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Nº 6

AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL

New York



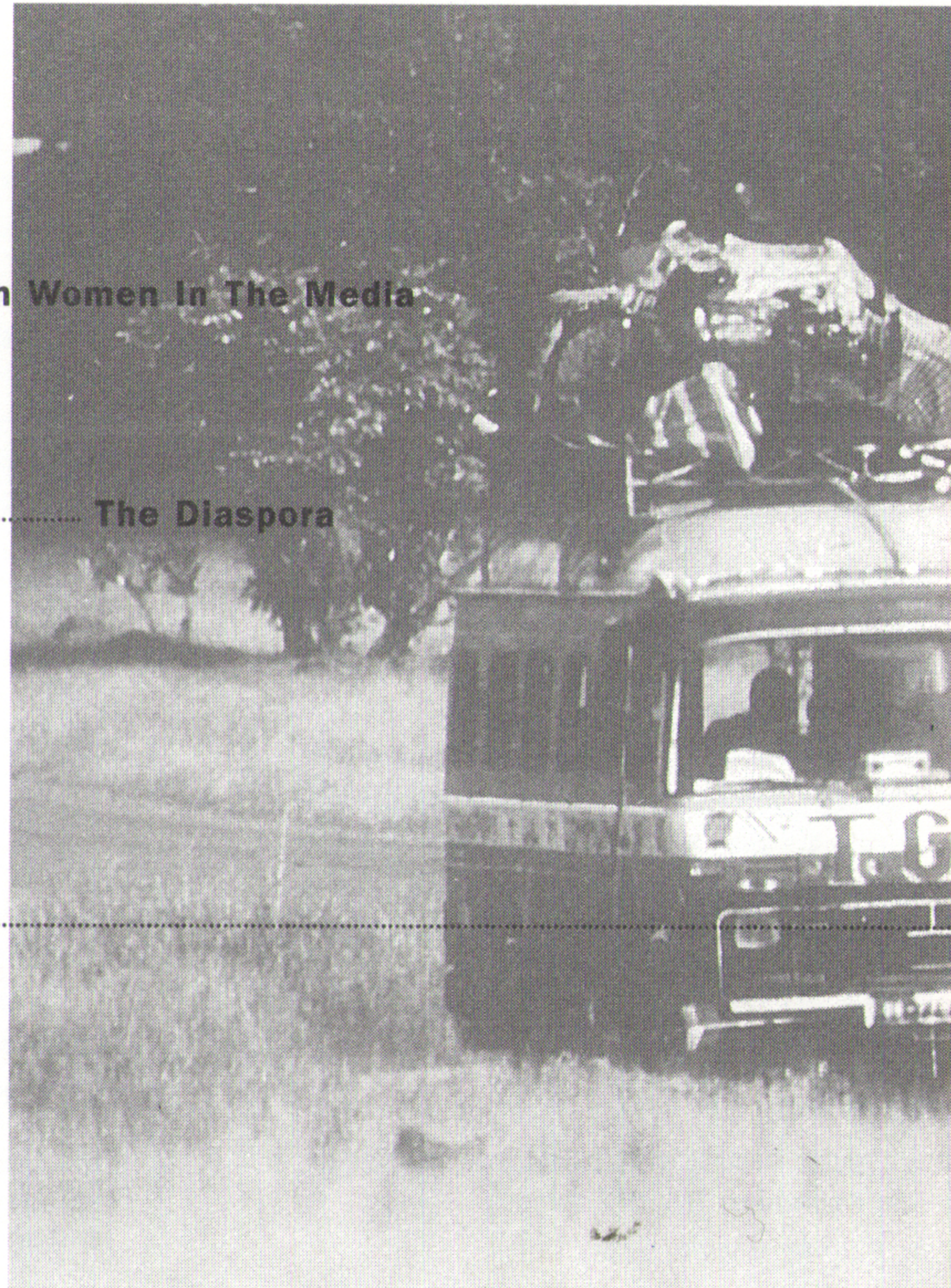
African Women In The Media

The Diaspora

Djibril Diop Mambety

1945 - 1998

discussion



Walter Reade Theater
Lincoln Center

May 19 - June 1

2000

June 3, 4, 10, 11

Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Auditorium
Brooklyn Museum of Art

Tribute:

Djibril Diop Mambety

1945 – 1998

Pioneer of African Film



Short & Curlies

This exciting series of five 11-minute shorts showcases the talents of emerging South African directors as they explore the complexities of life in a country undergoing rapid change.

Husk

Jeremy Handler
South Africa, 1998, 11 min.

Lucy is stuck in a remote town, virtually a prisoner of her drunk and useless father. When a debt collector tries to exact the mortgage from her, her macabre revenge stings both her oppressors.

Lucky Day

Brian Tilley
South Africa, 1998, 11 min.

An unemployed man accepts a day job from a mysterious farmer. What might have been a regular day of manual labor however turns into a harrowing psychological experience.

The Vow

Junaid Ahmed
South Africa, 1998, 11 min.

A father hopes that his vow during the Hindu ceremony, Kavady, will cure his mute son. Although unsuccessful in keeping the vow, he and his son are drawn closer together through near disaster.

Watercolors

Nantie Steyn
South Africa, 1998, 11 min.

The mayor of a South African town buys the public swimming pool so his girlfriend won't have to share it with blacks. But she refuses his "gift."

Portrait of A Young Man Drowning

Teboho Mahlatsi
South Africa, 1998, 11 min.

In a tough urban township, a killer seeks redemption and finds that his community is not willing to accept his desire to change.

Mamlambo

WRT: 5. 19 ★; 5. 24 ★; 5. 28

Touki-Bouki

Djibril Diop Mambety
Senegal, 1973, 95 min.

Touki-Bouki (The Hyena's Journey) is a stylistically sophisticated African "Bonnie and Clyde" story about a young couple who yearn to live the glamorous life in France, but must first pull off a couple of heists to buy their tickets out of Dakar.

WRT: 5. 21, 5. 25, 5. 31

Hyenas

Djibril Diop Mambety
Senegal, 1992, 113 min.

Linguere Ramatou, a woman as "rich as the World Bank" returns to the decaying backwater of Colobane where she bribes the villagers with the glitter of consumer culture to kill her former lover, Dramaan Drameh. Dramaan had betrayed Ramatou for a wealthier wife and then cast her out of the village when she became pregnant with his child.

WRT: 5. 22, 5. 26

La petite vendeuse de Soleil / The Little Girl Who Sold The Sun

Djibril Diop Mambety
Senegal/Switzerland, 1999, 45 min.

In this last film before his untimely death, Mambety moves beyond documenting Africa's victimization towards envisioning the continent's recovery. He finds hope in this tale of a handicapped girl's determination to sell *Le Soleil*, the national newspaper of Senegal. Despite harassment and greedy police, her indomitable spirit enables her to overcome her disabilities.

with

Le Franc

Djibril Diop Mambety
Senegal, 1994, 45 min.

The hero of this slapstick tribute to Africa's poor is Marigo, a down-on-his-luck musician, whose landlady has confiscated his beloved *congoma* (an African instrument) for back rent. In a desperate attempt to reclaim his *congoma*, he buys a lottery ticket. When he wins, he finds that redeeming his ticket is no easy feat.

WRT: 5. 26, 5. 28, 6.1 BMA: 6.4

This program was organized by Richard Peña, Mona Smith, and the African Film Festival, Inc. (Mahen Bonetti, Prerana Reddy, Brigitte Hougbedji, Don Webster, Jodie Bass, Maguette Ndiaye.) Thanks are due to Tunde Giwa, Hilary Ney, Mamadou Niang, Manthia Diawara, Luca Bonetti, M.C. Stephens, Kevin Duggan, Devora Avikzer-Foravi, Maureen Slattery, Sharan Sklar, SBM PR, and MGP & Associates PR. The programs of AFF are made possible by the generous support of Rockefeller Foundation, Ford Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, UNDP, UNESCO, Chase Manhattan Foundation, New York State Council for the Arts, Texaco Foundation, USIA, Piper Heidsieck, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, Estudio Inc., and Empire Hotel. Air Afrique provides transportation for visiting African filmmakers.

African Women in the Media: From Griot to Filmmaker

Safi Faye

Letter from My Village

Salem Mekuria

Deluge

Fanta Regina Nacro

Konaté's Gift

Wanjiru Kinyanjui

Battle of The Sacred Tree

Palesa Letlaka-Nkosi

Mamlambo

Isabelle Boni-Claverie

Abou's Genie

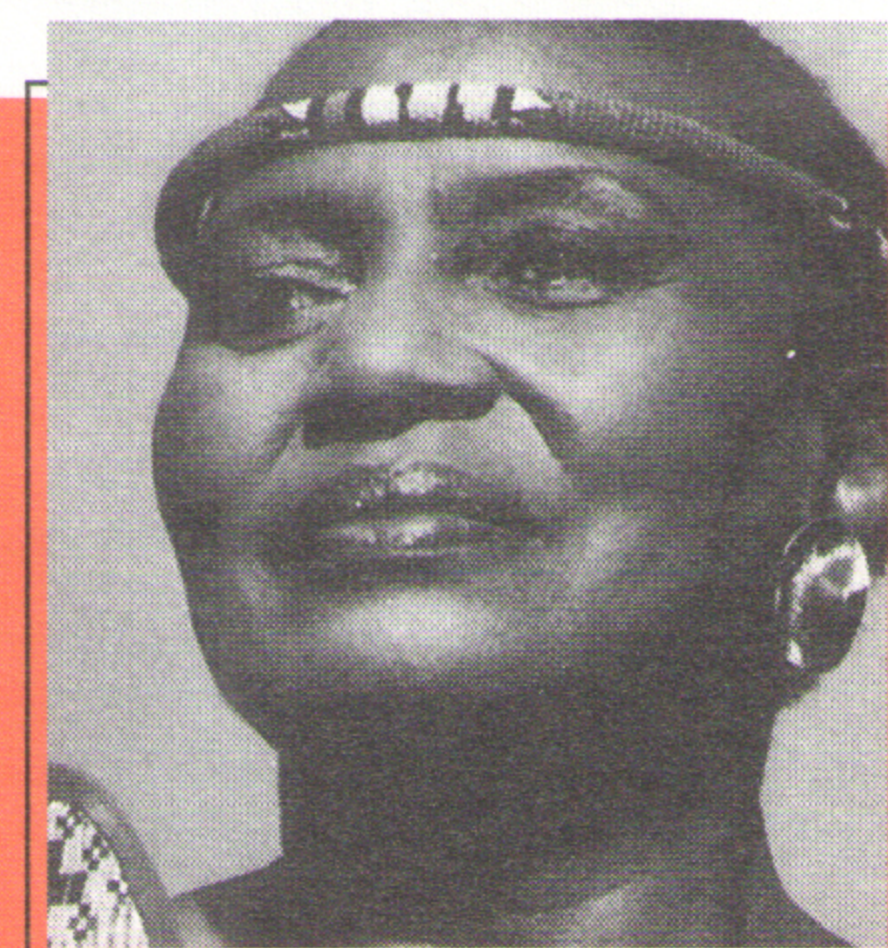
Khady Sylla

Colobane Express

Pat Van Heerden

and Catherine Stewart

A Woman's Place



Miriam Makeba in film / in concert

The Center for Traditional Music and Dance and The Organization of Badenya in the Americas in association with African Film Festival/NY present MIRIAM MAKEBA and BAND

Plus performances of traditional Jali music from Guinea, Gambia, and Mali

Saturday, May 20 – 8:00 pm

City Center, 55th St. between 6th & 7th Aves.
For ticket info, call 212. 581. 1212

Sunday, May 21,

2:30 - 5:00 pm — Ms Makeba will be a panelist of the NYU discussion "Mapping the Trajectories of Women's Storytelling."

7:00 pm — Ms Makeba will also introduce the screening of *Come Back, Africa* at Lincoln Center.

For more information
call 212. 352. 1720
or visit www.africanfilmny.org



AIR AFRIQUE

Meet The Director An asterisk (★) before film titles indicates that the director will be present at some of his/her screenings.

FILM SOCIETY OF LINCOLN CENTER

WALTER READE THEATER

Fri 5.19	*Barbecue-Pejo and The Black Filmmaker, 1:00 Short & Curlies and *Mamlambo, 3:00 *Tourbillons and *Konaté's Gift and *Hot Irons, 5:15 *Mossane, 7:30 *Tea in The Sahel and *Bye-bye, Africa, 9:45
Sat 5.20	*Fragments of Life, 4:30 *A Trip to The Country, 7:00 TGV, 9:15
Sun 5.21	Grandma's Grammar and Touki-Bouki, 4:30 *Come Back, Africa and Mama, 7:00 *Blood Is Not Fresh Water and *Deluge, 9:15
Mon 5.22	Hyenas, 1:00 A Woman's Place and *Asientos, 3:30 *Colis Postal and The Stranger from Africa and *Aristotle's Plot, 6:00
Tue 5.23	*Tea in The Sahel and *Bye-bye, Africa, 1:00 *O Clandestino and Macadam Tribu, 3:15
Wed 5.24	*Mossane, 1:00 *Blood Is Not Fresh Water and *Deluge, 3:15 *A Trip to The Country, 6:00 *Tea in The Sahel and *Bye-bye, Africa, 7:45 Short & Curlies and *Mamlambo, 9:45
Thur 5.25	*Colis Postal and The Stranger from Africa and *Aristotle's Plot, 1:00 *A Trip to The Country, 3:15 TGV, 5:00 *O Clandestino and Macadam Tribu, 7:00 Grandma's Grammar and Touki-Bouki, 9:15
Fri 5.26	*Come Back, Africa, 1:00 Letter from My Village, 3:00 Hyenas, 5:00 Le Franc and The Little Girl Who Sold The Sun, 7:15 *Tourbillons and *Konaté's Gift and *Hot Irons, 9:30
Sat 5.27	Silmande tourbillon, 4:00 *A Trip to The Country, 6:00 *Barbeque-Pejo and The Black Filmmaker, 7:45 Abou's Genie and Faces of Women, 10:00
Sun 5.28	Short & Curlies and Mamlambo, 4:00 Mossane, 6:00 Le Franc and The Little Girl Who Sold The Sun, 8:00 TGV, 9:45
Mon 5.29	Silmande tourbillon, 1:00 Mossane, 3:15 Letter from My Village, 6:00 Fragments of Life, 8:00 Tea in The Sahel and *Bye-bye, Africa, 9:45
Wed 5.31	Fragments of Life, 1:00 Grandma's Grammar and Touki-Bouki, 3:15 Silmande tourbillon, 6:00 A Woman's Place and Asientos, 7:45 *Barbeque-Pejo and The Black Filmmaker, 9:30
Thur 6.1	Abou's Genie and Faces of Women, 1:00 Le Franc and The Little Girl Who Sold The Sun, 3:15

A Trip to the Country

Jean-Marie Teno
Cameroon, 2000, 75 min.

Retracing his youth, Teno documents his own voyage to his village Badjoun. His ironic observations coalesce into a powerful meditation on the very definition of modernity in the African context.
WRT: 5.20★; 5.24★, 5.25★, 5.27★

A Woman's Place

Catherine Stewart
and Pat Van Heerden
South Africa, 1998, 28 min.

In rural South Africa, the town's first woman magistrate fights to guarantee women their right to property and a place in a new society.

Asientos

Francois Woukoache
Cameroon, 1994-1995, 52 min.

A century after the end of African deportation to the New World, a young African traumatized by the violence he still sees, takes refuge in his imagination on Gorée Island.

WRT: 5.22★, 5.31

Barbecue-Pejo

Jean Odoutan
Benin, 1999, 88 min.

A poor Beninise corn farmer buys an old Peugeot 504 hoping to earn more money as a bush-cabdriver. When the car breaks down, he must use his wits to provide for his family.

The Black Filmmaker / Le realisateur negre

Jean Odoutan
Benin, 1999, 7 min.

Jean Odoutan calls 300 actors for the casting of his film *Barbecue-Pejo*. When the filmmaker doesn't show up, tempers begin to flare.

WRT: 5.19★, 5.27★, 5.31★ **BMA:** 6.3★

Blood Is Not Fresh Water

Theo Eshetu
Ethiopia, 1998, 56 min.

A biography of the filmmaker's grandfather subverts Eurocentric concepts of Ethiopia. Moving backwards from the present, the film provides an unexpectedly rich context for modern Ethiopia.

Deluge

Salem Mekuria
Ethiopia, 1996, 61 min.

A visual essay on Ethiopian students and their struggle in the political and social landscape of the 1970s.

WRT: 5.21★, 5.24★ **BMA:** 6.11★

Bye-bye, Africa

Mahamat Saleh Haroun
Chad, 1998, 86 min.

Presented in collaboration with Human Rights Watch International Film Festival

A Chadian filmmaker exiled in France goes home for his mother's funeral and discovers the declining film industry. With his old friend, Garba, a projectionist, he attempts to document the cause.

Tea in The Sahel

Mahamat Saleh Haroun
Chad, 1998, 8 min.

A Muslim father unwittingly intoxicated, confides in his son as he never has before.

WRT: 5.19★, 5.23★, 5.24★, 5.29

Post Parcel / Colis Postal

Joseph Kumbela
Zaire, 1998, 13 min.

Brooklyn Museum of Art BMA

Sat

6.3

*Barbecue-Pejo and The Black Filmmaker, 2:00
Identity Cards, 4:00

Sun

6.4

Le Franc and The Little Girl Who Sold The Sun, 2:00
Silmande tourbillon, 4:00

Sat

6.10

*Hot Irons and Tourbillons and Mamlambo, 2:00
The Battle of The Sacred Tree, 4:00

Sun

6.11

Colobane Express and Konaté's Gift, 2:00
*Blood Is Not Fresh Water and Deluge, 4:00

Brooklyn Museum of Art [BMA]

Tickets: \$6; \$4 for BMA Members, students, and older adults.

Directions: by subway, 2 or 3 trains to Eastern Parkway/Brooklyn Museum; by bus, B71, B69, or B48. For more information: call 718. 638. 5000, ext. 230

Walter Reade Theater [WRT]

is located at 165 West 65th Street on the plaza level at Lincoln Center. Box office open daily at 1:30pm. For group rates, call 212. 875. 5601.

Box office tickets: available two weeks prior to show date, \$9, \$5 Film Society Members, \$4.50 seniors, weekdays before 6pm.

Directions: by subway, 1 or 9 train to 66th Street; by bus, M5, M7, M11, M66, or M106. For more information: call 212. 875. 5600 or visit us at www.filmlinc.com

Institute of African-American Affairs
at New York University

Panel Discussions

Saturday, May 20, 2:30 – 5:00 pm

"Representing Africans in the New Millennium: New Identities, New Styles, New Strategies"
Featuring Andrew Dosunmu, Joseph Kumbela, Alain Gomis, Pras, and Mustafa Shakir. Moderated by June Givanni.

Sunday, May 21, 2:30 – 5:00 pm

"Mapping the Trajectories of African Women's Storytelling"
Featuring Miriam Makeba, Angelique Kidjo, Safi Faye, Salem Mekuria, Palesa Letlaka-Nkosi, and Misani. Moderated by Ayoka Chenzira.

Both panel discussions will be held at NYU, 101A Main Building, Room 703, 100 Washington Square East.

Evening Screenings @NYU

Tuesday, May 23

Letter from My Village, 6:00
TGV and Mamlambo, 8:00

Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Film Center, Room 200, East 8th Street, between University and Greene Streets.

For more information, call 212. 998. 4222

Isidore, an African living in Paris, is worried because his fiancée, his "post parcel," has just arrived from Abidjan. He loves Esperance but doesn't know how to tell her he is HIV-positive.

Aristotle's Plot

Jean-Pierre Békolo
Cameroon, 1996, 72 min.

A group of wannabe gangsters hang out at the Cinema Africa, gorging on the latest action-fests. An earnest local cineaste wants to cleanse Cinema Africa of Hollywood imports, replacing Schwarzenegger with Sembene.

The Stranger from Africa / L'étranger an venu d'Afrique

Joseph Kumbela
Zaire, 1998, 13 min.

In Beijing, Sun, a young Chinese woman lives with her boyfriend Lulu, an African student. Their cultural differences provoke conflict as well as the voyeuristic interest of their neighbors.

WRT: 5.22 ★, 5.25 ★

Colobane Express

Khady Sylla
Senegal, 1999, 52 min.

In Dakar, *car rapides* not only carry people but fruits, vegetables, and livestock from the outskirts to the central markets. This documentary follows the daily trails and tribulations of a *rapide* driver and his apprentice.

Konaté's Gift
BMA: 6.11

Come Back, Africa

Lionel Rogosin
USA/South Africa, 1960, 83 min.

This docu-drama of a Zulu family, starring Miriam Makeba, was shot in Johannesburg then smuggled out of Africa. The finished film, which depicts its protagonists as pawns of a white bureaucracy, was condemned as radical propaganda.

Mama
Véronique Patte Dombé
France, 1997, 20 min. [excerpt]

A conversation between Miriam Makeba and her granddaughter Zenzi Lee.

WRT: 5.21 ★, 5.26 ★

Fragments of Life / Fragments de vies

Francois L. Woukoache
Cameroon, 1999, 87 min.

Three stories develop in the slums of a city in French Equatorial Africa. Amidst the rhythms of nightfall, an unemployed graduate, a girl with a past, and a woman in an encounter with a man, find their lives irrevocably transformed.

WRT: 5.20 ★, 5.29, 5.31

La grammaire de ma grand'mère / Grandma's Grammar

Jean-Pierre Békolo
Cameroon, 1996, 9 min.

In an informal meeting, the filmmaker receives an unforgettable definition of cinema from the late African film pioneer, Djibril Diop Mambety.

Touki-Bouki
WRT: 5.21, 5.25, 5.31

Hot Irons [on the cover]
Andrew Dosunmu

Nigeria/USA, 1999, 50 min.

A unique portrait based in Detroit captures an art form seldom appreciated — African American

hairstyling. This humorous, outrageous, and informative film takes us behind the scenes of the "Hair Wars."

Konaté's Gift / Le truc de Konaté

Fanta Nacro
Burkina Faso, 1998, 33 min

Having seen the ravages of AIDS in the city, Dieneba brings home a condom for her husband, Konaté. Outraged, then impotent, he goes on a voyage to find a cure. During his search Konaté learns the true value of his wife's gift.

Whirlwinds / Tourbillons

Alain Gomis
Senegal, 1999, 12 min.

Ousmane is a young Senegalese student in France who must decide to stay in Paris or return to Senegal. Caught in a whirlwind of contradictory emotions, he wonders how he can free himself of memories and dreams for the future.

WRT: 5.19 ★, 5.26 ★
Tourbillons, Hot Irons, and Mamlambo
BMA: 6.10 ★

Mamlambo

Palesa Letlaka-Nkosi
South Africa, 1997, 26 min.

In this moving story, Malusi, a twelve-year-old street kid from Hillbrow, develops an ill-fated relationship with Tinyie, a young Chinese prostitute who works for an overbearing pimp.

with **Short & Curlies**
WRT: 5.19 ★, 5.24 ★, 5.28
with **Hot Irons** and **Tourbillons**
BMA: 6.10

Mossane

Safi Faye
Senegal, 1996, 105 min.

Mossane, a girl of mythical beauty, lives in a Wolof village. She is promised to Diogyne. When she falls in love with Fara, a student with no prospects, their passion becomes a catalyst for defiance and desperation.

WRT: 5.19 ★, 5.24 ★, 5.28 ★, 5.29

Letter From My Village / Kaddu Beykat

Safi Faye
Senegal, 1975, 95 min.

Faye's first feature is a voice-over letter illustrated with images of her rural hometown. This chronicle of the villagers focuses on the economic crisis created by the colonial system as well as the corruption of the new Black middle-class.

WRT: 5.26, 5.29

Abou's Genie / Le genie d'Abou

Isabelle Boni-Claverie
Ivory Coast, 1998, 10 min.

Abou is a sculptor. Accompanying him is a woman, but is she his muse or an evil spirit? Another woman with an extraordinary figure arrives on the scene and offers to be his model.
Note: this film contains explicit sexuality.

with

Faces of Women

Desire Ecare
Ivory Coast, 1985, 105 min.

This politically and stylistically adventurous two-part film first recreates the textures and rhythms of village life and then wryly compares the economic and sexual strategies adopted by rural and urban African women.

WRT: 5.27, 6.1

O Clandestino

José Laplaine
Zaire/Angola, 1997, 15 min.

When an Angolan stowaway lands in Lisbon, an encounter with a persistent policeman and a glimpse of the slums teach him that Europe may not be the paradise of his dreams.

Macadam Tribu

José Laplaine
Zaire, 1996, 88 min.

On one hand, four friends roam the bars and boxing clubs in an African city. On the other, the mother of two of them drinks to the days when she was a prosperous merchant. So the film weaves through lively "scenes from the quarter."

WRT: 5.23 ★, 5.25

Identity Cards / Pièces d'identités

Mweze Ngangura
Congo/Belgium, 1998, 94 min.

A timeless tale of an old king, his beautiful wayward daughter, a dragon of sorts, and a prince charming. It even has a happy ending. But *Pièces d'identités* also raises troubling issues of identity in the Diaspora.

BMA: 6.3

Silmande tourbillon

Pierre Yameogo
Burkina Faso, 1998, 85 min.

In this dramatic comedy, a Lebanese family exiled in Africa becomes embroiled financially and emotionally in the local scene.

WRT: 5.27, 5.29, 5.21 **BMA:** 6.4

TGV [on the cover]

Moussa Toure
Senegal, 1997, 90 min.

When passengers on the bus from Dakar to Conakry are informed of a civil war, only a few decide to keep going. The journey reveals the passengers' motivations for making the trip and the fear that catalyzes relationships and conflict.

WRT: 5.20, 5.25, 5.28

Battle of The Sacred Tree

Wanjiru Kinyanjui
Kenya, 1994, 80 min.

In a Kikuyu village, life revolves around a sacred tree that the Christian ladies see as a reminder of a pagan past. Mumbi, the daughter of a medicine man, has returned from the city and her abusive husband to foil the missionaries.

BMA: 6.10

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