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BY
THE ROYAL
AFRICAN SOCIETY

28 OCT - 6 NOV 2022



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Desta Haile

Festival Producer

Sarah Wechselberger

Curators

Aseye Tamakloe, Nyambura M. Waruingi and Wilfred Okiche

Guest Curators

Anthony Badu and Nadia Denton

Fundraising & Partnerships Manager

Sonia Foday

Events Manager

Natacha Mendes

Communications Manager

Nwora Emenike

Marketing & PR Consultant

Emily Agodzo

Marketing Intern

Stephanie Wanga

Production Intern

Naomi Rhodes

Feature-length Submissions Advisors

Robin Steedman and Merje Laiapea

Shorts Submissions Advisors

Imogen Burt, Emma Carleschi, Bruno Savill De Jong, Samuel Smith, Matthew Smolenski, Abigail Spira, Joseph Wallace, Jack Williams, Chun Chun Wong

Print Transport Manager

Filippo Di Battista

Admin & Finance Manager

Nicodemus Leo

Brochure Editor

James Wan

BSL Interpreting

ICON

Branding & Design

D237.com

Festival Trailer

Liam Dickson

Festival Trailer Soundtrack

Pablo Scopinaro

Cover image:

Spirits We Dance.
Dir. Natalija Gormalova.
Ghana.
2020.



WELCOME TO FILM AFRICA 2022

The Royal African Society is delighted to present the 10th edition of Film Africa – 48 incredible films across 7 amazing venues for 10 days, 28 October - 6 November 2022. The dazzling work of filmmakers from across Africa and the diaspora is gracing London for this very special 10th edition, including 22 UK, European and World Premieres. We can't wait to welcome you in person to our screenings and workshops, or online for our complementary Q&As and events. I remember volunteering for Film Africa four years ago, and it was a joy to be able to duck out of a cold and dark autumn evening and into an array of spectacular African films, at so many great cinemas. The connections that I made, the things I learned, the artists I got to meet – Film Africa is so much more than a film festival. In the words of Djibril Diop Mambety, "Cinema is magic in the service of dreams." Come get involved, friends!

We are so happy to have our historic partners on board, plus new ones like Bertha DocHouse. Our Opening Night is at Picturehouse Central, and our Closing Event will be held at BFI, with plenty of screenings, panels, live music and Dine & Views woven throughout the week. The Royal African Society is also throwing a belated birthday party (120 years old!) on 2 November. It's going to be a busy, beautiful 10 days. From Rich Mix through The Africa Centre to South London Gallery, you can find a screening near whichever slice of London you call home. Experience stories that will make you laugh, cry, and dance.

Discover worlds that will rattle your memory with languages and feelings forgotten, remembered, renewed. I personally can't wait to (re)watch the selection on the big screen.


Rich Mix is our networking and educational hub for the duration of the festival, where you can sign up for an animation workshop with Cinewax, filmmaking with Mobile Film Festival Africa, or expand your horizons with our Deaffest partners. We will have a variety of online events too, so that we can bring together an international audience with echo sessions and film talks throughout the week. Our Baobab Award for the Best Short Film and our Film Africa Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature Film will highlight our favourites – be sure to vote for yours. Working with Sarah, our producer, our curators Aseye, Nyambura and Will, our guest curators Anthony Badu and Nadia Denton, our tireless core team at RAS and our extended Film Africa family has been such a worthwhile journey. We thank everybody who has made the festival possible: our sponsors, our advisory group and TANO partners, and especially the filmmakers and our formidable former colleagues who built Film Africa into the African giant it is. We really hope you enjoy Film Africa! 10 editions deep and still going strong.


Desta Haile


Festival Director, Film Africa

Deputy Director, Royal African Society

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 *Film Africa 2022 Audience Award Nominee*

 *BSL interpreted screening*

 *Cinema screening*

 *Online screening*

 *Dine & View event*

 *Documentary*

 *Shorts*

 *Workshops*

 *Event*

A WORD FROM THE CURATORS

A Return.

In a world still grappling with the seismic changes brought on by the COVID pandemic, the curators of Film Africa 2022 are excited to present this year's programme.

Coming with a diverse range of perspectives from Ghana and Kenya and Nigeria, the curators have been able to find a depth of resonance in the shorts, medium and feature length films that make up the programme this year. Whether watching communally in theatres – a welcome return following COVID disruptions – or virtually, in the comfort of home, it is our hope that audiences are able to experience the vitality and blossoming of African cinema.

The filmmakers and the stories they are telling come from all corners of the African experience. While a lot of our history and experiences are shared, there certainly isn't any one way to be African. The programme welcomes and celebrates this diversity, choosing an inclusiveness that opens up connections with the larger diaspora. Long may these connections and conversations continue to happen.

Be prepared to encounter unforgettable characters who are not only complex and challenging in their own ways but are often unafraid to take up space fully in the world, with little regard for what anyone may think of them.

From daring fiction titles, delightful shorts to documentaries that continue to shake up the format with their inventiveness, if there is a common thread that runs through the programme this year, it is perhaps a sense of return. This plays out in several ways; a return to self, to source or to persons and places that guarantee some safety. The films are in conversation with one another, interrogating structures of power, seeking healing and building communities. They go at the very heart of issues, connecting historical events with contemporary concerns.

The themes are familiar - a mother's love, belonging, sisterly bonds, abortion rights, repressed trauma, freedom struggles - but what isn't this time, are the approaches that the filmmakers adopt to realising their respective visions.

There is an increasing willingness to challenge forms, stretch technique and push beyond existing tropes. The filmmakers are rethinking narratives of migration, grappling with the aftereffects of trauma and interrogating the very idea of family. Even when the themes are heavy, they have been handled with sensitivity and captured with beauty on screen, reflecting an upswing in technical and artistic capacities across the board.

It is a great time to be committed to telling African stories and while we look forward to the future with excitement, we are pleased to present a programme that speaks to the richness of the present.

We remain grateful to Film Africa and the Royal African Society for the opportunity to bring the festival to theatres and homes and wish you a blissful ten days of engaging with the plethora of African stories.

Welcome back and happy viewing.

Aseye Tamakloe **Nyambura M. Waruingi** **Wilfred Okiche**
in Accra in Nairobi in Cleveland, via Lagos

YOUR OPINION MATTERS MOST!

Our Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature Film offers a cash prize of £1,000 and is particularly special because it's chosen by you!

You can vote for as many films as you attend or watch. This year's voting will take place online for all of our cinema goers and streaming audiences to take part. Visit filmfranca.org/audience-award to vote and be in the running to win an arts and culture membership.

The winner will be announced online at filmfranca.org on Sunday, 6 November.

FILMS IN COMPETITION:

AMANSA TIAFI (PUBLIC TOILET AFRICA)

BANTÚ MAMA

LINGUI, THE SACRED BONDS

NANNY

LE BLEU DU CAFTAN (THE BLUE CAFTAN)

THE MILKMAID

THE UMBRELLA MEN



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

FOR MARIA EBUN PATAKI,
Winner of the Film Africa 2020 Audience Award.
Dir. Damilola Orimogunje. Nigeria. 2020.

HOW TO ACCESS FILM AFRICA 2022

This year Film Africa presents cinema screenings and events across 7 London venues. We strongly encourage you to book your tickets in advance to avoid disappointment.

We will also host 7 narrative and documentary features on the BFI Player during the 10 days of the festival. The BFI Player offers a 14-day free subscription period, which means you could **watch our Film Africa 2022 titles for FREE** and then decide whether to keep enjoying the diverse selection of films offered through a BFI Player subscription. Please note that the player is only available in the UK. **To register, please visit player.bfi.org.uk/sign-up**

As part of our online offer, we'll be hosting a number of Watch Parties, featuring exclusive live Director's Q&As and other virtual events, which will require registration. Visit filmafrica.org or follow us on Facebook and Instagram for more details on all our virtual events.

VENUES



BFI Southbank
Belvedere Road, SouthBank, London SE1 8XT



Rich Mix
35-47 Bethnal Grn Road, London E1 6LA



Picturehouse Central
Piccadilly Circus, Corner of Great Windmill Street &, Shaftesbury Ave, London W1D 7DH



Bertha DocHouse
Curzon Bloomsbury The Brunswick Centre,
London WC1N 1AW



SLG



The Ritz
Brixton Oval, Coldharbour Lane, London SW2 1JG

South London Gallery
65 Peckham Road, London SE5 8UH

The Africa Centre
66 Great Suffolk Street, London SE1 0BL

STREAMING PARTNER

BFI PLAYER

Register by visiting
player.bfi.org.uk/sign-up

CONTACT US




Film Africa
filmafrica.org
info@filmafrica.org
 @FilmAfrica /FilmAfricaUK #FilmAfrica22



Royal African Society
royalafricansociety.org
ras@soas.ac.uk
 @RoyAfrSoc /Royafrisoc

DATE	TIME	SCREENING / EVENT	IN VENUE / ONLINE	VENUE / PLATFORM	PAGE NO.
FRI 28 OCT	18:30	Opening Ceremony: Our Father, The Devil + Q&A + After Drinks 	In Venue	Picturehouse Central	7
SAT 29 OCT	14:00	Inside Life + Q&A	In Venue	BFI Southbank	15
	15:00	Our Father, The Devil + Q&A	In Venue	South London Gallery	7
	17:50	BEYOND NOLLYWOOD Shorts: <i>Wahala Dey</i> + Q&A	In Venue	BFI Southbank	16
	18:30	The Umbrella Men + Q&A	In Venue	The Ritzy	14
	20:30	Film Africa <i>Live!</i> : <i>Goema Club</i>	In Venue	Upstairs at The Ritzy	14
SUN 30 OCT	14:30	Return to Chibok	In Venue	BFI Southbank	15
	16:00	FA 2022 Doc Shorts	In Venue	The Africa Centre	23
	16:00	Yoon	In Venue	Bertha DocHouse	9
	18:00	No Simple Way Home	In Venue / Online	Bertha DocHouse / BFI Player	10
	18:00	Le Bleu du Caftan (The Blue Caftan)	In Venue	Rich Mix	9
MON 31 OCT	18:30	Transactions	In Venue	Rich Mix	10
	19:00	Dine & View: Amansa Tiafi (Public Toilet Africa) + Q&A	In Venue	The Africa Centre	13
TUE 1 NOV	18:30	Lèy la tèt dann fénnwar (In The Billowing Night)	In Venue / Online	Rich Mix / BFI Player	10
	19:00	Dine & View: Amansa Tiafi (Public Toilet Africa) + Q&A	In Venue	The Africa Centre	13
WED 2 NOV	13:00	Masterclass	In Venue	TBC	24
	18:30	Lingui. The Sacred Bonds	In Venue	Rich Mix	11
	19:00	Dine & View X South by South: Bantú Mama	In Venue / Online	South London Gallery / BFI Player	14
	20:45	Nanny	In Venue	The Ritzy	11
THU 3 NOV	13:00	Deaffest Workshop 	In Venue	Rich Mix	24
	14:00	Deaffest Shorts + Panel Discussion 	In Venue	Rich Mix	21
	15:30	Cesária Évora	In Venue / Online	Rich Mix / BFI Player	11
	20:00	The Milkmaid	In Venue / Online	Rich Mix / BFI Player	12
FRI 4 NOV	19:00	Cesária Évora	In Venue / Online	South London Gallery / BFI Player	11
SAT 5 NOV	13:00	Elder's Corner	In Venue	The Ritzy	12
	15:00	FA 2022 Baobab Shorts + Q&A + Baobab Winner Announcement	In Venue	Rich Mix	17
	16:00	Doc Shorts - Dance	In Venue	South London Gallery	23
	16:00	Cinewax Animation Workshop	In Venue	Rich Mix	24
	16:00	Workshop: 1 Mobile, 1 Minute, 1 Film.	In Venue	Rich Mix	24
	17:30	The Last Shelter	In Venue / Online	Rich Mix / BFI Player	12
SUN 6 NOV	10:00	Workshop: 1 Mobile, 1 Minute, 1 Film.	In Venue	Rich Mix	24
	14:00	Film Africa <i>Live!</i> X Mwalimu Express	In Venue	The Stage at Rich Mix	14
	15:30	Closing Ceremony: Vuta N'Kuvute + Q&A + After Drinks 	In Venue	BFI Southbank	8
	15:45	Les Gestes de Saint-Louis (Saint-Louis on the Move)	In Venue	The Stage at Rich Mix	14
28 OCT- 6 NOV	N/A	When Women Speak	Online	BFI Player	13



OPENING SCREENING:
OUR FATHER, THE DEVIL
UK PREMIERE +
DIRECTOR Q&A

Dir. Ellie Foubi
USA, Cameroon. 2021. 108 mins. French with English subtitles.

Ellie Foubi's debut feature length, *Our Father, the Devil* is a powerful and deeply suspenseful film that burns with the righteous intensity of its intriguing heroine as well as the filmmaker's willingness to take audiences on a morally ambiguous journey. Provocative and surefooted, *Our Father, the Devil* interrogates trauma, revenge, survival, loss, love and other human complexities with brilliant performances and masterful storytelling.

FRI 28 OCT | 6:30PM | PICTUREHOUSE CENTRAL
SAT 29 OCT | 3:00PM | SOUTH LONDON GALLERY



BSL



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/FilmAfricaUK

#FilmAfrica22

filmafrica.org

**CLOSING FILM:
VUTA N'KUVUTE
(TUG OF WAR)**
**UK PREMIERE +
DIRECTOR Q&A**

Dir. Amil Shivji

Tanzania, South Africa, Germany, Qatar. 2021. 90 mins. Swahili and English with English subtitles.

Set in the 1950s, Denge and Yasmine are in a taboo relationship. But the lovers are committed to the revolution for a Free Zanzibar. Based on the award-winning novel by Shafi Adam Shafi, *Tug of War* gives a slice of Zanzibarian social history and the struggle for independence.

SUN 6 NOV | 3:30PM | BFI SOUTHBANK



NARRATIVE & DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

This year's eclectic collection of narrative and documentary features will be screened at 7 venues across London, as well as some online on the BFI Player. Live Director Q&As will accompany our cinema screenings and online Watch Parties. We have listed the film programme in chronological order for ease of reference.



YOON UK PREMIERE



Dirs. Pedro Figueiredo Neto, Ricardo Falcão

Portugal. 2021. 84 mins. Wolof, Portuguese, French with English subtitles.

Mbaye Sow is a one-man Amazon store. In his trusty Peugeot 504, he receives orders and delivers merchandise along the 4000km that separate the two places he calls home, Portugal and Senegal. Yoon is an intimate portrait of the secrets he keeps, the dreams he makes come true, the disappointments he will remedy at a later date, and the open-hearted people he encounters on his odyssey.

SUN 30 OCT | 4:00PM | BERTHA DOCHOUSE



LE BLEU DU CAFTAN (THE BLUE CAFTAN)



Dir. Maryam Touzani

Morocco, France, Belgium, Denmark. 2022. 122 mins. Arabic with English subtitles.

For her second feature length film, filmmaker Maryam Touzani holds a mirror up to hypocrisies of conservative societies. Boasting flawless acting performances from its principal cast, this warm and moving slice of cinema follows the lives of an older couple who have their established routine upended when a dashing new apprentice resumes at the shop where the husband tailors delicately hand-crafted caftans. The Blue Caftan makes bold advances in terms of subject matter but remains restrained and culturally sensitive while reconstructing the boundaries of love, family, honour and commitment.

SUN 30 OCT | 6:00PM | RICH MIX



NO SIMPLE WAY HOME



Dir. Akuol de Mabior

Kenya, South Africa. 2022. 85 mins. English, Arabic, Dinka with English subtitles.

As peace in South Sudan hangs in the balance, a mother and her two daughters return home from exile. The mother's mission is to safeguard her late husband's vision while her daughters struggle with what it means to call South Sudan home. A deeply personal account of what it means to grow up in exile, and a heartfelt testament to the realisation that there truly isn't a simple way to go back home.

SUN 30 OCT | 6:00PM | BERTHA DOCHOUSE

Film available on the BFI Player throughout the 10 days of the festival.



TRANSACTIONS



Dir. Rumbi Katedza

Zimbabwe, South Africa. 2021. 52 mins. Ndebele, English with English subtitles.

Frank, Miles and Portia are siblings who live in different parts of the world and sustain their family with remittances. Chrysthle, the other sibling who lives in Zimbabwe, is unable to help financially, even though she has a full-time job. But is Chrysthle willing to change her fortunes? Through conversations, phone calls and text messages the film lives the politics of money, migration and family.

MON 31 OCT | 6:30PM | RICH MIX



LÈV LA TÈT DANN FÈNWAR (IN THE BILLOWING NIGHT)



Dir. Etangsalé Erika

France. 2021. 51 mins. Creole, French with English subtitles.

Jean-René is a retired workman who has lived in Mâcon, France, since emigrating from Réunion Island at the age of 17. Today, for the first time ever, he shares his story with his daughter. Moving between a dream world and reality, Jean-René's story brings to light the island's painful French colonial past and reflections on hybrid identities.

TUE 1 NOV | 6:30PM | RICH MIX

Film available on the BFI Player throughout the 10 days of the festival.



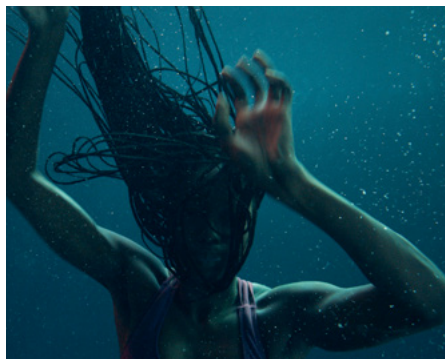
LINGUI, THE SACRED BONDS

Dir. Mahamat-Saleh Haroun

Chad, France, Germany, Belgium. 2021. 87 mins. French with English subtitles.

On the fringes of Chad, Amina, forced by circumstances, pretends to be a widow who lives alone with her only 15-year-old daughter Maria. Her world collapses when she discovers that her daughter is pregnant. With memorable performances and mesmerising photography, Haroun's tale pays homage to sisterhood and resistance.

WED 2 NOV | 6:30PM | RICH MIX



NANNY

Dir. Nikiyatu Jusu

USA. 2022. 97 mins. English, Wolof with English subtitles.

Taut, atmospheric and visually arresting, Nanny tells the story of Aisha (a revelatory Anna Diop,) an undocumented Senegalese immigrant working as a domestic help for a privileged New York City couple. Aisha hopes to work to save up enough money to bring her son over to the United States. However, she is forced to contend with unreasonable employers and disturbing otherworldly visions rooted in West African folklore that haunt her dreams. Jusu's singular and entrancing vision both embraces and subverts genre tropes while presenting a culturally specific story spanning two continents and bridging gaps between Africa and the North American diaspora.

WED 2 NOV | 8:45PM | THE RITZY



CÉSARIA ÉVORA

Dir. Ana Sofia Fonseca

Portugal, Cape Verde. 2022. 94 mins. English, French, Portuguese, Creole with English subtitles.

Legendary Cape Verdean singer Cesária Évora is the subject of this comprehensive portrait which takes pains to reveal the interesting complexities that made Évora a larger-than-life diva. One of the music industry's unlikeliest success stories, Évora achieved international fame at age 50 after performing unheralded for years in local bars. Ana Sofia Fonseca's illuminating documentary gathers considerable archival film as well as photographs, recordings, concert footage and interviews and paints a comprehensive portrait of a supremely talented but troubled artist.

THU 3 NOV | 5:30PM | RICH MIX

FRI 4 NOV | 7:00PM | SOUTH LONDON GALLERY

Film available on the BFI Player throughout the 10 days of the festival.





THE MILKMAID

Dir. Desmond Oviagele

Nigeria. 2020. 136 mins. Hausa, Fulfulde, Arabic with English subtitles.



Aisha and her sister Zainab are abducted with other girls from their village after an attack by religious extremists. The journey to freedom is packed with rage and sympathy. This story is a tribute to women's defiance and endurance under brutal regimes.

THU 3 NOV | 8:00PM | RICH MIX

Film available on the BFI Player throughout the 10 days of the festival.



ELDER'S CORNER

Dir. Siji Awoyinka

Ghana. 2019. 119 mins. English, Ga with English subtitles.



With deeply resonant songs, filmed performances, and anecdotes from legendary Nigerian musicians, we rediscover Nigerian history and musical genres. This film is nostalgic yet colourful.

SAT 5 NOV | 1:00PM | THE RITZY



THE LAST SHELTER



Dir. Ousmane Samassékou

Mali, South Africa, France. 2021. 85 mins. Moré, Bambara, French and English with English subtitles.

The Last Shelter is a physical structure in the city of Gao, in northeastern Mali. Gao serves as a gateway for migrants from African countries attempting to make their way across the Sahara to Europe. Samassékou's sophomore feature, *The Last Shelter* is a haunting and revelatory look at the mental states of migrants as they make their way in and out of this halfway house on the edge of the Sahara. Visually arresting and deeply empathetic, what sets *The Last Shelter* apart is the filmmaker's sensitivity and the carefully cultivated access he elicits from his subjects. Truly unforgettable.

SAT 5 NOV | 5:30PM | RICH MIX

Film available on the BFI Player throughout the 10 days of the festival.



WHEN WOMEN SPEAK

Dir. Aseye Tamakloe

Ghana. 2022. 100 mins. English with English subtitles.



When Women Speak is a documentary film shot entirely in Ghana, which traces a cohort of 16 women who came of age in the 1960s & 1970s and catalogues their life experiences, in their own words, as Ghana passed through periods of single-party, multi-party and military government. The film is woven with interviews, animations, archival footage and photographs.

28 OCT - 6 NOV | BFI PLAYER

Film available on the BFI Player throughout the 10 days of the festival.

DINE & VIEW SCREENINGS

Our much-loved foodie strand, Dine & View, returns with cinematic and culinary highlights from Cameroon and Ghana - the countries of origin of the two selected titles for this delectable experience.



AMANSA TIAFI

(PUBLIC TOILET AFRICA) + DIRECTOR Q&A

Dir. Kofi Ofosu-Yeboah

Ghana. 2021. 95 mins. Twi, English, Ga, Ewe, Polish with English subtitles.

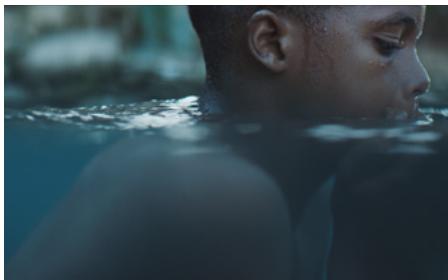
Ama returns home, the city where she was gifted to a white art collector as a little girl. She recruits her ex-lover on a quest to reclaim her stolen childhood. But, things go awry and they escape the city, only to end up on a series of bizarre encounters as their fate is tied to that of the two passengers they pick up. Amanisa Tiafi is reminiscent of Touki-Bouki, with sensuous cinematography punctuated by Hi-Life and Afrobeat.

MON 31 OCT | 7:00PM | THE AFRICA CENTRE
TUE 1 NOV | 7:00PM | THE AFRICA CENTRE

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TATALE AND MATUGGA RUM

Tatale.

INSPIRING
CHEFS



SOUTH BY SOUTH PRESENTS: **BANTÚ MAMA**

Dir. Ivan Herrera

Dominican Republic 2021. 77 mins. French and Spanish with English subtitles.

After being arrested in the Dominican Republic, a French woman of African descent escapes custody and is sheltered by three minors in a dangerous district of Santo Domingo. Living undocumented and in the shadows, she finds herself growing into a maternal figure to the kids. Impeccably lensed and gorgeously illuminated, with imagery that highlights themes of movement, departures and displacement, Bantú Mama attempts a meditative intervention. One that traces the connections and links between Africa and her diverse diaspora.

WED 2 NOV | 7:00PM | SOUTH LONDON GALLERY

Film available on the BFI Player throughout the 10 days of the festival.

IN PARTNERSHIP INSPIRING CHEFS AND KARMA DRINKS

FILM AFRICA LIVE!

This strand combines cinematic storytelling with live music from some of the most exciting African artists you don't want to miss out on.

THE UMBRELLA MEN EUROPEAN PREMIERE + DIRECTOR Q&A

Dir. John Barker

South Africa. 2022. 105 mins. English with English Subtitles.

Musician Jerome Adams returns home to Cape Town for his father's funeral. There he learns his dad left him the Bo-Kaap community's beloved Goema Club, as well as leadership of The Umbrella Men minstrel troupe, which all comes with a substantial debt with a bank overdraft soon coming due, threatening the Club with repossession. Aided by friends and family, Jerome plots a bank heist using the annual carnival parade as cover.

SAT 29 OCT | 6:30PM | THE RITZY

GOEMA CLUB PARTY

Join us Upstairs at the Ritzy for a party with South African beats provided by a Live Band and DJ.

SAT 29 OCT | 8:30PM | UPSTAIRS AT THE RITZY

FREE ENTRY WITH THE UMBRELLA MEN TICKET

FILM AFRICA X MWALIMU EXPRESS

London's original and longest-running African music and culture adventure presents Kadialy Kouyate featuring Adriano Adewale + Les Gestes de Saint-Louis (Saint-Louis On The Move)

For the closing event of Film Africa, we set off to Senegal to revel in the music and dance of this cultural powerhouse. We celebrate with a performance by kora maestro Kadialy Kouyate featuring super talented Brazilian percussionist Adriano Adewale.

LES GESTES DE SAINT-LOUIS (SAINT-LOUIS ON THE MOVE) UK PREMIERE

Dir. Kita Bauchet

Belgium. 2021. 32 mins. French with English Subtitles.

Saint-Louis On The Move is a fascinating short film which explores the rhythm of daily life in the city. Creative and compelling dance by the two featured dancers from the Senegalese contemporary dance company Diagn'art. The film embodies and reflects the energy, pulse and vibrant colours of Saint Louis as the dancers guide us through this dynamic city.

CLOSING PARTY

SUN 6 NOV | 2:00PM | THE STAGE AT RICH MIX

MWALIMU EXPRESS

BEYOND NOLLYWOOD

Film Africa 2022 is delighted to present this special BEYOND NOLLYWOOD strand. BEYOND NOLLYWOOD is a term coined by the Curator and Author Nadia Denton to describe new wave audio-visual content from Nigeria and its diaspora such as short films, art house, animation, documentary, experimental and music videos. BEYOND NOLLYWOOD is a concept, curated event and collective of filmmakers.

For more information, visit beyondnollywood.com



INSIDE LIFE

WORLD PREMIERE + DIRECTOR Q&A

Dir. Clarence A. Peters

Nigeria. 2022. 78 mins. Igbo, Yoruba, Pidgin with English subtitles.

Two episodes from a thrilling new drama series follow an assembly of characters whose worlds collide due to a number of unfortunate life-changing events. In episode three, the illegitimate Chiamaka (Khaira Bashir) can no longer be provided for by her mother and is left with her demonic stepmother Adaobi (Chioma Ijeoma Omeruah). In episode four, Chiamaka (Egu Chisom Sylvia), is initiated into a powerful cult who order her to kill the beastly Chief (Jide Kosoko) and steal his mystical ring for the new leader, the Queen (Scarlet Gomez).

SAT 29 OCT | 2:00PM | BFI SOUTHBANK



RETURN TO CHIBOK

WORLD PREMIERE

Dir. Branwen Okpako

USA. 2022. 75 mins. Hausa with English subtitles.

Adapting Helon Habila's *The Chibok Girls*, this experimental documentary re-enacts the journey to Chibok to visit those left behind after the shocking kidnapping of 276 girls from Chibok Girls School in 2014. Actor Wale Ojo plays Habila alongside the community in Gombe State, who re-enact the original interviews. With daring complexity, this film invites audiences to listen, feel, empathise and meditate on one of the greatest challenges facing Nigeria today.

SUN 30 OCT | 2:30 PM | BFI SOUTHBANK



WAHALA DEY SHORTS PROGRAMME

A selection of shorts reflecting life's troubles through a modern West African lens.

Total Running Time: 110 mins.

+ CURATOR INTRO

+ Q&A

SAT 29 OCT | 5:50PM | BFI SOUTHBANK



S

DOC

BURKINA BABES EUROPEAN PREMIERE

Dir. Kagho Crowther Idhebor
Nigeria. 2022. 7 mins.

A photo essay tribute to the strength and diversity of African woman.

EGUNGUN

Dir. Olive Nwosu
UK, Nigeria. 2021. 15 mins.

In search of healing, a young woman returns home to Nigeria, the country of her birth.

I AM

Dir. Jerry Hoffmann
Germany. 2021. 26 mins.

Noé finds a motionless android in the forest and reactivates it, bringing to life a strange relationship.

REHEARSAL

Dir. Michael Omonua

Nigeria. 2021. 15 mins.

Actors take on the roles of a church group rehearsing a performative piece. It soon becomes clear that the church isn't quite what it seems.

UNTITLED

Dir. Comfort Arthur

Ghana. 2017. 5 mins.

Anonymous women recount their experience of sexual abuse.

YOU MATTER TO ME EUROPEAN PREMIERE

Dir. Immaculata Abba

Nigeria. 2022. 11 mins.

A visual essay on the tensions and grief, like concrete, from which Nigerians' joy still blooms.

BAOBAB AWARD

The Baobab Award for Best Short Film exists to recognise and support African filmmaking and to enhance the visibility of emerging new voices. The Award consists of a £1,000 cash prize awarded by a jury of filmmakers and industry professionals.

The Baobab Award is longlisted in partnership with the National Film & Television School's MA in Film Studies, Programming & Curation, with the objective of encouraging an appreciation and knowledge of African cinema in the next generation of film programmers.

+ Q&A

SAT 5 NOV | 3:00PM | RICH MIX
TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 174 MINS



HÉMATOME UK PREMIERE

Dir. Babetida Sadjó

Belgium. 2021. 18 mins. French with English subtitles.

Judith dares to break her silence and file a complaint for the rape she suffered as a child. But she discovers that the trial will not take place. Emboldened and determined to get justice, Judith confronts the paedophile who shattered her life.



IRRÉPROCHABLE (FLAWLESS) UK PREMIERE

Dir. Anaïs Lonkeu

France. 2021. 17 mins. French with English subtitles.

"When you're black, you have to work twice as hard as the others, otherwise you will disappear". Flawless captivatingly performs race politics through the lens of a young girl, Laura.



HE'S DEAD NOW UK PREMIERE

Dir. Tarek El Sherbeny

Egypt. 2022. 12 mins. Arabic, English with English subtitles.

Hazem is distraught when his family secrets are made public when his mother decides to expose his late father's sexual affairs during his funeral rites.



BLACK ULTRAVIOLET EUROPEAN PREMIERE

Dir. Simba Mahachi

South Africa. 2021. 10 mins. English with English subtitles.

An alien-obsessed astronaut is recruited for a mission in an uncharted sector of space. He soon discovers his sense of time distorting, creating years-long time differences with mission control on earth as his team is stalked by a mysterious aircraft. *Black Ultraviolet* is a playful, inventive amalgamation of disparate ideas woven by director Simba Mahachi. The visual language, sense of curiosity and real world emotion demonstrated suggests Mahachi as a talent to watch.



BABA EUROPEAN PREMIERE

Dir. Mbithi Masya

Kenya. 2022. 15 mins. English, Swahili with English subtitles.

In Mbithi Masya's brutally uncompromising *Baba*, a six-year-old boy living in the outskirts of Nairobi embarks on flights of fancy to escape a traumatic reality. Starring Malik Wandera and Victor Makgati, the titular hero, a genuinely lovable kid, not only learns to defend his innocence but is also forced to manifest the kind of parental protection and support that every child deserves. *Baba* is an uncomfortable reminder of adult responsibilities to create safe spaces for children and innocents.



DROP OUT

Dir. Ade Femozo

UK. 2022. 6 mins. English.

In this hilarious and utterly relatable exploration of intergenerational differences, Tobi, an aspiring musician in London, is primed and ready to drop out of university following a music video of his which just went viral. The problem is relaying this piece of potentially life altering information to his very Nigerian mother—a hard-working and God-fearing woman. Using snappy edits and recreations, *Drop Out* reconstructs the many ways in which this encounter could go wrong.



ICI, LES PLAGES SONT NOIRES (HERE, THE BEACHES ARE BLACK)

Dir. Olivier Dejean

Réunion. 2022. 10 mins. Réunionese Creole with English subtitles.

A moving and dramatic retelling of Reunion's inconceivable tragic histories through one family.



LOCKED-IN

Dir. Stephanie Boateng

Ghana. 2021. 11 mins. English, Twi with English subtitles.

Mike and Kwesi take a journey to Ghana to seek new pastures but have quite an encounter which presents a rude awakening of the identity of the new coloniser.



TEJU'S TALE **UK PREMIERE**

Dir. Teniola Zara King

UK. 2022. 15 mins. English.

Set in the 1950s, Teju, like many young ladies across the British Empire, relocates to London from Lagos to study nursing, an opportunity meant to widen her horizons. Ready to take on the challenge and excel, Teju is in for a shock: her colleagues demand to see her "tail".



BAOBAB AWARD WINNER ANNOUNCEMENT

The winner of this year's Baobab Award will be announced at the Baobab shorts screening by Be Manzini, who is one of our judges.

SAT 5 NOV | 3:00PM | RICH MIX

MEET THE 2022 JUDGES



XEER DU GAÑJARU **(THE PRECIOUS STONE)** **UK PREMIERE**

Dir. Babacar Hanne Dia
Senegal, France. 2021. 20 mins. French, Wolof with English subtitles.

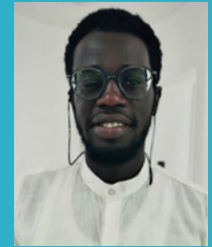
Hijinks and hilarity ensue as two teenagers take us on an adventure to save the priceless heritage of their village from the corrupt adults hellbent on getting rich quick..



Be Manzini,
'Film Poet' & Director of
Caramel Film Club



Ibrahim 'Snoopy' Ahmed,
Filmmaker



Kara Guye,
Distributor & Founder of
Filmmika

DEAFFEST

This year Film Africa partners once again with the UK's leading Deaf Film & Arts festival, Deaffest, to present a programme of films by Deaf filmmakers along with a live panel discussion.

**THU 3 NOV | 2:00PM | RICH MIX
TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 110 MINS.**

Live event supported by ICON.



'A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE' WORKSHOP

As part of this special strand, Deaffest will further present a workshop lead by Deaf filmmaker David Ellington. For more information on this event, please see page 25.



SILENT WORLD

Dir. Charlie Dennis

UK. 2021. 10 mins. English, British Sign Language with English subtitles.

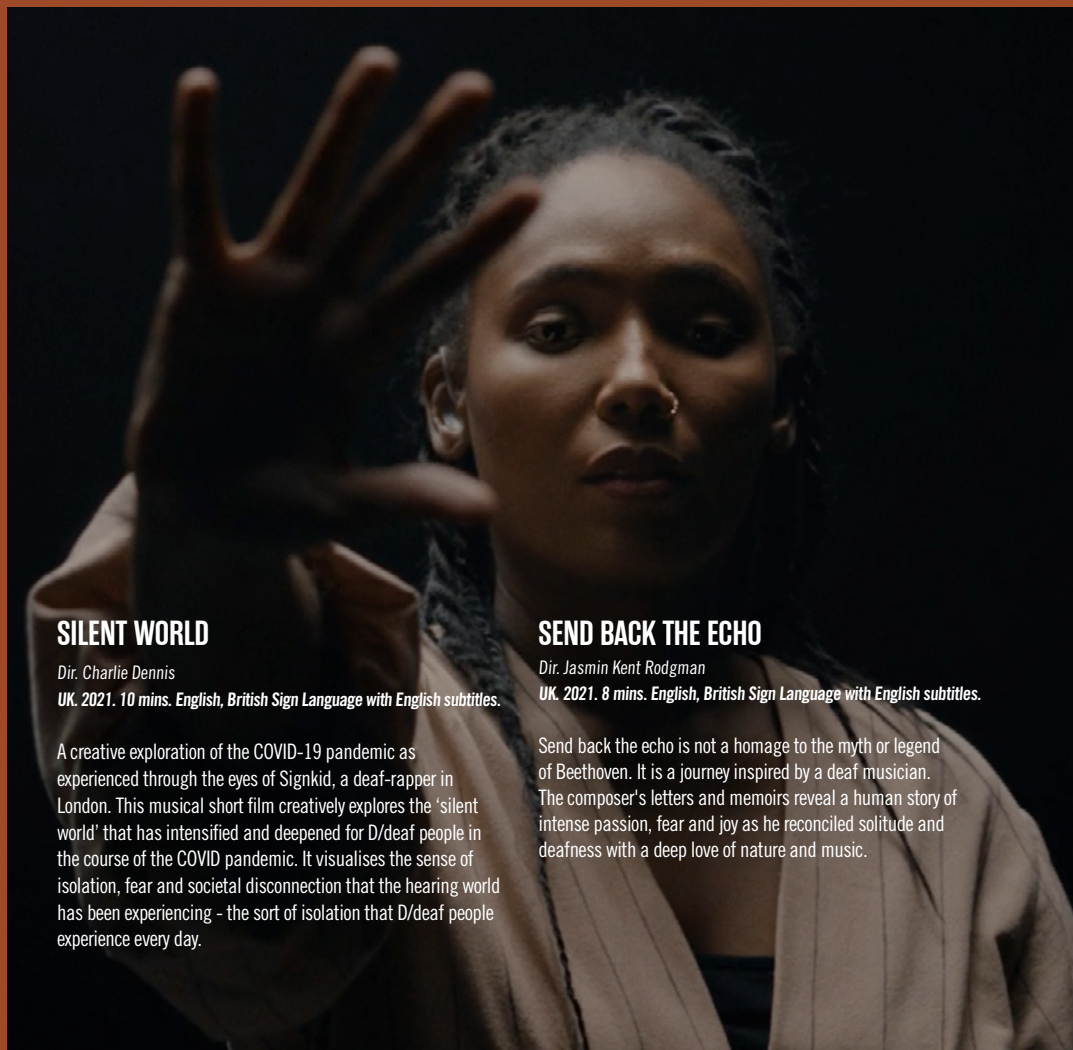
A creative exploration of the COVID-19 pandemic as experienced through the eyes of Signkid, a deaf-rapper in London. This musical short film creatively explores the 'silent world' that has intensified and deepened for D/deaf people in the course of the COVID pandemic. It visualises the sense of isolation, fear and societal disconnection that the hearing world has been experiencing - the sort of isolation that D/deaf people experience every day.

SEND BACK THE ECHO

Dir. Jasmin Kent Rodgman

UK. 2021. 8 mins. English, British Sign Language with English subtitles.

Send back the echo is not a homage to the myth or legend of Beethoven. It is a journey inspired by a deaf musician. The composer's letters and memoirs reveal a human story of intense passion, fear and joy as he reconciled solitude and deafness with a deep love of nature and music.





FOLLOW THE SIGN

Dirs. Chris Fonseca, Harry Jardine

UK. 2021. 10 mins. British Sign Language with English subtitles.

A true story of one man's search for his identity and the barriers he comes up against along the way.

NIGHT SHIFT

Dir. Bim Ajadi

UK. 2021. 11 mins. English, British Sign Language with English subtitles.

A deaf, female security guard on the night shift observes a man in the midst of a crisis. When they encounter each other they find a new way to communicate.

TRIPLE OPPRESSION

Dir. Vilma Jackson

UK. 2020. 5 mins. English, British Sign Language with English subtitles.

A Deaf woman's struggles to fit in socially, racially, and professionally. How does she try to overcome all these barriers in order to get to her dream destination?

THE MULTI

Dirs. Natasha Ofili, Storm Smith

USA. 2021. 18 mins. English, American Sign Language with English subtitles.

An isolated deaf woman has constructed a world of order to keep her childhood trauma at bay, but an unexpected turn of events forces her to confront the demons who threaten to destroy everything she has so carefully built.

HUMAN SPIRIT

Dir. Kevin Walker

UK. 2022. 3 mins. English, British Sign Language with English subtitles.

Sign Slang UK and BSL Music video by Signkid performing Human Spirit.

+ LIVE PANEL DISCUSSION

'BLACK & DEAF - NAVIGATING THE MAINSTREAM MEDIA'

FILM AFRICA 2022 DOC SHORTS

A selection of documentary shorts exploring trauma and mental health, the meaning of home, among other themes.

SUN 30 OCT | 4:00PM | THE AFRICA CENTRE
TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 117 MINS.

A special screening exploring the rhythm of daily life through this combination of three documentary shorts.

SAT 5 NOV | 4:00PM | SOUTH LONDON GALLERY

AMPE: LEAP INTO THE SKY, BLACK GIRL
WORLD PREMIERE

LES GESTES DE SAINT-LOUIS
(SAINT-LOUIS ON THE MOVE)

UK PREMIERE PAGE 14

SPIRITS WE DANCE UK PREMIERE



DOC

S

AMPE: LEAP INTO THE SKY, BLACK GIRL

WORLD PREMIERE

Dirs. Claudia Owusu, Ife Oluwamuyide

USA, Ghana. 2022. 25 mins. English, Twi, Pidgin with English subtitles.

This joyful ode to girlhood and innocence mirrors the playful spirit of the game from which the title is derived. Ampe, a rhythmic, high-energy game that includes jumping, clapping, and cheering as two teams select a stepping pattern and face off is a Ghanaian staple. From Accra, Ghana to Columbus, Ohio, Ampe: Leap into the Sky, Black Girl chronicles a group of girls as they retrace the steps back to their childhood selves. This charmer presents a slice of Black sisterhood and comments on the arts of home that we carry with us forever.

#BLACKBOYJOYGONE

Dirs. Ashley Karrell, Isaac Ouro-Gnao

UK. 2022. 25 mins. English.

What does joy mean to the Black man? This interesting hybrid documentary, made by and for Black men seeks to uncover this question. Touching on topics like mental health, toxic masculinity and sexual abuse, #BlackBoyJoyGone opens up discussions often considered taboo in Black communities with the hopes of finding healing from sharing. The stories unearth strength from vulnerability and beauty from trauma. Blending candid interviews, poetry, dance performances and oral storytelling, #BlackBoyJoyGone takes a snapshot of the lived realities of its subjects, highlighting a common brotherhood.

\$75,000

Dir. Moïse Togo

France. 2020. 14 mins. French and English with English subtitles

A captivating, emotional 3D imaging film, narrated in the first person, in Bambara, Fon, and Yoruba of testimonies collected from people with different experiences and anxieties of albinism in Africa.

SPIRITS WE DANCE

UK PREMIERE

Dir. Natalija Gormalova

Ghana. 2020. 21 mins. English, Twi with English subtitles.

Spirits We Dance takes viewers into an imaginative and surreal mindscape. A world sublime and yet childlike in its beauty, it is created by the characters to escape the pain of reality. Connecting with their spiritual side when they dance, the dancers are free from the restrictions their bodies and society impose. Challenging the idea that spirits are evil and menacing, two dancers find freedom when they leave reality behind and connect with the spirits of dance.

TRAMADOL

EUROPEAN PREMIERE

Dirs. Adoum Moussa, Morgane Wirtz

Tunisia, Belgium. 2021. 32 mins. Hassa with English subtitles.

In a place of many contradictions, Moussa, a young Tuareg man buys and sells Tramadol, a popular narcotic in Niger. This business is to maintain his dignity as a man who is able to take care of his family but what about the dignity of the drug users?

WORKSHOPS & MASTERCLASS

This year Film Africa presents a programme of live workshops and a masterclass, which will be suitable for different age groups.

W

EVENT

'WHAT'S YOUR STORY?' ANIMATION WORKSHOP

W

Do you want to learn about how animation films are made? Join Cinewax and Award winning animator, illustrator and visual artist Comfort Arthur for a workshop in which participants develop an idea, create a storyboard and script for their film, make characters and produce their own animatics.

SUITABILITY: AGE 12-16

SAT 5 NOV | 4:00-7:00PM | RICH MIX

'1 MOBILE. 1 MINUTE. 1 FILM.' WORKSHOP

W

Mobile Film Festival Africa brings their international festival - 1 Mobile. 1 Minute. 1 Film. - to Film Africa 2022. Over a two day period, workshop participants will have the opportunity to make a film - from ideation through to editing - all with just a smartphone. Explore Brainstorming, Script Writing, Producing, Acting, Shooting, and Editing with filmmakers as your mentor.

SUITABILITY: AGE 16-20

SAT 5 NOV | 4:00-9:00PM | RICH MIX

SUN 6 NOV | 10:00AM-6:00PM | RICH MIX

'A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE' WORKSHOP

W

BSL

Join Deaf filmmaker David Ellington on a journey through the process of working together as a team of Deaf and hearing creatives from castings to the actual work on set, with teaching elements such as BSL films glossary.

SUITABILITY: AGE 18+

THU 3 NOV | 1:00-2:00PM | THE RICH MIX

Live event supported by ICON.

IN CONVERSATION WITH ... MO ABUDU, COLLEEN MORRIS-GLENNON AND NANA MENSAH.

EVENT

The Royal African Society and Film Africa are pleased to invite you to spend the afternoon with some inspiring film professionals whose combined careers span acting, directing, writing, costume design, and the business side of film and TV. This Masterclass will create space for young, multi-disciplined, Black film creatives to learn, share, and connect with each other.

Free, limited spaces. Registration via

info@filmafrica.org.uk

(*Venue info upon successful registration)

WED 2 NOV | 1PM



THANK YOUS

We would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to our principal funders, our venue and programme partners, the BFI Player and all those individuals whose collaborative efforts have contributed to making Film Africa 2022 a success. A special thank you to all our participating filmmakers and guest contributors.

Mo Abudu	Molly Cowderoy	Rachael Jones	Paul Perkins
Ahmed Akasha	Nadia Denton	Jonathan Kirk	James Rocarols
Negade Assefa	Luisa Dias	Femi Kolade	Nora Seelmann
Justine Atkinson	Kate Donnelly	Rosie Lee-Philippis	Hannah Seligman
Anthony Badu	Lindiwe Dovey	Fadhili Maghhiya	Estrella Sendra
Paula Beegan	Tom Dwyer	Annie Menter	Jack Smallwood
Clare Binns	Jackie Dunn	Sarah-Jane	Antony Smith
Lizelle Bisschoff	Jean Fall	Meredith	David Somersett
Charlie Bligh	Chris Fell	Mira Mookerjee	Nikki Stratton
Akwasi Brenya-Mensa	Jasmine Haniff	Miles Morland	Belvin Tawuya
Alexander Brown	Elle Haywood	Madeleine Mullet	Victoria Thomas
Liz Chege	Sandra Hebron	Arunma Oteh	Carmen Thompson
Sarah Clark	Jenny Horwell	Lily Otton	Lily Tonge
Sam Clements	Victoria Humphrys	Carine Ottou	Micallar Walker
Dennis Cooke	Alexander Jackson	Lou Parrott	Nick Westcott
Eleanor Costello	Nike Jonah	Amber Pegden	Montana Woodruff



@FilmAfrica



/FilmAfricaUK

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Join The Royal African Society

The Royal African Society is uniquely placed to connect you with a diverse network of African professionals and Africa experts across a wide range of sectors.

Our membership is open to all – you can join whether you are a company with a business interest in Africa or an individual with a personal or professional connection to the continent.

As a member you will contribute to keeping Africa high on the UK's business, political and cultural agenda, enabling a positive shift in policy and public opinion. You would also be signing up to be part of the most dynamic, influential and fun Africa-focused organisation in the UK. So what are you waiting for?

Join us today to become part of our vibrant network and start enjoying a wide range of exclusive members-only benefits!

Find out more:

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*Arunma Oteh
Chair of The Royal African Society*