Loughlan. We would like to thank her for her hard work and unerring ability to pull all the strands together, along with our experienced programmers, Isabel Moura Mendes, Jacqui Nsiah, Sheila Ruiz (Royal African Society's Programme Manager, currently on maternity leave) and Silja Frey, our PR Consultant Ladis B. Sité, and our Marketing Manager Ogo Okafor, not forgetting all of our seasonal staff and volunteers. We are also extremely grateful to all our partners and supporters, without whose support it would not have been possible to hold the festival.

#### **Richard May, Royal African Society Deputy Director**

Now on to the programme. For our fifth edition we present over 60 films from 26 different African countries, representing the scope and depth of talent to be found across the continent and diaspora. The programme includes several London, UK, European and World Premieres and we believe that there's something for all tastes and moods. Stories of love, modern Africa and of diaspora communities; fun and inspiring femalecentric films; bold and daring experimental narratives; and socio-political commentaries on LGBTI rights, civil war and the human stories behind the migrant crisis that is gripping the headlines. This year we present two major strands: Lusophone Liberty: 40 Years On, celebrating 40 years of independence for Africa's Portuguese-speaking nations, and From Africa, With Love, presented by the five UK African Film Festivals – Film Africa, Africa in Motion, Afrika Eye, Watch Africa and the Cambridge Africa Film Festival, part of the BFI Love Blockbuster Season. There is also a focus on new Ethiopian cinema and a celebration of sounds of the continent with our music strand.

Shorts are an important element of the programme and we'll once again be showcasing emerging talent from the continent through the Baobab Award for Best Short Film. This year there are 12 shorts vying for the award from 10 different African countries. There's also a spotlight on diaspora filmmakers in Without Borders: Shorts from the Diaspora.

We are delighted to be hosting several visiting filmmakers from countries across Africa, including Rwanda, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, South Africa, Angola and Algeria, as well as a wide range of guest speakers and panelists that will help to bring the screenings to life. Beyond the films, we once again bring you a range of special events, including live music, the Industry Forum, school screenings, and educational workshops. We look forward to seeing you at some screenings and events!

**Rachael Loughlan, Film Africa Festival Producer** 

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## ------ FILM AFRICA SCREENINGS AND EVENTS REGULARLY SELL OUT ------

#### WE RECOMMEND BOOKING IN ADVANCE TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT. TICKETS CAN BE BOOKED FROM FILM AFRICA VENUES ONLINE, BY PHONE OR IN PERSON.

#### HACKNEY PICTUREHOUSE

270 Mare Street, London E8 1HE Box Office: 0871 902 5734 Book online: www.picturehouses.co.uk/ cinema/Hackney\_Picturehouse/ Ticket prices: £7 - £11.50 / £6 - £10.60 CONC Station: Hackney Central

#### **RITZY CINEMA**

Brixton Oval, Coldharbour Lane, London SW2 1JG Box Office: 0871 902 5739 Book online: www.picturehouses.co.uk/ cinema/Ritzy\_Picturehouse Ticket prices: £7.50 - £12.60 / £6.50 -£10.60 CONC Station: Brixton

#### **BFI SOUTHBANK**

Belvedere Road, Southbank, London SE1 8XT Box Office: 020 7928 3232 Book online: www.bfi.org.uk Ticket prices: £6.50 (for all African Odysseys screenings) Station: Waterloo

#### **BRITISH LIBRARY**

96 Euston Road London NW1 2DB Box Office: 0330 333 1144 Book online: boxoffice.bl.uk Station: Euston

#### INSTITUTE CONTEMPORARY ARTS (ICA)

12 Carlton House Terrace London SW1Y 5AH Box Office: 020 7930 3647 Book online: www.ica.org.uk/whats-on/films Ticket prices: £11.50 / £8 CONC Station: Charing Cross & Picadilly Circus

#### **CINÉ LUMIÈRE**

17 Queensberry Place, London SW7 2DT Box Office: 020 7871 3515 Book online: www.institut-francais.org.uk/ cine-lumiere/whats-on/ Ticket prices: £10 / £8 CONC Station: South Kensington

#### SOUTH LONDON GALLERY

67 Peckham Road, London SE5 8UH Box office: 020 7703 6120 Book Online: www.southlondongallery.org Ticket prices: £5-10 / £3-8 CONC (for all Film Africa screenings & events) Station: Peckham Rye

#### **RICH MIX**

35-47 Bethnal Green Road, London E1 6LA Box Office: 020 7613 7498 Book online: www.richmix.org.uk Ticket prices: £1.75 Station: Shoreditch High Street & Liverpool Street

#### SOAS, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG Contact number: 020 7637 2388 Station: Russell Square

#### **UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER**

309 Regent Street, London W1B 2HW Book online: www.westminster.ac.uk/ african-film-and-social-change-conference Ticket prices: £150 / £95 CONC Station: Baker Street & Marlybone

#### **NEW FILM AFRICA AWARD!**

This year we wanted to give you a voice and so we've introduced a new award – the AUF Audience Award for Best Feature Film, as voted by you. Look out for the gold (A) symbol next to eligible films. You'll be asked to vote at screenings so have your opinions ready!

#### **FILM AFRICA**

W: www.filmafrica.org.uk E: info@filmafrica.org.uk T: 020 3073 8335 ② @FilmAfrica [#FilmAfrica] f facebook/FilmAfricaUK

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RUN LONDON PREMIERE Dir. Philippe Lacôte *Vory Coast. 2014. 102 mins. Colour. French with English subtitles.* 

Run is running away... He has just killed his country's Prime Minister. To escape, he had to take the face and clothes of a madman, wandering through the town in disguise. His life returns to him in flashes: a childhood with master Tourou, when he dreamt of becoming a rain-maker; his incredible adventures with Greedy Gladys; and his militia past as a Young Patriot in Ivory Coast's turbulent conflicts. Run has not chosen all of these lives. He stumbled upon them, escaping from one existence to another. This is why he is called Run. Fresh from its Cannes Un Certain Regard screening - the first time an Ivorian film has featured at the festival - and after winning the Jury Prize at FESPACO earlier this year, Philippe Lacôte's captivating coming-of-age drama Run takes centre stage at Film Africa 2015. In his debute feature, Lacôte draws a critical eye on his country's decades-long political and military conflicts, which have claimed the lives of at least 3,000 people, producing an extraordinarily cinematic and original work of singular vision.

Followed by a Q&A with director Philippe Lacôte.

Fri 30 Oct | 18:30 | Hackney Picturehouse



THE MAN FROM ORAN [EL WAHRANI/L'ORANAIS] UK PREMIERE Dir. Lyès Salem France/Algeria. 2014. 128 mins. Colour. French/Arabic with English subtitles.

It's 1962. Basking in the euphoric glory of the Algerian Revolution two friends, Hamid and Jaffar, face a bright and promising future. Both members of the National Liberation Army, the men are soon rewarded for their bravery, landing positions of power amid the political shake up. With newfound independence comes choice and, over the next 30 years, as each man finds his place within Algeria's new era, their actions and motives will test this friendship to its very core. Six years after the critically-acclaimed Masquerade, director Lyès Salem, who also stars as Jaffar, has helmed an epic exposé of Algeria's turbulent political history and fight against colonialism. Yet the film's revelation is in fact more universal – in the ongoing tug-of-war between integrity and corruption and empathy and selfish desires, it's clear that the actions of the few can change the course and history of a nation.

#### Followed by a Q&A with director Lyès Salem. In partnership with the French Film Festival.

Sun 8 Nov | 19:15 | Ciné Lumière

## LUSOPHONE LIBERTY: 40 YEARS ON

A curated programme of films from across four nations marks this year's Film Africa Lusophone strand brought together to signal the 40th anniversary of independence of the African countries that were once Portuguese colonies. With the help of directors Flora Gomes (Guinea Bissau) and Zézé Gamboa (Angola). we will revisit their struggle(s) of self-determination, the long term effects left by these conflicts and how these shaped their existence as voung independent nations. A mix of classic and contemporary cinematic portrayals from Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde will provoke conversations and reflections on post-colonialism - or better said - how different futures can be built out of a common past.



ALL IS WELL Dir. Pocas Pascoal Portugal/Angola. 2011. 94 mins. Colour. Portuguese with English subtitles.

In the late summer of 1980, Alda (16) and her sister Maria (17), arrive in Lisbon to escape civil war in Angola. Left to their own devices. they start to build a new life from scratch in unfamiliar surroundings. Faced with many obstacles and bad news, the girls struggle between a past they can no longer return to and a future that doesn't seem to exist. As they enter womanhood, they must find the strength to decide their own fate. In her much acclaimed, award-winning debut, director Pocas Pascoal uses her personal story of escape and exile in order to find a voice for a whole generation of refugees, who fled to Portugal in their thousands as war raged back in Angola.

## Followed by a Q&A with director Pocas Pascoal.

Tues 3 Nov | 18:30 | Ritzy Brixton



THE BLUE EYES OF YONTA [UDJU AZUL DI Yonta]

Dir. Flora Gomes

*Guinea-Bissau/Portugal. 1992. 95 mins. Colour. Portuguese/Creole with English subtitles.* 

Yonta is a beautiful young woman growing up in the city of Bissau a generation after liberation from Portugal. She develops a secret crush for Vicente, a family friend and a hero of the independence struggle. beginning a story of unrequited love amid this evolving city. Meanwhile, Yonta herself has a secret admirer, a shy young man named ZÈ, who sends her love letters copied from a Scandinavian book. A lovely, delicate work about youthful illusions, both personal and shared. Gomes's second feature is also an intimate analysis of Guinea-Bissau's post-liberation society, where a sense of disillusionment lingers in the air. It also perfectly demonstrates Gomes's talent for eliciting wonderfully nuanced performances. A true classic.

Sun 1 Nov | 18:30 | Ritzy Brixton



THE HERO [O HERÓI] Dir. Zézé Gamboa Portugal/France/Angola. 2004. 97 mins. Colour. Portuguese with English subtitles.

At 15, Vitório (played by celebrated Senegalese actor Makena Diop) was recruited by the Angolan army, where he would remain for two decades fighting in the country's raging civil war. In his last mission, he's hit by a mine and loses his leg. After the conflict ends, he manages to get a prosthesis but is now confronted with the challenges of assimilation and survival in post-war Luanda. With no job and unable to find his family, he faces indifference and mockery. Zézé Gamboa's debut feature explores the deep scars Angola's civil war, which officially ended in 2002, left on society, by turning the spotlight on a disabled war veteran's story.

#### Sun 1 Nov | 16:30 | Ritzy Brixton



#### LANTANDA UK PREMIERE

Dir. Gorka Gamarra Spain/Guinea-Bissau/Portugal. 2014. 63 mins. Colour. Portugeuse with English subtitles.

The Creole language is used daily by the majority of the population of Guinea Bissau. And yet, it doesn't hold official language status. Musicians, writers and scholars of different generations explain through songs why they have chosen this language as an instrument to express their feelings and transmit the social reality of the country. Through their testimonies, the documentary offers a celebration of Guinea-Bissau's ethnic diversity and cultures. An exceptional example of how a shared sense of collective identity can shape a relatively young nation such as Guinea-Bissau.

#### Fri 6 Nov | 18:30 | Ritzy Brixton



THE LAST FLIGHT OF THE FLAMINGO [O ÚLTIMO VOO DO FLAMINGO]

Dir. João Ribeiro *Mozambique. 2010. 90 mins. Colour. Portuguese with English subtitles.* 

In the village of Tizangara, Mozambique, UN Blue Helmets are peacekeeping after years of civil war. Five explosions kill five soldiers: only their helmets and their genitals remain. Massimo Risi, an Italian Lieutenant posted in the capital Maputo arrives in the village in order to investigate events. Assisted by Joaquim, a local translator, he soon discovers that not everything is what it seems... The Last Flight of the Flamingo is an adaptation of the novel of the same title from one Mozambique's most reputed and awarded writers. Mia Couto (2015 Man Booker International Prize finalist), who described it as being the best big-screen adaptation of his literature.

Wed 4 Nov | 21:00 | Ritzy Brixton



MY VOICE [NHA FALA] Dir. Flora Gomes Portugal/France/Luxembourg. 2002. 110 mins. Colour. Portuguese/Creole with English subtitles.

A young woman learns that finding love and happiness need not come at the expense of identity in this romantic musical from Flora Gomes. Vita is leaving Cape Verde to study in Paris. Before parting, her mother nervously reminds her of the family curse, whereby any female in their lineage who sings will be struck dead. After reassuring her, Vita heads for Paris and before long falls for a handsome French musician. Instantly struck by Vita's beautiful voice, he's determined to make her a star; but will the curse be realised if Vita follows her dream?

Screening with The Roar of the Sea (see next listing).

Sat 7 Nov | 16:30 | Hackney Picturehouse



**THE ROAR OF THE SEA [RUIDO DO MAR]** Dir. Ana R. Fernandes, Torsten Truscheit *Germany, Cape Verde. 2010. 26 mins. Colour. German with English subtitles.* 

An African refugee is being interrogated in prison. He refuses to speak and eat. A friendly relationship between him and a guard lessens his sorrow and unveils a tale of family broken by man-made boundaries. But the deportation machinery is already in full play. Cape Verdean director Ana Fernandes' 2012 Oscar nominated short sheds light on the plight of African migration into Europe and the treatment illegal migrants receive.

Screening with My Voice (see previous listing).

Sat 7 Nov | 16:30 | Hackney Picturehouse

## FROM AFRICA, WITH LOVE

Is there anything more universal than the power of love? With the ability to both create and destroy, people are brought together and torn apart by affairs of the heart. Love, undeniably, conquers all. Across Africa, tales of passion, tenderness and lust provide intimate perspectives on the diverse and heterogeneous communities of the continent. This year, in association with the BFI UK Audience Network's LOVF Blockbuster Season. the five African film festivals across the UK present a rich programme of films that promise to immerse you in African love across time and space. So join us in the spirit of l'amour and allow us to ignite the fire of romance in your heart through the magic of cinema.

*From Africa, With Love* is presented by the UK African Film Festivals (Film Africa, Africa in Motion Film Festival, Afrika Eye, Cambridge African Film Festival, Watch Africa). Part of BFI LOVE bfi.org.uk/love, in partnership with Plusnet.



BREATHE UMPHEFUMLO London premiere

Dir. Mark Dornford-May South Africa/Germany/UK. 2015. 90 mins. Colour. Xhosa with English subtitles.

Following the critical and commercial success of U-Carmen eKhavelitsha (2005) and Son of Man (2006), husband and wife team Pauline Malefane and Mark Dornford-May have reunited for an encapsulating Cape Town-set reworking of Puccini's La Bohème. Returning to the Xhosa township of Khayelitsha, Malefane plays the jazz diva Zoleka, object of lust to a group of young art students. Busisiwe Ngeiane stars as the tuberculosissuffering botany student Mimi, with whom fellow student Lungelo falls passionately in love. Malefane and Dornford-May clearly wish to highlight the scourge that is tuberculosis, a disease that wreaks devastation among the impoverished populations of the South African townships. In this engaging and powerful musical the tragedy of the disease is shown to be the neglectful manner in which sufferers are treated.



THE GREAT KILAPY [O GRANDE KILAPY] Dir. Zézé Gamboa Angola/Portugal/Brazil. 2012. 100 mins. Colour. Portuguese with English subtitles.

The Great Kilapy accounts the adventures of Joãozinho, a charming young Angolan man who constantly dodges the constraints of Portuguese colonial rule of the late 1960s to live a fast and care-free playboy life – the personification of the 'bon vivant'. But then he meets Carmo, the Governor minister's daughter... Zézé Gamboa's second feature – loosely inspired by real life events – abandons the neo-realist post-civil war environment of his debut film The Hero (2004), also screening at this year's festival, to offer us a humoured and slightly cynical view of colonial Luanda, during a time when racial and social prejudice was rife.

## Also part of our Lusophone Liberty: 40 Years On Season.

Mon 2 Nov | 20:30 | Hackney Picturehouse



HYENAS [HYÉNAS] Dir. Djibril Diop Mambéty Senegal. 1992. 113 mins. Colour. Wolof with English subtitles.

Senegalese auteur Mambety adapts a timeless parable of human greed into a biting satire of modern Africa - betraving the hopes of independence for the false promises of Western materialism. Linguère Ramatou is a beautiful, young woman from a sleepy village who falls in love with a young man. When she becomes pregnant and he denies paternity so he can marry a wealthy wife, the villagers drive the disgraced Linguère from her home. 30 years later she returns as a millionairess, full of wrath and revenge. Considered by many to be maverick director Djibril Diop Mambety's best work, this cinematic masterpiece is awash in the hypnotic colours and intoxicating sounds of West Africa.

Sat 31 Oct | 21:00 | Hackney Picturehouse



LOVE THE ONE YOU LOVE London Premiere

Dir. Jenna Cato Bass South Africa. 2014. 105 mins. Colour. English.

Phone sex operator Terri might be comfortable voicing the most intimate of thoughts over the phone with strangers. However, words don't come so easily when it comes to communicating her feelings towards Sandile, her attentive boyfriend who spends his time looking after animals. In another corner of Cape Town, a computer technician struggles to let go of a lost love, rubbing self-indulgent salt in his wounds by insisting on spending time with his ex's younger brother. As fate would have it, their parallel paths intersect and they begin to suspect that their love is a peculiar conspiracy - setting in motion an intimate, funny and bittersweet exploration of some of the more sacred ideals of young life in contemporary South Africa.

Sat 31 Oct | 18:30 | Ritzy Brixton



STORIES OF OUR LIVES Dir. Jim Chuchu Kenya/South Africa. 2014. 60 mins. Colour. English/Swahili with English subtitles.

Two young women are in trouble for their 'peculiar' relationship; a farmhand is tormented when his crush begins courting a woman; a young DVD seller is intoxicated by the smoke and sounds of 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. The quality and imagination achieved transcends the predictable but nevertheless disappointing response from the Kenyan government, who banned it on the grounds of promoting homosexuality.

Following the screening, internationally renowned activist Bisi Alimi will lead a panel on LGBTI rights in Africa. Join Bisi as he explores queer experience in African contexts as well as those faced by communities in the diaspora, and the visibility of these voices within LGBTI cinema.

Mon 2 Nov | 18:30 | Ritzy Brixton

When first-time director Yared Zeleke's *Lamb* became the first Ethiopian feature ever to be screened in competition at the Cannes Film Festival earlier this year, the film world took note: will this signal the coming of a new wave of exciting cinema from Ethiopia? The country has a notable cinematic history, first put on the filmmaking map by Hailé Gerima's Godardian Harvest: 3.000 Years, but what of contemporary offerings? Along with Lamb, we present another debut. Red Leaves. from Ethiopian-Israeli director Bazi Gete, as well as The Price of Love. the third feature from one of Ethiopia's leading female directors. Hermon Hailay. These three features highlight the fresh, whimsical and poetic work of a new generation of Ethiopian filmmakers who are undoubtedly heralding an exciting shift in the country's cinematic landscape.



#### LAMB

Dir. Yared Zeleke Ethiopia/France/Germany/Norway. 2015. 94 mins. Colour. Amharic with English subtitles.

Ephraim is a young Ethiopian boy, the son of a farmer His father leaves him and his sheep, from which he is inseparable, to be looked after by distant relatives, far from his drought-ridden homeland. Ephraim isn't very good at farming, but he has a hidden talent: he is an excellent cook. One day, his uncle tells him that they have to sacrifice his sheep for the next religious feast. Ephraim is ready to do anything to save his only friend and return home with him by his side. Handsomely shot in Ethiopia's beautiful, mountainous countryside, this multi-layered first feature from Yared Zeleke adds depth to its characters and places depictions of everyday Ethiopian life centre stage.

Tues 3 Nov | 21:00 | Hackney Picturehouse Sat 7 Nov | 14:00 | Ritzy Brixton



PRICE OF LOVE LONDON PREMIERE

Ethiopia. 2015. 99 mins. Colour. Amharic with English subtitles.

A young Addis Ababa taxi driver gets caught up in the dark side of love in this off-beat romance. Teddy is trying to take the high road and put his khat-chewing and drinking days behind him. When his taxi is stolen after he helps a young girl escape her violent ex-pimp, he sees his livelihood and source of redemption abruptly disappear. Feeling guilty, this mysterious beauty offers to help Teddy get his taxi back, and before long he's falling for her charms. Having grown up in proximity to sex work, renowned writer/director Hermon Hailey draws on personal experience to add depth to this courageous and bittersweet film, capturing the dark underbelly of a city in flux.

Dine & View event – Enjoy a hearty serving of fine Ethiopian fare whilst watching Price of Love. Food included in price of ticket. Also part of *From Africa, With Love*.



RED LEAVES (A) Dir. Bazi Gete Israel. 2015. 88 mins. Colour. Amharic/Hebrew with English subtitles.

74-year-old Meseganio (renowned Ethiopian actor Debebe Eshetu) is a hard, cantankerous. and nervous man. He emigrated to Israel from Ethiopia with his family 28 years ago. Having chosen to zealously retain his culture, he talks very little, and hardly speaks Hebrew. After losing his wife. loneliness and a sense of his mortality lead him to seek support from his children and he spends time in each of their homes, causing havoc among those more adjusted to modern Israeli life. Desperately trying to hold onto the vestiges of his life back in Ethiopia. Meseganio must find a way to survive on his own terms. A beautifully realised and intimate drama about acceptance and growing old.

Followed by a Q&A with director Bazi Gete.

Sat 31 Oct | 18:00 | Ritzy Brixton Sun 1 Nov | 15:30 | Hackney Picturehouse

10

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Africa is synonymous with great music. The sounds of the continent are wonderfully varied, and are intrinsically tied to their country of origin. Each year, Film Africa discovers films that celebrate Africa's diverse musical traditions. as well as the wealth of new talent emerging from the continent. This year, two films powerfully portray music as one of the foundations of personal and national identity, and as a weapon against subjugation, in They Will Have to Kill Us First and Beats of the Anotonov: in I Shot Bi Kidude, the life and work of the world's oldest performer, Zanzibar's indefatigable diva Bi Kidude, is celebrated, followed by a live performance of her songs by Zanzibari musicians: and we get to the bottom of the real African roots of Tango music in Tango Negro, followed by live music and tango dancing!



BEATS OF THE ANTONOV Dir. Hajooj Kuka Sudan/South Africa. 2014. 68 mins. Colour. Arabic with English subtitles.

As tensions between the so-called Arab north and African south continue, so too does Sudan's inner-conflict. The Khartoum government of the north imposes not only their rule but their culture on the south, while rebel forces prevail in the Blue Nile state of the Nuba Mountains. Villagers gather in mountain hideouts and refugee camps. For eighteen months, director Hajooj Kuka filmed the lives of displaced communities who have lost friends, family and belongings and yet, far from finding a devastated and defeated people, he discovered a raw purpose and energy. Their weapon: music, song and dance. This beautiful and subtle documentary explores a people coming to terms with their culture, and facing the notion that the question of identity is at the heart of their country's ongoing conflict.

Thur 5 Nov | 18:30 | Hackney Picturehouse



## I SHOT BI KIDUDE LONDON PREMIERE

Dir. Andy Jones

UK. 2015. 75 mins. Colour. English/Swahili with English subtitles.

In 2012, Bi Kidude, fast-talking, chain-smoking, rebel-rocker - and the oldest performer on the world music stage - was kidnapped at a reported age of 102. Andy Jones, director of the award winning Kidude biopic, As Old as My Tongue, returned to Zanzibar to get to the bottom of the mystery. This deeply personal journey reflects on her life and death, and sees the director embroiled in the mystery of her last days on earth.

DOC

Followed by a Q&A with director Andy Jones and a live Zanzibari music performance (see next listing).

Wed 4 Nov | 18:30 | Ritzy Brixton



FILM AFRICA LIVE! PRESENTS: MIM Suleiman and Matona: The Songs & Stories of BI Kidude

The screening of I Shot Bi Kidude is followed by a very special live event — bringing together two of Zanzibar's modern musical icons on stage for the very first time. Mim is a boundary crossing singer-songwriter, blending traditional taarab vibes with dub and disco to create a sensual Swahili sound. Matona is a virtuoso oud player and multi-instrumentalist who performed across the world with Bi Kidude, following in the footsteps of his father, who first accompanied her back in 1954.

Free entry with your cinema ticket for *l* shot *Bi Kidude*. Tickets can also be purchased separately for  $\pounds 5$ .

Wed 4 Nov | 20:00 | Upstairs at the Ritzy Brixton



THEY WILL HAVE TO KILL US FIRST OF PREVIEW

Dir. Johanna Schwartz UK. 2015. 105 mins. Colour. French/Songhay/ English/Bambara/Tamashek with English subtitles.

Music is the beating heart of Malian culture. But when Islamic hardliners took control of northern Mali in 2012, they imposed one of the strictest interpretations of Sharia law in history – they banned music. Radio stations were destroyed, instruments burned and musicians - facing torture or death - were forced into exile, where most remain to this day. But rather than laying down instruments, they are now fighting back in defence of their culture and identity, using music as their weapon against the ongoing violence. With a specially commissioned soundtrack from Mali's most exciting artists.

Preceded by a special appearance and live performance by the film's breakthrough stars, Songhoy Blues. Director Johanna Schwartz will also be present.



## TANGO NEGRO: THE AFRICAN ROOTS OF TANGO UK PREMIERE

Dir. Dom Pedro France. 2013. 93 mins. Colour. French/ Spanish/English with English subtitles.

Tango Negro explores the expression of Tango's Africanness and the contribution of African cultures in the creation of the tango. Tango was a reflection of the social life of the slaves who were taken to South America - including Argentina and Uruguay - mainly from central Africa, particularly from the former Kongo Kingdom. Angolan director Dom Pedro reveals the depth of the footprints of African music on the tango through this rich film, combining musical performances and interviews from tango fans and historians in Latin America and Europe, including renowned Argentinean pianist Juan Carlos Caceres.

Followed by a Q&A with director Dom Pedro and the African-tango themed Film Africa 2015 Closing Party. (see next listing).

Sat 7 Nov | 19:30 | Hackney Picturehouse

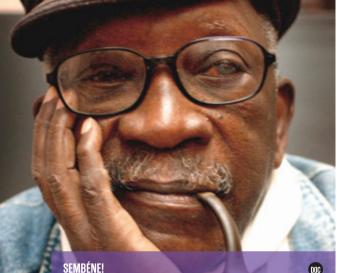


#### **FILM AFRICA 2015 CLOSING PARTY**

Join us to celebrate the end of our 10-day festival with a hypnotic and energising night of Afro-Tango, inspired by our screening of *Tango Negro: The African Roots of Tango Music* (see previous listing). There'll be professional Kizomba African Tango dancers, singers and London's latest Afro-tango DJs so get ready to get down on the dance floor and celebrate Film Africa's fifth festival edition in hip-swaying, foot-stomping style!

Sat 7 Nov | 21:00 | Hackney Attic, Hackney Picturehouse | £5 for tkt holders, £6 adv, £7 on door There are a multitude of reasons why Ousmane Sembéne garnered the title 'the father of African cinema'. not least because, in the 1960s, he became the first indigenous director to start making films in sub-Saharan Africa. With the release of a new documentary spotlighting the life and art of one of cinema's greatest pioneers, Film Africa presents an evening Sembéne double bill at the British Library, as part of their West Africa: Cultures of the Word exhibition.

> **DOUBLE BILL** SAT 7 NOV - 18:00 **BRITISH LIBRARY**



#### SEMBÉNE!

Dir. Samba Gadjigo, Jason Silverman USA/Senegal. 2015. 86 mins. Colour/B&W. English.

In this frank documentary, the life and legacy of Senegalese auteur Ousmane Sembéne gets the spotlight it deserves. By no means a sugarcoated portrayal - Sembéne's foibles and ethical misdemeanours are notable - this is a portrait of a fascinating character with a singular artistic vision. Self-taught novelist and filmmaker, Sembéne made nine features over a 37-year career, along the way galvanising a generation of Senegalese filmmakers who utilised the screen to forge a post-colonial identity, spreading unconventional, surrealist narratives that were inextricably tied to the country's socio-political history.



#### ΧΔΙΔ

Dir Ousmane Sembène Senegal. 1976. 119 mins. Colour. French, Wolof with English subtitles.

"You don't tell a story for revenge but rather to understand your place in the world" - Ousmane Sembène

A prosperous businessman takes a third wife to demonstrate his social and economic success, only to find himself struck with a 'xala', a curse of impotence, on the wedding night. Going to absurdly comic lengths to cure his ailment, all attempts prove disastrous. In this fierce satire. Sembène lashes the bourgeoisie of an unnamed, newly independent, African state for their slavish imitation of their past colonial masters. down to their corruption and conspicuous consumption. A true classic of African cinema from one of its greatest masters.

## **FEATURES A-Z**



#### ADAMA

Dir. Simon Rouby France. 2015. 85 mins. Animation. French with English subtitles, Cert 10+.

12 year-old Adama lives in a remote village in West Africa, sheltered by cliffs. Out beyond lies "the land of breaths", the kingdom of wicked spirits hungry for war. When Samba, his elder brother, suddenly vanishes, Adama sets off in search of him. Accompanied first by Abdou, a tragically lucid griot, then by a street urchin named Maximin, he crosses a Europe in the grip of war. We're in 1914. Borne by the energy of desperation and the poetry of childhood. Adama travels to the hell of the frontline to find his brother. In the wake of the WW1 centennial, this beautiful and entrancing animation with echoes of Waltz With Bashir brings the long-overdue theme of African participation in the war effort to the forefront.

#### Sat 31 Oct | 15:00 | Hackney Picturehouse Sat 7 Nov | 16:00 | Ritzy Brixton



AYANDA Dir. Sara Blecher South Africa. 2015. 118 mins. Colour. Zulu/ Sesotho/ English with English subtitles.

21-year-old Afro-hipster and artist Ayanda (Fulu Mugovhani) is the child of a Nigerian father and a South African mother. Since the death of her mechanic father, she's been thrown into a world of greasy overalls, gender stereotypes and abandoned vintage cars as she struggles to keep his dwindling garage business afloat. When her uncle announces that the garage is to be sold. Ayanda sees the tangible connection to her beloved father start to fade, and so with the help of her boyfriend David (OC Ukeje) embarks on a new business venture, refurbishing old vintage cars for resale in a bid to save the garage. Avanda's own freewheeling inventiveness is an allegory for a modern South Africa in transition, where communities are diverse, ideas flow, and where women have a voice.

Followed by a Q&A with director Sara Blecher.



## THE BLUE ELEPHANT UK PREMIERE

Egypt. 170 mins. Colour. Arabic with English subtitles.

Five years after the death of his wife and daughter, once brilliant psychiatrist Yehia Rashed (Karim Abdel Aziz) self-medicates his grief with drugs, drinking and gambling. Forced to return to work at el Abbasva psychiatric hospital, he finds that his college friend Sherif (Khaled El Sawy) has been admitted to his ward for mental and psychological evaluation, accused of murder. While trying to help his friend. Yehia enters a universe of hallucinations, magic spells, numbers and demons, encountering bitter memories he has spent years trying to suppress and unravelling mysteries he never thought existed. This blistering, dark drama is an adaptation of an Arabic novel written by celebrated Egyptian writer Ahmed Mourad.

Fri 6 Nov | 20:00 | Ritzy Brixton



THE CURSED ONES WORLD PREMIERE A Dir. Nana Obiri Yeboah *UK/Ghana. 2014. 100 mins. Colour. English.* 

A series of misfortunes lead a Ghanaian village to accuse a young girl of witchcraft. The Pastor's (Fred Amugi) compelling rhetoric incites fear into the people as he insists that salvation lies in her exorcism and death. Disillusioned reporter Godwin (Oris Erhuero) is unexpectedly swept up in the witch-hunt, fighting back against a false prophet (Jimmy Jean-Louis) in a brave attempt to save the girl. Based on true events, this gripping drama, featuring an all-star cast including Ama K. Abebrese and Rama Brew, poignantly addresses the problem of child witch accusations, which are still widespread throughout the African continent.

#### Followed by a Q&A with director Nan Obiri Yeboah and star Oris Erhuero.

Fri 6 Nov | 18:30 | Hackney Picturehouse

DATE	e time	SCREENING /EVENT VENUE	PAGE
Fri 3	<b>30 Oct</b> 18:30	Opening Gala: Run + Q&A Hackne	/ Picturehouse 5
Sat 3	<b>31 Oct</b> 11:00	Film Africa Family Day Rich Mi	x 28
	12:00	Kids' Screening: Zarafa Rich Mi	x 28
	14:00	Things of the Aimless Wanderer + Q&A BFI Sou	thbank 19
	14.00	West Africa Through a Lens British	Library 29
	15:00	Family Screening: Adama Hackne	/ Picturehouse 15
	16:00	Between Rings - The Esther Phiri Story [DOC] Ritzy Bri	xton 20
	18:00	Red Leaves + Q&A Ritzy Br	ixton 10
	18:30	Ayanda + Q&A Hackne	/ Picturehouse 15
	19:00	Eye of the Storm + Q&A British	Library 18
	20:30	Love the One You Love Ritzy Br	ixton 9
	21:00	Hyenas Hackne	/ Picturehouse 8
Sun	<b>1 Nov</b> 12:00	Kids' Screening: Zarafa Rich Mi	K 28
	15:30	Red Leaves + Q&A Hackne	/ Picturehouse 10
	16:00	They Will Have to Kill us First [DOC]+ Acoustic Set British	Library 13
	16:30	The Hero Ritzy Br	ixton 6
	18:00	Baobab Shorts Part 1 Hackne	/ Picturehouse 22
	18:30	The Blue Eyes of Yonta Ritzy Br	ixton 6
Mon	<b>2 Nov</b> 10:00	Film Africa Industry Forum BFI Sou	thbank 29
	18:30	Mandela, My Dad, and Me [DOC] Hackne	/ Picturehouse 21
	18:30	Stories of Our Lives + Panel Ritzy Bi	ixton 9
	20:30	The Dream of Shahrazad [DOC] Ritzy Br	
	20:30	The Great Kilapy Hackne	/ Picturehouse 8
Tue 3	<b>3 Nov</b> 18:30		/ Picturehouse 18
	18:30	All is Well + Q&A Ritzy Bi	ixton 6
	18:30		niversity 21
	21:00		/ Picturehouse 10
Wed	4 Nov 18:30		/ Picturehouse 20

DATE	TIME	SCREENING /EVENT	VENUE	PAGE
	18:30	I Shot Bi Kidude [DOC] + Q&A	Ritzy Brixton	12
	20:00	Film Africa Live! Presents: Mim Suleiman and Matona: The Songs & Stories of Bi Kidude	Upstairs at the Ritzy Brixton	13
	21:00	The Last Flight of the Flamingo	Ritzy Brixton	7
	21:00	The Sea Is Behind	Hackney Picturehouse	19
Thu 5 Nov	18:30	Necktie Youth	ICA	19
	18:30	Beats of the Antonov [DOC]	Hackney Picturehouse	12
	18:30	Beyond Africa: Shorts From the Diaspora	Ritzy Brixton	26
	19:00	Price of Love	Venue TBC	10
	20:30	Baobab Shorts Part 2	Ritzy Brixton	24
	21:00	Stranded in Canton	Hackney Picturehouse	19
Fri 6 Nov	18:30	The Cursed Ones + Q&A	Hackney Picturehouse	15
	18:30	Lantanda [DOC]	Ritzy Brixton	7
	19:00	Things of the Aimless Wanderer + Q&A	South London Gallery	19
	20:00	The Blue Elephant	Ritzy Brixton	15
	21:00	Breathe Umphefumlo	Hackney Picturehouse	8
Sat 7 Nov	9:00	African Film & Social Change	Westminster University	29
	11:00	Recreative Film School	South London Gallery	29
	14:00	Family Screening: Lamb	Ritzy Brixton	10
	14:30	La Belle at the Movies [DOC]+ Q&A	Hackney Picturehouse	21
	16:00	Adama	Ritzy Brixton	15
	16:30	My Voice + The Roar of the Sea [SHORT]	Hackney Picturehouse	7
	18:00	Sembène Focus: Double Bill	British Library	14
	18:30	Democrats [DOC] + Panel	ICA	20
	18:30	Dazzling Mirage + Henna [SHORT] + Q&A	Ritzy Brixton	18
	19:30	Tango Negro: The African Roots of Tango Music [DOC] + Q&A	Hackney Picturehouse	13
	21:00	Film Africa 2015 Closing Party	Hackney Attic	13
Sun 8 Nov	9:00	African Film & Social Change	Westminster University	29
	19:15	Closing Gala: Man from Oran + Q&A	Ciné Lumière	5

## **FEATURES A-Z**



DAZZLING MIRAGE UK PREMIERE Dir. Tunde Kelani *Nigeria. 2015. 124 mins. Colour. English.* 

An inspiring story of love, perseverance and hope in the face of adversity from one of Nollywood's bright stars, Tunde Kelani. A talented young advertising executive is in the prime of life – she's bright, her career is in overdrive, and she has a supportive and loving boyfriend. There's just one problem: she suffers from sickle cell disease. Kelani's film gets to the root of the stigma associated with this increasingly common illness, suggesting that it doesn't have to define or restrict life. Written by Yinka Egbokhare and adapted by Ade Solanke, this powerful drama provides a much-needed platform for the sickle cell community.

Screening with Nigeria short film Henna.

Followed by a Q&A with director Tunde Kelani.

Sat 7 Nov | 18:30 | Ritzy Brixton



EYE OF THE STORM [L'OEIL DU Cyclone] UK premiere

Dir. Sékou Traoré Burkina Faso/France/Cameroon. 2015. 100 mins. Colour. French with English subtitles.

Child. Soldiers. Some words simply don't go together. This gripping, award-winning drama explores the psychological ramifications of this most appalling human rights violation. In an African country ravaged by civil war, a young idealistic lawyer is assigned to defend a rebel accused of war crimes. As the experiences of the former child soldier start to unfold, questions around morality and culpability come to the fore.

Followed by a Q&A with director Sékou Traoré. In partnership with the British Library as part of their West Africa: Cultures of the Word exhibition.

Sat 31 Oct | 19.00 | British Library



#### **HOPE** Dir. Boris Lojkine

DIR. Boris Lojkine France, 2014, 91 mins, Colour, French/English/Arabic with English subtitles.

On the back of a truck deep in the Sahara desert, a young Nigerian woman and a Cameroonian man attempt a desperate journey to Europe. When title character Hope is singled out by the mostly male fellow travellers – despite her masculine disguise – she's taken into the desert and raped by a group of soldiers. Only Leonard feels sympathy, and the two form an unlikely bond. In a fiercely hostile world where safety requires staying with one's own people, they try to find their way together, and to find love amidst the chaos. Director Lojkine's documentarian eye for detail, striking cinematography and impressive performances from the non-professional leads combine to make this ever more pertinent experience come to life on-screen.

Following the screening, a panel of activists and commentators will explore the complexities of modern day migration which has seen an increasing number of people leaving conflict, human rights abuses and economic instability, to seek refuge or better lives in Europe.

Tues 3 Nov | 18:30 | Hackney Picturehouse



#### **NECKTIE YOUTH**

Dir. Sibs Shongwe-La Mer South Africa. 2015. 91 mins. B&W. Afrikaans/ English/Zulu with English subtitles.

On the anniversary of the violent Soweto Youth Uprising of June 16 1976, an affluent group of Johannesburg youths are shocked by the live-streamed suicide of one of their friends. A year later and the aftershocks of the tragedy are still evident. In this first feature from 23-year old Shongwe-La Mer, the director plays Jabz, a directionless youth who passes the time rummaging through the city's sleepy manicured northern suburbs with his buddy September in search of drugs, distraction and salvation. Beautifully and starkly shot in black and white, this revealing exploration of the generation born after the fall of Apartheid presents a side of South Africa not often seen. Winner of the Best South African Film and Best Director at Durban International Film Festival, Shongwe-La Mer is one to watch.



THE SEA IS BEHIND UK PREMIERE Dir. Hicham Lasri Morocco/France/UAE. 2014. 86 mins. Colour and B&W. Arabic/Berber with English subtitles.

Tarik lives in a land without colour, a land where water is contaminated by a strange phenomenon of "water bugs". Tarik wears make-up and dresses up as a woman. He dances on a cart that is drawn by a dying horse and his father has practically abandoned him. One day, Tarik's horse Larbi stops in the middle of a procession and refuses to take another step forward. Tarik will have to learn to live again and surrender to the colours of his life, which is the only way to escape the dullness of the world around him. A beautifully rendered trip into the depths and obscurity of grief.

#### Wed 4 Nov | 21:00 | Hackney Picturehouse



#### STRANDED IN CANTON Dir. Måns Månsson Denmark/Sweden. 2014. 77 mins. Colour.

Cantonese/English/French/Lingala/Mandarin with English subtitles.

Lebrun is a new player on the burgeoning Chinese-African trade route, brokering in Guangzhou an enormous order for Congolese presidential campaign t-shirts. But he gets stung when the order is held up in production until months after the election. Instead of returning to Kinshasa a rich man with a bright future, he remains in limbo in Guangzhou, facing nothing but mounting debts for warehousing the useless garments. Inspired by the success of fellow Africans on the field and determined not to return to his farm, Lebrun develops a plan to repurpose the t-shirts and sell them to the opposition for the 2016 election. An intense, beautifully acted and touchingly rendered exploration of life in exile, as much about human psychology as it is about politics.

#### Thur 5 Nov | 21:00 | Hackney Picturehouse



## THINGS OF THE AIMLESS WANDERER (

Dir. Kivu Ruhorahoza Rwanda/UK. 2015. 77 mins. Colour. English.

This thought provoking film takes its title from Bantu accounts of European explorers renowned for getting lost in their wanderings, in this highly creative, original and arresting work. A white man meets a black girl. Then the girl disappears. The white man tries to understand what happened to her and eventually finish a travelogue. Against a haunting score and intricate sound design, story fragments portray an African woman as an object of lust, surveillance, fascination, or violence.

#### Followed by a Q&A with director Kivu Ruhorahoza, producer Antonio Ribeiro and actor Grace Nikuze.

In partnership with the BFI's monthly African Odyssey's season and with South by South at SLG, curated by Joseph Adesunloye.

Sat 31 Oct | 14:00 | BFI South Bank Fri 6 Nov | 19:00 | South London Gallery

#### Thur 5 Nov | 18:30 | ICA

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## **DOCUMENTARIES A-Z**



BETWEEN RINGS - THE ESTHER PHIRI Story uk premiere

Sala Sorri, Jessie Chisi Zimbabwe/Finald. 2014. 82 mins. Colour. English.

Esther Phiri has literally had to fight to carve out an independent life on her own terms. Whilst most young women in her native Zambia were busy planning weddings, Esther had other ideas - to stay single, be a professional boxer and complete the high school education that she abandoned when her family fell on hard times. Her sudden meteoric rise to undefeated world champion took the boxing world by surprise and she was soon dubbed 'Zambia's Million Dollar Baby'. In private, Esther slowly crumbled under the weight of her own success. This is an astute documentary about a tenacious woman who is full of the contrasts, conflicts and inner tensions that come with fame and celebrity.

Sat 31 Oct | 16:00 | Ritzy Brixton



BLACK PRESIDENT LONDON PREMIERE Dir. Mpumelelo Mcata Zimbabwe/South Africa/UK. 2015. 86 mins. Colour. English.

Mpumelelo Mcata, one of South Africa's leading artists and cultural activists, asks: "What is Black Guilt? I've often asked myself, why can't artist Kudzanai Chiurai be free to just paint flowers or some shit...?' The answer comes in the form of the directors' first feature, Black President. Premiered in July at Durban International Film Festival earlier this year, the film questions the responsibility of African artists in a globalised universe, artists who find themselves "playing catch up" to the West instead of following their own paths.

Followed by a Q&A with director Mpumelelo Mcata and producer Anna Teeman.

Wed 4 Nov | 18:30 | Hackney Picturehouse

## DEMOCRATS Dir. Camilla Nielsson

Denmark. 2014. 99 mins. Colour. English/Shona with English subtitles.

The tortuous process of cross-party negotiation behind Zimbabwe's politically unstable 2013 constitution lays the foundation for Danish director Camilla Nielsson's riveting documentary. By following the co-chairpersons of the process on both sides of the political divide – ruling party ZANU-PF, and opposition party MDC – the film exposes the various political, local and personal interests at play. As the two men set out on countrywide grassroots consultations, the mountainous gap between the two sides serves as a rare, vital snapshot of a democracy still very much in its initial stages.

Join us as our panel of experts explore Paul Manganwa and Douglas Mwonzora's battle in the context of Zimbabwe's modern history, shedding light on where the country's political and economic crisis sits in the trajectory of democracy in the continent.

Sat 7 Nov | 18:30 | ICA



LA BELLE AT THE MOVIES WORLD PREMIERE

Dir. Cecilia Zoppelletto UK. 2015. 66 mins. Colour. French with English subtitles.

Imagine living without cinema? DRC's capital Kinshasa is a city of 10 million people without a single cinema theatre. This intriguing documentary charts the disappearance over the past decade of the city's entire film industry through interviews with filmmakers, cinema owners and government officials. The result is a powerful and poetic image of a city and a population nostalgic for the magic and social tissue that cinema once provided. At the same time. La Belle celebrates the Kinshasa cowboys who found their identity in the Spaghetti Westerns of the 1960s, as well as and the vibrant commitment of many Kinshasans today to the memory and future of their cinema

## Followed by a Q&A with director Cecilia Zoppelletto.



MANDELA, MY DAD, AND ME Dir. Daniel Vernon *UK. 2015. 53 mins. Colour. English.* 

In 2014 Idris Elba released mi Mandela an album inspired by his time researching for his portraval of Nelson Mandela in Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom. The music of South Africa influenced him profoundly as he prepared for his role in the film. Once shooting ended, arrangements were made to document this extraordinary musical journey by recording an album in South Africa and Mali. Then, just as Idris was about to get started, his father Winston passed away. A remarkably personal tribute to two remarkable men in his life. Flba granted award-winning filmmaker Daniel Vernon unprecedented access to document this period of his life, resulting in a previously unseen depiction of the actor.

Mon 2 Nov | 18:30 | Hackney Picturehouse



THE DREAM OF SHAHRAZAD Dir. Francois Verster South Africa/Egypt/Jordan/France/ Netherlands. 2014. 107 mins. Colour. Arabic/ English/Turkish with English subtitles.

We all know at least some of the stories from the nights – those of Aladdin and his lamp, or Sinbad the sailor, for example, Within the Maghreb and Middle East region the famous princess, Shahrazad, who saves lives by telling stories to the murderous Sultan night after night, has a much deeper resonance: she is an archetypal female (and protofeminist) saviour of lives through creativity. Filmed around the Arab Spring events, The Dream of Shahrazad weaves together music, oral storytelling and politics to produce an experience that is insightful, magical and deeply moving, capturing the ways in which human beings turn important and difficult realities into art, and how art in turn impacts on reality. Winner of best documentary at the Durban International Film Festival





MERCY MERCY FREE Dir. Katrine Riis Kjær. Denmark. 2012. 90min. Colour.

Fraught, powerful, disturbing, and ceaselessly thought-provoking, Mercy Mercy is one of the most controversial films in our programme. It follows all the participants in the process of the adoption of two children from Ethiopia to Denmark over four years, including the parents who give up their children. Kjær's film offers no easy conclusion to the plight of the children, who appear to be the last priority in the lives of the adults that surround them and whose attitude to the children's wellbeing is problematic throughout.

#### Screening in partnership with the Centre of African Studies. Followed by a panel discussion looking at the realities of modernday adoption.

Tues 3 Nov I 18:30 I SOAS University

Established in 2011, the Film Africa Baobab Award for Best Short Film exists to recognize and support new talent from emerging African filmmakers living and working in the continent. Consisting of a £1.000 cash prize, the Boabab Award demonstrates Film Africa's commitment to nurture and support new voices in African filmmaking. Twelve shorts directed by up-andcoming filmmakers from 10 different countries (Algeria, Cameroon, Kenva, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tunisia and Uganda) have been selected to vie for the 2015 Award. The award will be judged by a panel of filmmakers and industry professionals and the winning film will be screened at the festival's closing night gala.

MOFILM

BAOBAB SHORTS — PART 1 — SUN 1 NOV - 18:00 hackney picturehouse



THE RIDDLE LONDON PREMIERE Dir. Fidae Sbaai Morocco. 2014. 15 mins. Colour. Arabic with English subtitles.

A prisoner is offered a chance to live in liberty through a complicated riddle. If he solves it, he will gain his freedom. If he fails, he will face his final execution. With echoes of the Moroccan protests of 2011-12, The Riddle prompts us to reflect on the path to freedom.

Fidae Sbaai is a Moroccan filmmaker based in Tangier. Sbaai attained a Cinema Professional License from the ECAT at the University of Abdel-Malik Essaadi in 2011 and an Advanced French Language Diploma from the French Institute of Tangier-Tetouan in Morocco. The Riddle is his fourth short.



A DAY WITH DEATH UK PREMIERE Dir. Amuwa Oluseyi Asurf Nigeria. 2014. 15 mins. Colour. English/Yoruba with English subtitles.

Margaret's time has come, but she has a few things to do before she leaves this realm. A cantankerous 65-year-old woman, upon seeing Death, she convinces her to hold off from taking her. Margaret then takes Death through the town tying up loose ends for one day and the two women become unlikely friends.

Asurf Oluseyi is a self-taught independent filmmaker. He has produced and directed several short comedy skits, adverts, documentaries and concerts locally and internationally with credits for contents on local and cable TV channels. A Day With Death is his first short film and he is currently working on his first feature, The Briefcase.



TJITJI THE HIMBA GIRL UK PREMIERE Dir. Lomboleni Oshosheni Hiveluah Namibia. 2014. 21 mins. Colour. Otjihimba/ English with English subtitles.

Tjitji is a young, successful and ambitious student who dreams of being the next famous Talk Show host, like her idol Oprah. Tjitji also lives dutifully in the time-honoured Himba tradition. As is the custom, she soon learns that her Father is arranging for her marriage to a young Himba man. Tjitji is faced with a dilemma - should she defy her culture to follow her dream?

**Oshosheni Hiveluah** is Namibian filmmaker who has been making films since 2004. Hiveluah has directed 3 short films, numerous documentaries and music videos and also writes screenplays for herself and others. Tjitji the Himba Girl is her fourth short and she is currently in development for her first feature, Dances of Red.



DAMARU UK PREMIERE Dir. Agbor Obed Agbor Cameroon. 2014. 23 mins. Colour. English/ Pidgin with English subtitles.

Damaru is a 17-year-old village girl who is constantly marginalised for daring to be a deaf woman with ambitions. Her relentless desire to gain an education leads the local school teacher, Mr Patrick, to teach her sign language with hopes of securing her a scholarship. When the time comes to leave the village, Damaru's life changes forever. A story of hope and survival, Damaru embodies the life of a female character of formidable vulnerability and strength.

Agbor Obed Agbor is a Cameroonian filmmaker and TV producer. Agbor directed his first short film Cold Feet in 2012 and was selected to participate in the 2013 One Fine Day workshop in Nairobi. Damaru is his second short.



DARK DAYS EUROPEAN PREMIERE Dir. Kayambi Musafiri Rwanda. 2015. 28 mins. Colour. Swahili / English with English subtitles.

Young Gilbert jealously follows his crush, beautiful Sarah, and her albino boyfriend Lucky with a camera, only to find a much darker reality than he could have ever anticipated. Weaving in the love story of a teenage couple with the tragic story of a whole nation, Dark Days powerfully humanises the violent expulsion of thousands of Rwandans living in Tanzania in 2013.

Kayambi Musafiri is a Rwandan film director whose career began upon winning a script-writing competition at the Tribeca Film Institute in 2010, funding his first short Shema, which screened at Tribeca in 2011. In 2014 his documentary Home Expulsion was selected at the Durban FilmMart. Dark Days is his third short.



INTELLECTUAL SCUM UK PREMIERE

Dir. Njue Kevin Kenya. 2015. 14 mins. Colour. English.

On board an airplane, Walter (a white American man) forces his opinion on the state of Africa on a fellow passenger, Ruwe (an African national). Brutally honest and borderline racist, Walter blames the 'intellectuals' of Africa for the continent's woes. Thought-provoking and challenging, this short feeds into an ongoing debate about Africa's (under) development and those who need to take responsibility for it, calling for better leadership.

Njue Kevin is a 23 year old award-winning writer and director from Nairobi, Kenya. His short Help/Saidia won best young director at the 2014 Modern Day Slavery Short Film Competition in London. Intellectual Scum has screened at festivals around the world. Njue is working on his feature film debut.

## BOABAB AWARD FOR BEST SHORT FILM

BAOBAB SHORTS — PART 2— THURS 5 NOV - 20:30 RITZY BRIXTON

#### TO CATCH A DREAM

Dir. Jim Chuchu Kenya. 2014. 13 mins. B&W. Turkana/Meru/Tigrinya/Luo/Sheng with English subtitles.

Ajuma, a beautiful grieving widow, is desperate to stop her recurring nightmares. In an effort to end them once and for all, she explores a forgotten traditional remedy that leads her to unexpected discoveries. The second fashion film project from the NEST Collection, in collaboration with Chico Leco, To Catch a Dream is a visual fairytale with stunning costume design and photography.

Jim Chuchu is a Kenyan visual artist, filmmaker and musician. He is also co-founder of the NEST - a multidisciplinary art space in Nairobi - and a member of the NEST Collective, with which he created his first feature film, Stories of Our Lives, an anthology of short films based on the lives of queer Kenyans, also screening as part of Film Africa 2015.



#### LOST IN THE WORLD UK PREMIERE

Dir. Xolelwa 'Ollie' Nhlabatsi South Africa. 2015. 15 mins. Colour. English/ Zulu with English subtitles.

Whitney is a police officer whose long-term girlfriend, Palesa, is violently raped and murdered. Whitney goes on a man hunt to find the perpetrators, but loses her mind and soul in the process. Bold and brave, Lost In The World is a tragic story of love, loss and suffering.

A graduate of the University of the Witwatersrand, **Xolelwa 'Ollie' Nhlabatsi** is the founder of Blackweather Productions, a film production company he created in 2009. Since then Xolelwa has garnered the attention of both local and international professionals with his diverse body of work including music videos, advertisements, fashion films and both feature and short films.



ALMA EUROPEAN PREMIERE Dir. Christa Eka Assam *Cameroon. 2015. 25 mins. Colour. English.* 

Alma is a beautiful young woman living with her husband in a fishing village in rural Cameroon. What seems an idyllic existence in the beginning soon turns into a harrowing story of domestic abuse, which unfolds in the context of a community that does nothing. With a great performance by protagonist/ director Christa Eka Assam, Alma bluntly explores the tragic consequences of genderbased violence when un-denounced.

**Christa Eka Assam** is a self-taught Cameroonian filmmaker who started her filmmaking career as an actress in 2006. In 2012, she was selected into Talent Campus Durban after making her first short, Doormat. Her second short, Beleh, screened in over 20 international film festivals. ALMA is her third short film.



IN REALITY EUROPEAN PREMIERE Dir. Kasule Douglas 'Benda' *Uganda. 2014. 11 mins. Colour. English.* 

A father advises his son to be responsible and get tested for HIV before sleeping with his girlfriend. Unwilling at first, the girlfriend finally agrees but goes alone to the clinic. When the moment comes to reveal the results, a lot more is unearthed. Adapting the traditional style of oral story-telling onto screen, In Reality takes us on a sobering journey of hypocrisy, lies and deceit and the adverse impact such behaviour has on the life and health of those involved.

Kasule Dounglas 'Benda' is an actor and filmmaker based in Kampala, Uganda. He has starred in numerous theatre, TV productions and films and has directed several plays. In Reality is his first short film.



THE PURPLE HOUSE EUROPEAN PREMIERE

Dir. Selim Gribaa *Tunisia. 2014. 30 mins. Colour. Arabic with English subtitles.* 

Hsan, an unemployed man in his fifties, has been looking for work for quite some time, but without success. On his wife's insistence, he decides to go and see Ammar, a local politician, to ask for help. Ammar agrees to find him a job under one condition: that he paints his house purple – the colour of the ruling party, adding a splash of colour amid the uncertaim of the Tunisian Revolution!

Selim Gribaa is a Tunisian filmmaker who also teaches video and photography at the Higher Institute of Fine Arts in Tunisia. Gribaa started his own production company in 2010 and in 2012, he self-financed and directed his first documentary, A Feather in the Wind. The Purple House is his first short film.



ENEMY BROTHERS UK PREMIERE Dir. Yacine Balah France. 2013. 22 mins. Colour. French/Arabic with English subtitles.

France, 1958. Algerian rebels have decided to bring the conflict to French ground. Messaoud, renegade FLN soldier, is chased by the French army. Thanks to his chance encounter with an 'enemy brother' - a fellow Algerian who used to be in the French army - Messaoud's fate changes for good.

Yacine Balah started making his first videos using his mother's camera at the age of 14. His father was a member of the FLN Algerian resistance and, learning about what he sacrificed during the war, Yacine decided to honour him by making Enemy Brothers.



SAVE UK PREMIERE Dir. Emnet Mulugeta *Eritrea/Mexico/USA. 6 mins. Colour. Silent.* 

Tender story about a young girl, who is passionate about football, and a shop-keeper living in a remote village in the desert of Eritrea. With Save, we encounter the harsh reality, dreams and the blurred lines between the two, as seen through the eyes of a 6-year-old.



LAST DITCH Dir. Mahi Bena France. 2013. 18 mins. Colour. French with English subtitles.

Slimane is a young immigrant living in France who can't renew his student resident permit. Desperation leads him to accept his friend Mehdi's proposal to get involved in some illegal business, but will this earn him his desired permanent residency card?



BORDERS UK PREMIERE Dir. Ali Esmili, Claire Cahen Morocco/France. 2014. 14 mins. Colour. Arabic/English/French with English subtitles.

A desperate father is driving his sick daughter to the hospital, which is located on the other side of the border. With all the paperwork in place, he hopes that they will be let through, but the soldiers at the gate refuse them entry to the other side. Adapted from a theatre monologue, this short imaginatively illustrates the inhumanity of national borders.



THE GOAT Dir. John Trengove South Africa/USA. 2014.13 mins. Colour. English.

A young Xhosa initiate recuperates in a mountain hut after a ritual circumcision. When he learns that his elders have abandoned him, the initiate is left with no one but his young brother to care for him. Caught between observing the sacred protocols of his culture and the secret of his gay sexuality, the initiate's panic turns to desperation.

DIASPORA SHORTS Thurs 5 Nov - 18:30 Ritzy Brixton



## **RESTLESS TALENT MANAGEMENT**

in association with FILM AFRICA 2015 PRESENTS

THE OPPORTUNITY TO

YOUR

CREATIVE IDEA FOR

IN FRONT OF A PANEL OF

INDUST

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PITCH

FILI



THE GOOD SON Dir. Tomisin Adepeju UK/Nigeria. 2014. 14 mins. Colour. English/ Yoruba with English subtitles.

A young Nigerian man is forced to address a secret he has harboured from his parents during a traditional, family gathering.



MOTHER EARTH UK PREMIERE Dir. Aliou Sow Senegal/France. 2015. 30 mins. Colour. French/Arabic/Fulani with English subtitles. Abdoulaye is a 20-year-old hustler from the inner city. Following the untimely death of his brother, he decides to carry the body back to

his parents' village in Mauritania. Travelling with a group of friends, they reflect and start to realise that home is where the heart is.





WHEN: MONDAY 2 NOVEMBER, 14H30 - 16H00 Where: The Blue Room - BFI Southbank Part of the Film Africa 2015 Industry Forum

PROFESSIONALS



#### FOR MORE INFO - WWW.RESTLESSTALENT.COM/#PITCH

## **FAMILY & SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**



FAMILY DAY Free — No booking required

Join us for a fun day for the whole family, including the 'African Market Corner', featuring a range of arts & crafts, clothing and food stalls especially for kids. There will also be drumming workshops suitable for both children and adults to learn African rhythms in a playful and participatory way. Film Africa will also present a screening of Zarafa next event listing for details).

#### In partnership with Open the Gate and Drumsong.

Sat 31 Oct | 11:00-16.00 | Rich Mix | Free



ZARAFA Dir. Rémi Bezançon, Jean-Christophe Lie France/Belgium. 2014. 78 mins. Animation. French dubbed in English. Cert 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 31 Oct | 12:00 | Rich Mix | £1.75 Sun 1 Nov | 12:00 | Rich Mix | £1.75



STORIES OF OUR LIVES [SEE PG.9] Event length: 80 mins Suitable for: Years 11 - 13 Subjects and themes: LGBTI rights, bullying, adolescence, coming of age, Kenyan politics, human rights.

The screening will be introduced by Bisi Alimi, an internationally renowned researcher, political analyst and campaigner with expertise in sexual health and LGBTI rights. Bisi was the first Nigerian to come out on national TV. Now based in London, he has written for the likes of The Guardian and Project Syndicate, and has appeared on shows like Christiana Amanpour and BBC World Service. He is the co-founder of UK-based Rainbow Intersection and the Executive Director of the Bisi Alimi Foundation. http://www.bisialimi.com/ @bisialimi

#### Tue 3 Nov | 10:30 | Hackney Picturehouse | £2.50

BOOKING DEADLINE: Monday 19 October. To book contact Daniel Burger at daniel.b@picturehouses.co.uk



ADAMA [SEE PG.15] Event length: 100 mins Suitable for: Years 7-13 Subjects and themes: WW1, history, African involvement in WW1, geography, childhood.

The screening will be hosted by BAFTA nominated broadcaster and former *Blue Peter* presenter, Andy Akinwolere. Andy has fronted several factual BBC shows, including *Teens From a Small Island, Stammer School, and World Olympic Dreams*, and has recently been announced as the new presenter of BBC current affairs strand, *Inside Out*. Andy also presents BAFTA's annual Young Film Critic Awards. Join Andy as he leads an interactive discussion on the cataclysmic impact WW1 had on Africa, from the recruitment of African soldiers to the battles between European colonies, which reshaped borders and transformed economies.

Wed 4 Nov | 11:00 | Ritzy Brixton | £2.50

BOOKING DEADLINE: Monday 19 October. To book contact Daniel Burger at daniel.b@picturehouses.co.uk

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**



THE INDUSTRY FORUM FREE - SPACES LIMITED

For the third consecutive year, Film Africa presents its Industry Forum at the BFI South Bank with various panels and a networking lunch. The all-day event will bring together key industry experts from Africa and the UK to discuss how independent filmmakers can best take advantage of the digital age and its alternative financing, broadcasting and distribution online platforms. The programme will include guest speakers' panel discussions, TV & web series screenings and a creative ideas pitch session.

Mon 2 Nov | 10:00-16:00 | BFI South Bank, Blue Room | Free

BOOKING: spaces are limited so please book in advance through BFI South Bank from 6 Oct (see pg. 4).



WEST AFRICA THROUGH A LENS

In this talk, peppered with clips, short films and historic footage, Janet Topp Fargion, the British Library's curator of West Africa; Word, Symbol, Song, takes an evocative journey through the Library's ethnographic moving image collection, focusing on the people, music and sites of West Africa.

In partnership with the British Library as part of their *West Africa: Cultures of the Word* exhibition.

Sat 31 Oct | 14:00-18:00 | British Library | £5/£4/£3



RECREATIVE FILM SCHOOL FREE

A four-day workshop for young filmmakers led by industry experts. Programmed to coincide with Film Africa 2015, the film school will enable participants to explore film techniques, scriptwriting, documentary filmmaking and film theory. In partnership with the South London Gallery.

Sat 7, 14, 21 Nov 11:00-16:00 | Wed 2 Dec 18:00-21:00 | South London Gallery

BOOKING: Places are limited, for more information and to apply contact laura@southlondongallery.org



AFRICAN FILM & SOCIAL CHANGE 2 day conference. Registration £150/£95 students

The 7th African Film Conference, organised by the Africa Media Centre at the University of Westminster and supported by Film Africa, will bring together academic scholars and practitioners to discuss how policymakers. filmmakers, and audiences are addressing Social Change. Key questions relate to how film screen cultures in Africa have advanced or subverted social change in Africa. We are concerned to bring to the fore sub-themes of changing film production environments, shifts in funding mechanisms for African film, the role of audiences/users, regulation debates and African film's potential for human development. The keynote speakers are filmmakers Newton Aduka anf Tunde Kelani.

To book tickets and for more information visit: www.westminster.ac.uk/african-film-andsocial-change-conference

Sat 7 & Sun 8 Nov | 09:00-17:00 | University of Westminster



## 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.

Join Us Today www.royalafricansociety/join-us

#### Find out more

- www.royalafricasociety.org
- facebook.com/royafrisoc
- **G** @royafrisoc



## FILM AFRICA ARTWORK COMPETITION

Film Africa commissioned three contemporary artists with style and imagination to come up with the aesthetic vision of the 2015 festival. Each artist produced a one-off image – and the winning artwork was selected by our fans via social media to grace the front cover of the Film Africa brochure and our official festival poster. Sincerest thanks to all three of our talented artists!

#### THE WINNER





Daniela Yohannes is a visual artist hailing from Eritrea, raised in Italy and educated in England. After completing an Illustration degree and

working within the field, Daniela decided to make the transition from digital to material canvases in 2010. She has since had solo and group exhibitions and held residencies across the world. Daniela is currently working on new pieces from her Paris studio.

Email: danielayohannes@gmail.com Website: www.danielayohannes.com Facebook: DanielaYohannes

# S

THE RUNNERS-UP

#### Scottish illustrator George Pearson mixes traditional artistic skills with a background in mutimedia and design to produce

striking artwork infused with his own offbeat perspective. Blurring the lines between fiction and reality, George's work often references the real, while firmly keeping one foot in the fantastical. George is available for commissions.

Email: berg@hotmail.co.uk Website: www.georgepearsonartwork.com Twitter: @george\_\_pearson Facebook: georgepearsonartwork





Zakri Williams is a 20-year-old artist and student who has been drawing since his early youth. Fascinated by surreal concepts. obsessive

about illustrating the unusual. With a graphic yet bold approach he's all about the concept when creating and loves to expose what his imagination is inventing.

Email: send2zak@googlemail.com Flickr: Delirio Doodler Instagram: zee\_caso Facebook: Zakri Zee Williams

### MEET THE 2015 FESTIVAL TEAM



RACHAEL LOUGHLAN Festival producer

Rachael Loughlan is a freelance film festival consultant and project manager. She has worked in the film industry for 8 years, providing strategic support, event production, programming and venue management to a range of venues and film festivals, including the Glasgow Film Festival, TIFF and EIFF. Rachael has a MLitt in Film Journalism from University of Glasgow.



#### ISABEL MOURA MENDES PROGRAMMER

Isabel Moura Mendesis is a Portuguese-Cape Verdean freelance arts and cultural manager, with a focus on African and Lusophone film curation. She holds an MA in Arts & Cultural Management from Queen Margaret University in Edinburgh, where she is based. Alongside her arts management practice, Isabel is currently programming for film festivals in Edinburgh, London and Lisbon.



JACQUI NSIAH Programmer

Jacqueline Nsiah is a freelance film festival and arts & culture consultant. She has seven years' experience in the international film festival circuit, having worked in the UK, Ghana, Brazil and Germany, in a variety of roles and is the co-director and curator of a small African film festival, UHURU in Rio de Janeiro. She holds a MA in Visual and Media Anthropology from the Free University in Berlin and a BA in African Studies and Politics from SOAS.



#### OGO OKAFOR Marketing consultant

Ogo Okafor is a marketer with five years' experience working inhouse, agency side and freelance. She has developed digital, database and print campaigns for conferences and in publishing, including international projects in Africa, Europe and America. She led the marketing strategy for the RAS's 2015 Africa Writes literature festival. Ogo has an LLB in Law and the IDM's Direct and Digital Marketing Diploma. She tweets @lafillemalgarde.



#### LADIS BAPORY SITÉ PR CONSULTANT

A translator and interpreter by training, Ladis B. Sité is an experienced communications and PR consultant support to both technical and creative teams internationally. Ladis has also worked as a facilitator for corporate social responsibility and cultural projects in Equatorial Guinea, and is currently a member of the Spanish interpreters team within the African Union He tweets @Ladislao\_BSite.



SHEILA RUIZ Shorts programmer

Currently on maternity leave, Sheila Ruiz is Programme Manager for the Royal African Society (RAS) heading up the organisation's extensive events programme, which includes the annual Africa Writes and Film Africa festivals. Sheila holds an MA in African Studies from SOAS and a BA in History from UCL. She tweets @SheilaRuiz.



SILJA FREY Shorts programmer

Silja Frey is a freelance consultant and project manager with over ten years experience. She has worked with filmmakers for the past couple of years. with a focus on the creative community from across Africa. As part of her role at MOFILM, Silja has been instrumental in designing, developing and delivering the Academy for African Filmmakers, a pop-up film school that took place in Nigeria, Kenya and South Africa. in 2014. She tweets @Siliafrev



EMILIA MELOSSI Festival Intern

Emilia Melossi has previously worked for the Human Rights Nights Film Festival in Bologna connected to the Cineteca di Bologna. She holds a MSc in Development Studies from SOAS and a BA in International Relations from the University of Bologna. She is of mixed Italian/ American heritage.



ROBIN STEEDMAN SUBMISSIONS ADVISOR

Robin Steedman is a PhD candidate at SOAS, University of London. Her research focuses on understanding film production in contemporary Kenya, and more particularly on understanding why there are so many prominent female filmmakers. Her project is grounded in postcolonial feminist theory and incorporates textual film analysis alongside contextual analysis.



KATARINA HEDRÉN Programme Advisor

Katarina Hedrén is a Swedish national of Ethiopian origin based in South Africa since 2005. The former chairperson and co-organiser of the Swedish based film festival CinemAfrica, Katarina works as a freelance film programmer, writer, project coordinator (currently with Goethe-Institut South Africa) and translator and interpreter (English/French) as well as a film festival programmer/organiser.

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We take this opportunity to thank all our host venues, funders, supporters, sponsors and cultural and media partners, as well as the many visiting directors, festival guests and other individuals who have contributed to making the festival happen.

From Africa, With Love is presented by the UK African Film Festivals (Africa in Motion Film Festival, Afrika Eye, Cambridge African Film Festival, Film Africa and Watch Africa Film Festival), part of BFI LOVE, bfi.org.uk/love, in partnership with Plusnet.

In addition to the above, The Royal African Society would like to thank and acknowledge the following individuals for their generous support and commitment to Film Africa 2015:

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AFRICAN CINEMA



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