

AFRICA



10TH ANNIVERSARY

**Career Retrospective:
Abderrahmane Sissako**

Best of FESPACO

Digital Africa

Focus on Zimbabwe

APRIL 5-10 Lincoln Center

Saturday, April 5

1:30 pm *Waiting for Happiness**
4:00 pm *October with Life on Earth**
6:30 pm *Zimbabwe 2002 with My Land, My Life**
9:00 pm *Waiting for Happiness**

Sunday, April 6

1:00 pm *Le Jeu, Sabriya, and Rostov Luanda**
3:30 pm *Heritage Africa*
5:45 pm *Christmas With Granny, An Old Wife's Tale, and Sincerely Yours**
8:30 pm *Waiting for Happiness**

Monday, April 7

1:30 pm *Waiting for Happiness*
3:30 pm *October with Life On Earth**
6:00 pm *Waiting for Happiness**
8:15 pm *Le Jeu, Sabriya, and Rostov Luanda**

Tuesday, April 8

1:30 pm *Waiting for Happiness*
3:30 pm *Heritage Africa*
6:15 pm *Our Father**
8:30 pm *Waiting for Happiness*

Wednesday, April 9

1:30 pm *Waiting for Happiness*
3:45 pm *Zimbabwe 2002 with My Land, My Life*
6:00 pm *Christmas With Granny, An Old Wife's Tale, and Sincerely Yours**
8:30 pm *Waiting for Happiness*

Thursday, April 10

1:00 pm *Our Father*
2:45 pm *Waiting for Happiness*
4:45 pm *Christmas With Granny, An Old Wife's Tale, and Sincerely Yours**
7:30 pm *Zimbabwe 2002 with My Land, My Life**
9:30 pm *Waiting for Happiness*

*Q&A with the director

APRIL 18-19 Brooklyn Museum of Art

Friday, April 18

6:00 pm *Tilai*
8:00 pm *Heritage Africa*

Saturday, April 19

2:00 pm *Buud Yam*
4:00 pm *Identity Cards*

Buud Yam

Gaston Kaboré
Burkina Faso 1997, 97 min.
Mooré with English subtitles

Kaboré's most recent feature develops his celebrated *Wend Kuuni*. Set in the early nineteenth century along the River Niger, Wend Kuuni is now a young man doted on by his stepparent but shunned by the villagers. When he is blamed for the mysterious illness of his adopted sister, he sets out on a desperate search for "lion's herbs." This coming-of-age narrative broaches topics such as tolerance, defiance, and exclusion that challenge his humanity.

Heritage Africa

Kwaw Ansah
Ghana, 1989, 110 min.

Kwesi Atta Bosomefi, who prefers to be called Quincy Arthur Bosomfield, is a perfect product of colonial education. He has embraced English culture and become a district commissioner. He also has abandoned his African heritage. Only a series of humiliating encounters and frightening dreams help him to recover his true identity.

Identity Cards / Pièces d'Identités

Mweze Ngangura
Congo/Belgium, 1998, 94 min.
French with English subtitles

The sequel of the most popular and entertaining African film ever made, *La vie est belle/Life is Rosy*, has a timeless cast — an old king, his beautiful but wayward daughter, a dragon, and the prince charming who rescues them. Nonetheless, it raises troubling issues in the ever-widening Diaspora of the late 20th-century.

Tilai

Idrissa Ouedraogo
Burkina Faso, 1990, 81 min.
Mooré with English subtitles

One of the most celebrated films from Africa, this troubling drama follows a young African man who is engaged to the woman he loves until the man's father decides that he should marry this woman himself. This fateful decision forces the young lovers into an illicit affair. On the run, they find tradition and the law will play a large role in their fate.



Film Society of
Lincoln Center

Walter Reade
Theater

Walter Reade Theater

165 West 65th Street on the plaza level at Lincoln Center. Box office opens daily at 12:30pm. (212) 875-5600. Tickets and showtimes online at www.filmlinc.com. Tickets are \$9.50, \$7 students; \$5 Film Society Members. \$4.50 Seniors, weekdays before 6pm. Take 1 or 9 train to 66th St. M5, M66, or M106 bus.

Brooklyn Museum of Art BMA

200 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn. For tickets and showtimes call (718) 638-5000. Or visit www.brooklynmuseum.org. Tickets are \$6; \$3 BMA members, students and seniors. Take 2 or 3 train to Eastern Parkway/Brooklyn Museum. B71, B69, or B48 bus.

www.africanfilmny.org

AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL NEW YORK

EVENTS

Museum for African Art

36-01 43rd Avenue at 36 Street, Queens.
For more information, call (718) 784-7700 or visit www.africanart.org. Take 7 train to 33rd St. Free and open to the public.



APRIL 11 DIGITAL AFRICA

6:30 pm

Reception with light refreshments

7:00 pm

Film screenings

Afro@digital

Balufu Bakupa-Kanyinda
Congo, 2001, digital video, 50 min.

In this "manifesto" of the African digital mind, the director traveled with a small digital camera across Africa, from Dakar to Robben Island, to see how internet, mobile phone, and digital video technologies are utilized on a daily basis by many Africans, in sometimes novel ways, despite the "digital divide" between North and South.

Africanized

Theo Eshetu
Italy/Ethiopia, digital video, 2002, 35 min.

Although it was made using a small, digital camera, this film confronts the big themes of global communication and the relationship to the "other." While travelling in Africa, Europe, Asia, and America, Eshetu observed a variety of celebratory moments and states of consciousness. When these situations are "Africanized," his treatment demonstrates how instincts prevail over logic, passion conquers reason, and rhythm conveys a story.

8:30 pm

Discussion with guest speaker.

Panel @ NYU King Juan Carlos Center

Free and open to the public. Take the A, C, E, V, or F train to West 4th St. Entrance is at 53 Washington Sq. South.

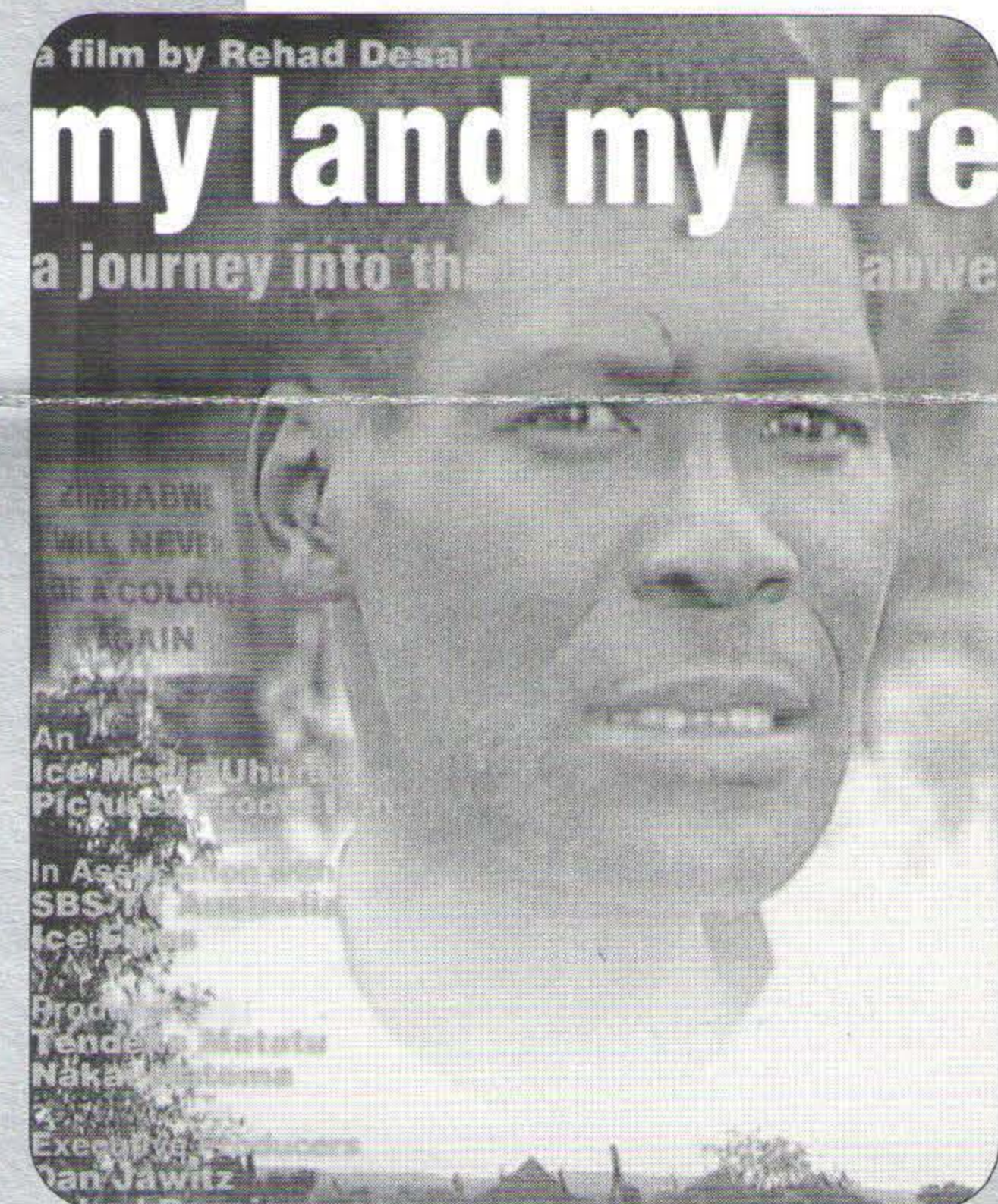
APRIL 13

"Zimbabwe: The Future of the Land"

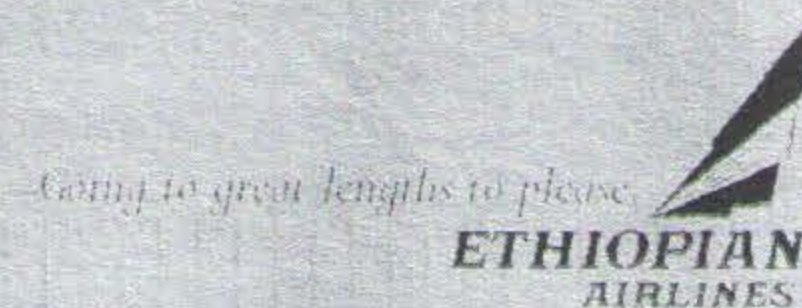
4:00 pm

Screening and Panel Discussion co-sponsored by the Institute for African American Affairs and the Dept. of Cinema Studies. Featuring excerpts from *Zimbabwe 2002* and *My Land My Life*.

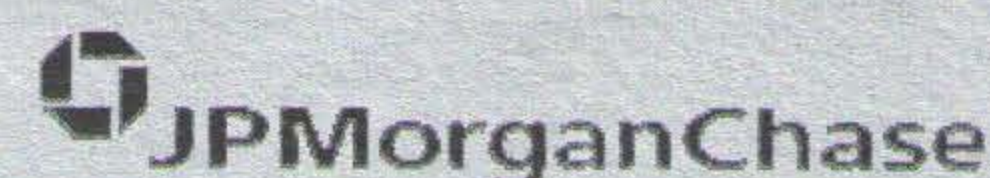
Guests: Farai Sevenzo, Gumisai Mutume, Bob Coen, and Rumbi Bwerinofa.



This program was organized by the African Film Festival (Mahen Bonetti, Prerana Reddy, Alonzo Speight, Ekwa Msangi, Belynda Hardin) and Richard Peña. Thanks are due to Kaine Agary, Tracy Binta Austin, Joan Baffour, Luca Bonetti, Francoise Bouffault, Rumbi Bwerinofa, Michael Clarke, Kevin Duggan, Joy Elliott, Tunde Giwa, J. Michelle Hill, Brigitte Hounghbedji, Glenda Johnson, Kojo Associates, Ira Moseley, Maureen Slattery, M.C. Stephens, Don Webster, and Cheryl Wilson. The programs of AFF are made possible by the generous support of the Ford Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, JPMorgan Chase, New York State Council on the Arts, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, American Express, UNDP, UNESCO, Piper Heidsieck, 57 Main St. Wine Company, The New York Times, Time Warner Cable, and the Mayflower Hotel. Ethiopian Airlines is the official airline of AFF.



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An Old Wife's Tale

Dumisani Phakathi
South Africa, 1999, 26 min.

In this sharp comedy, Hendrik, an Afrikaner, decides to exercise his constitutional rights and enter into a polygamous marriage, like his Xhosa farmhand, Lucas. Hendrik's dreams become reality when a recently widowed friend comes to visit, and much to his surprise, his jaded wife approves of the new arrangement.

Christmas With Granny

Dumisani Phakathi
South Africa, 2000; 26 min
English and Xhosa with English subtitles

Madlozi goes with his grandmother to be baptized in her faith. She is adamant that Madlozi adopt the culture of his forefathers, but he stubbornly resists. Their journey by train conjures scenes of segregated South Africa, juxtaposed to the nation's aspirations. Seen through Madlozi's eyes, his grandmother's traditions seem still too distant from his own future.

Le Jeu

Abderrahmane Sissako
Mali/Mauritania, 1988, 23 min.
Hassania with English subtitles

Ahmed's father must return to the front somewhere in the desert. He has only a day with his wife and son. With haunting, innocent cruelty, the children play games that mirror their world, leading them to discover the harshness of destiny.

Life on Earth / La vie sur terre

Abderrahmane Sissako
Mali/Mauritania, 1998, 61 min.
Bambara and French with English subtitles

On the eve of the year 2000, Sissako returns to Sokolo, his father's village in Mali. The echo of the celebrations for the end of the century arrives via the radio, which, together with the telephone, is the only opening on to the outside world. Sissako cycles around the alleyways, the squares, and into the fields where he comes across a young girl who is also passing through; a subtle playful relationship grows between them. Meanwhile, in the village, life goes on, peacefully and unchanged as a new millennium arrives.

My Land My Life

Rehad Desai
South Africa, 2002, 52 min.

In this personal journey into the heart of the Zimbabwean crisis, we glimpse the complexities of how a range of ordinary people, including farmworkers, war veterans, and white farmers, understand their fast-changing political landscape. The film is a candid but poetic critique of those who claim to represent the interests of the peasants and workers.

October

Abderrahmane Sissako
Mali/Mauritania, 1991, 37 min.
Russian with English subtitles

Idrissa leaves the university zone for a few hours to bid farewell to his Moscovite girlfriend Ira. Paralyzed with fear and hidden in the shadows, this doomed relationship between a black man and a white woman in contemporary Russia acts as a metaphor for the sense of exclusion and misunderstanding at the heart of the outsider experience.

Our Father / Abouna

Mahamat Saleh Haroun
Chad, 2002, 84 min.
Chadian with English subtitles

The beautifully photographed story of 15-year-old Tahir and 8-year-old Amine who find one morning that their father has abandoned them. Their search for him in the city turns into delinquency, when one day at the movies, they think they recognize him on screen. Stealing the reel not only gets them arrested but also sent to a Koranic school far away.

Rostov Luanda

Abderrahmane Sissako
Mali/Mauritania, 1997, 60 min.
Arabic, Russian, Portuguese and French with English subtitles

Sissako left Mauritania in 1980 for Rostov-on-the-Don in Russia to study filmmaking. There he befriended Bari-Banga, an Angolan freedom fighter. Two decades later, Sissako searches for his old friend and the promise of African liberation. At the Biker Café in Luanda, he finds a different kind of hope in the patrons' painful stories.

Sabriya

Abderrahmane Sissako
Mali/Mauritania, 1997, 26 min
Arabic with English subtitles

Said and Youssef have fulfilled their lifetime dream of opening a chess bar where men of the Maghreb drink palm wine, play board games, and compose love poetry to imaginary women. All this changes when Sarah, an uninhibited métisse, lures Youssef into an affair.

Sincerely Yours / Wa 'n Wina

Dumisani Phakathi
South Africa, 2001, 52 min.
English, Sotho, and Zulu with English subtitles

The filmmaker returns to his old neighborhood in Soweto and engages with friends to discuss relationships, sex, and love. As his subjects talk intimately about street realities and the ways they cope with their hardships, the film reveals the gap between life and AIDS campaigns that often talk past the people they try to address.

Waiting for Happiness / Heremakono

Abderrahmane Sissako
Mali/Mauritania, 2002, 95 min.
Hassania with English subtitles

Nouadhibou, is a small coastal Mauritanian city that acts as a transit point to the West. Abdallah returns home on his way to Europe. Having forgotten how to speak his mother tongue, he becomes a mute observer of village life and its minor intrigues. His mother and Khatra, an orphan boy apprenticed to an aging electrician, try to help him adapt, but to little avail. Abdallah, his eyes fixed on the horizon, awaits the arrival of hypothetical happiness.

Zimbabwe 2002

Farai Sevenzo, Zimbabwe, 2002, 30 min.
English and Shona with English subtitles

Sevenzo, a journalist and filmmaker, returns to Zimbabwe after a 15-year absence to see how his family responds to and participates in the 2002 elections. Despite global condemnation of Mugabe, he finds no easy consensus amongst ordinary Zimbabweans.



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