

N°12

AFRICAN **FILM** FESTIVAL NEW YORK



A P R I L 2 0 - 2 8

@ Walter Reade Theater, Lincoln Center

M A Y 0 3 - 0 6

@ E Y E B E A M

M A Y 2 6 - 2 9

@ B A M c i n é m a t e k



The New York African Film Festival

April 20 - 28, May 3 - 6 & 26 - 29, 2005

Panel Discussion

on Saturday, April 23rd 2:30 - 5pm

Lifetime Screening Room

511 Dodge Hall, Columbia University @ 116th Street and Broadway

Free & Open to the Public. Take 1 or 9 trains to 116th Street.

Coloreds in the Diaspora

Panel Discussion co-sponsored by the Film Division of Columbia University School of the Arts.

A special program of films will examine race in South Africa and the experience of mixed race people in that country and elsewhere. A round-table discussion with filmmakers, writers, artists and special guests will examine these issues.

Moderated by Sean Jacobs. Featuring Excerpts from: *Cape Town, A Colour'd City*, *What u mean u Black, Born into Struggle* and *Waiting for Valdez*.

The 12th New York African film Festival was organized by Richard Peña and The African Film Festival, Inc. (Mahen Bonetti, Aba Taylor, Alonzo Speight, Wilson Sherwin, and Muriel Placet-Kouassi). Thanks are due to Kaine Agary, Tracy Binta Austin, Joan Baffour, Patricia Blanchet, Luca Bonetti, Rumbi Bwerinofa, Gabriele Donati, Kevin Duggan, Tunde Giwa, Belynda Hardin, J. Michelle Hill, Sean Jacobs, Ekwa Msangi, Maguette Ndiaye, Prerana Reddy, and Kojo Associates.

The programs of AFF are made possible by the generous support of the Ford Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, JPMorgan Chase, the New York State Council on the Arts, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, American Express, UNDP, Prudential Financial, UNESCO, French Cultural Services, Bloomberg, 57 Main Street Wine Company, Estudio Inc., The New York Times, Time Warner Cable, GoCARD, TRACE and WNYC.

The twelfth edition of the New York African Film Festival will showcase 24 films from 12 countries, including a number whose national cinema are mostly unknown to US audiences, such as Niger, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Angola and Mozambique. The program will open with the **US Premiere** of the award winning film *Forgiveness* a moving testament to the cathartic rebirth of those who survived the cruel tragedies of apartheid.

AFF will take a close look at the construction of "**Race in the Continent's Diaspora**" with a focus on race formation in South Africa. Several of the films in this year's festival address the categorization of Coloreds in the Diaspora while redefining what race relations mean in today's increasingly globalized world.

The wealth and beauty of African filmmaking is drawn from the unique and rich tradition of African storytelling. This year's "**A Peek Behind the Camera**" program will look at the legacy of the Griot culture, and the art of storytelling with and without the tool of the camera, and its subsequent effects on a culture.

AFF is proud to present a mid-career retrospective of **Pierre Yameogo**, one of the most popular African filmmakers from Burkina Faso whose films are known for their direct approach to African reality. "Father of African Cinema," **Ousmane Sembene** will also be present to introduce his critically acclaimed film *Moolaade* as well as the short documentary *Making of Moolaade*.

Our collaboration with Columbia University School of the Arts continues with a special screening of *Keita: The Heritage of the Griot* starring Sotegui Kouyate, at the Walter Reade Theater. Mr. Kouyate will introduce the film and lead a post-screening discussion with the audience.

Panorama Screening Series: "The Hair of the Matter" @ EYEBEAM

Screening Event MAY 3 (7-10pm)

Video Installation MAY 4 - 6 (12-6pm)

In this special collaboration with Eyebeam, select artists manipulate style beyond the purely aesthetic realm in a program of cinematic narratives, selection of multimedia narratives, short documentaries, music, video installation and performance creating a montage of artwork that combs through diverse cultures in the Diaspora. The screenings will be followed by live music and a live demonstration of hair-braiding styles.

Featuring: Video installation by Ingrid Mwangi

Excerpts from the works of Andrew Dosunmu

Rich Medina on the 1s and 2s spinning Afrobeat and global sounds

Live African Hairbraiders with volunteer participants (this could be you!)

www.eybeam.org

540 W. 21st Street bet. 10th & 11th Aves NYC 10011



Community Affairs Department



www.africanfilmny.org

About Braids / Histoire de tresses

Jacqueline Kalimunda
Rwanda, 2003, 23 min.
A magical encounter between a mysterious young woman and a gifted African hair-braider who is asked to recreate a completely unconventional style.

African Middleweights/ Africains Poids Moyens

Daniel Cattier
Zimbabwe/Belgium, 2004, 18 min.
On the eve of Belgian Congo's Independence, the final of the Afro-European Middleweight Championship in Brussels takes on a highly symbolic meaning.

Agogo Eewo

Tunde Kelani
Nigeria, 2002, 100 min.
In Kelani's prize-winning sequel to Sawaroidé, Jogbo's new ruler surprises the corrupt chiefs who install him by leading a charge to return fairness and honesty to the government.

Alhaki

Usa Galadima
Nigeria, 1998, 77 min.
After being thrown out of the house by her husband's second wife, in the end it is the exiled Rabi who must save the day.

Al'leessi...An African Actress

Rahmatou Keita
Niger, 2004, 69 min.
This highly informative documentary paints a remarkable picture of Niger cinema in the 60's and its gifted directors. Selected at the Berlin Film Festival in 2004 (FORUM) and winner of "the Public Award" at the Geneva Film Festival (Black Movie 2004).

Black Sushi

Dean Blumberg
South Africa, 2003, 25 min.
Just released from prison, Zama sees the magic of Japanese culinary art as an escape from his old criminal ways. But entering the Japanese South African world is not easy, especially if your skin is black.

Born Into Struggle

Rehad Desai
South Africa, 200, 74 min.
On this intensely personal journey into his past, Rehad reviews his relationship with his own estranged teenage son, realizing he has followed in his father's footsteps by prioritizing politics over family.

Bronx Barbès

Eliane de Latour
Ivory Coast/France, 2000, 110 min.
Based on an indepth study of street gangs in Abidjan and San Pedro in Ivory Coast, Bronx Barbès depicts a fictional story of young people who dream of independence through drugs and guns.

Cosmic Africa

Craig Foster and Damon Foster
South Africa, 2002, 72 min.
An extraordinary personal odyssey of African astronomer Thebe Medupe, who journeys into this ancient continent's astronomical past, unveiling the deep connection humans have with the cosmos.

The Colonial Misunderstanding / Le Malentendu Colonial

Jean-Marie Teno
Cameroon, 2004, 78 min.
Germany's genocidal war against the Herreró people in Namibia was a precursor to the policies of the Nazi régime. A provocative picture of the relatively short, but horrific colonial history of Germany in Africa.

Devious

John W. Fredericks
South Africa, 2004, 19 min.
In Devious' world young boys carry guns, drugs are easily accessible and politicians fail to act in the community's interest. But Devious remains deeply dedicated to using Hip Hop as a weapon for good.

Dirt for Dinner

Branwen Okpako
Nigeria/Germany, 2000, 75 min.
This documentary tries to find out how the former East Germany's first black cop and posterboy for diversity ends up becoming a criminal serving a ten-year jail sentence.

Forgiveness

Ian Gabriel
South Africa, 2004, 115 min.
Tertius Coetzee, an ex-cop granted amnesty for his crimes by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, seeks out the family of one of his apartheid-era victims to ask them for forgiveness. His decision to visit the family results in heated emotions, unexpected twists, and an ending that will have a lasting impression on you.

For the Night / Pour La Nuit

Isabelle Boni-Claverie
France/Ivory Coast, 2004 20 min.
On the eve of her mother's funeral and on the night before his wedding day, both Muriel and Sam try to find comfort in the face of monumental changes, even if that comfort only lasts "For the Night."

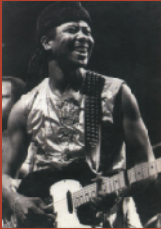
The Hero / O Heroi

Zeze Gamboa
Angola/ Portugal/ France, 2004, 97 min.
Vitorio, a 35-year-old soldier and homeless veteran of the Angolan civil war is robbed of his prosthetic leg and his war medal and embarks on a mission to get a replacement. Gamboa's film is a subtle exploration of the tormented social and economic political situation of a country ravaged by 27 years of war.

Keepers of Memory / Gardiens de la Mémoire

Eric Kabera,
Rwanda, 2004, 54 min.
As extraordinary journey of a people's bravery to live and love again, this gripping documentary observes the 10th Anniversary of the Genocide in Rwanda, and allows the audience to understand the events of 1994 in a new light.

SPECIAL EVENT!



The Great African Ball - April 29 2005
A sister event to AFF - African Hypertext presents the return of New York's Great African Ball, featuring the one and only King Sunny Ade aka "The Minister of Enjoyment" at the Roseland Ballroom.

Please visit www.africanhypertext.com for more information and tickets.

APRIL 1 - 28
Exhibition at Furman Gallery
Walter Reade Theatre
Photographs by Patricia Blanchet & Artwork by Michelle Hill.

Keita, The Heritage of the Griot

Dani Kouyate
Burkina Faso, 1995, 94 min.
Mabo, a contemporary boy from Burkina Faso, and his distant ancestor, Sundjata, are on similar quests to understand their destinies and "know the meaning of their names." In this unique film the West Africa of the 13th Century Sundjata Epic and the West Africa of today are seamlessly interwoven.

Kounandi

Apolline Traore
Burkina Faso, 2003, 49 min.
Orphaned and rejected by her village for being a dwarf, Kounandi falls in love with Karim, a kind-hearted man who aids her. However, he is already married...

Kuxa Kanema

Margarida Cardoso
Mozambique, 2003, 53 min.
Award-winning filmmaker Margarida Cardoso presents us with the collapsing national ideal of "one cinema for the people" and the dreams of people who believed that one day Mozambique would become a different country.

Laafi

Pierre Yameogo
Burkina Faso, 1990, 85 min
A refreshing look at a side of African life rarely found on the screen, Yameogo sets a metropolitan odyssey against the leisure of life in a rural hometown. Laafi was awarded top prize at the 1991 Festival of Pan-African Cinema at Ouagadougou.

Madame Brouette / Mrs. Wheelbarrow

Moussa Sene Absa
Senegal, 2002, 104 min.
Sene Absa employs a storytelling style that mixes an age-old chorus of tribal griots with modern sensationalist newscasters to recount a loopy saga of passion, ambition, chauvinism, corruption, gangsters and betrayal, African-style, in the most colorful case of playa-hating since "Chicago."

The Making of Moolaadé

Samba Gadjigo
Senegal, 2004, 20 min
As somebody says in this short documentary "making a film in Africa is an adventure". The shooting of Moolaade took place in a small remote village in Burkina Faso and brought together a diverse group of people who contributed to the success of Sembene's latest film.

Me and My White Pal / Moi et Mon Blanc

Pierre Yameogo
Burkina Faso/France, 2003, 90 min
When Mamandi, a struggling student, discovers a stash of drugs, his friend convinces him their problems are over. However, evading the dealers is tougher than they expect. This light-hearted satire was Winner of the RFI Audience Award at FESPACO in 2003.

Moolaadé

Ousmane Sembene
Senegal, 2004, 124 min.
A rousing film directed against the still-common African practice of female circumcision. Set in a small village, Collé, a strong-willed woman protects four girls facing ritual "purification." Tension mounts as the ensuing stand-off pits Collé against village traditionalists (both males & females), endangering the prospective marriage of her daughter to the heir-apparent to the tribal throne.

Mother's Day / Kare Kare Zvako

Tsitsi Dangerembga
Zimbabwe, 2004, 30 min
Drought has struck. Father pushes his wife away from the family dinner of termites. When mother challenges him, he digs a pit with a brutal purpose. Based on an old Shona folk tale and rendered as a musical celebrating a diversity of contemporary Zimbabwean music.

Silmande

Pierre Yameogo
Burkina Faso, 1998, 85 min
In this modern dramatic comedy, a Lebanese family who took refuge in Africa has become prosperous. The battles for influence amongst the Europeans, Lebanese, and Africans, the shady deals required to stay afloat, the hidden traffic, the love affairs and dreams of going back home punctuate this complex city life.

Soldiers of the Rock

Norman Maake
South Africa, 2003, 94 min.
To experience the world in which his father died, Vuyo decides to take a break from business studies and joins a jaded, well-muscled crew of deep level miners.

Story of a Beautiful Country

Khalo Matabane
South Africa / Canada, 2004, 73 min
The journey of Khalo Matabane, a young black filmmaker in search of his "promised land," serves as an open forum for ordinary people to talk about their feelings and impressions of the new South Africa.

A South African Love Story – Walter and Albertina Sisulu

Toni Strasburg
South Africa, 2004, 63 min
A touching exploration of one of South Africa's most celebrated couples, showing the deep personal cost that brought South Africa to its current triumphant harmony.

Waiting for Valdez

Dumisani Phakathi
South Africa, 2002, 26 min
Despite hardships, it is the love of Sharky's grandmother which helps him through a life devoid of parental guidance and the tumultuous political period of the 1970s, when apartheid forcibly removed blacks and coloureds to different parts of Johannesburg.

Wendemi

Pierre Yameogo
Burkina Faso, 1992, 93 min.
Twenty years ago Wendemi was abandoned by his unwed mother. Now grown up, Wendemi has fallen in love and wants to get married, so he decides to travel to the capital where he hopes to find his mother, who alone can tell him the truth about his birth.

The Wound / La Blessure

"Co-presented with Human Rights Watch International Film Festival"
Nicolas Klotz
Congo/France, 2004, 160 min
A poetic, poignant and beautifully composed work, The Wound is a convincing portrait of the injustices black immigrants face as they seek to find homes in the West.

Film Society of Lincoln Center | Walter Reade Theater

(*) Indicates Q&A session involved

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|------------|------|---|
| | 2:00 | Kuxa Kanema with African Middleweights |
| Wed | 3:30 | Me and My White Pal |
| | 6:30 | * Forgiveness |
| 4.20 | 9:15 | A South African Love Story – Walter and Albertina Sisulu with Black Sushi |

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|-------------|------|--|
| THUR | 1:30 | Laafi |
| | 3:45 | * Al'leessi ... An African Actress with Waiting for Valdez |
| 4.21 | 6:00 | * Moolaade with The Making of Moolaade |
| | 9:00 | * Silmande |

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| FRI | 4:00 | * Wendemi |
| 4.22 | 6:15 | Kuxa Kanema with African Middleweights |
| | 8:00 | * The Colonial Misunderstanding |
| | 10:00 | The Hero |

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|------------|------|--|
| SAT | 1:45 | * Al'leessi ... an African Actress with Waiting for Valdez |
| 4.23 | 4:00 | * Me and My White Pal |
| | 6:15 | * Moolaade with The Making of Moolaade |
| | 9:15 | * Forgiveness |

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|------------|-------|---|
| SUN | 1:00 | A South African Love Story – Walter and Albertina Sisulu with Black Sushi |
| 4.24 | 3:00 | Keepers of Memory with Mothers Day/ Kare Kare Zvako |
| | 5:00 | * The Wound |
| | 8:15 | * The Colonial Misunderstanding |
| | 10:00 | Alhaki |

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|------------|------|---|
| MON | 1:00 | The Hero |
| 4.25 | 3:00 | Born Into Struggle with Devious |
| | 5:00 | * Story of a Beautiful Country |
| | 7:00 | * Keita, The Heritage of the Griot |
| | 9:15 | Wendemi |

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| TUES | 1:00 | * The Wound |
| 4.26 | 4:15 | Silmande |

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|------------|------|---|
| WED | 1:00 | Keepers of Memory with Mothers Day/ Kare Kare Zvako |
| 4.27 | 2:45 | Alhaki |
| | 5:00 | Born Into Struggle with Devious |
| | 7:00 | Story of a Beautiful Country |
| | 9:00 | Bronx Barbès |

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|-------------|------|--------------------------------------|
| THUR | 1:00 | Silmande |
| 4.28 | 2:45 | The Colonial Misunderstanding |
| | 4:40 | Bronx Barbès |

EYEBEAM

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| TUES | 7:00 | Panorama Screening Series: "The Hair of The Matter" |
| 5.3 | | |

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| WED-FRI | 12:00-6:00 | Video Installation: Ingrid Mwangi |
| 5.4-5.6 | | |

BAMcinématek

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| THUR | 5.26 | Kounandi with About Braids and For the Night , 6:50 pm, 9:15 pm |
| FRI | 5.27 | Dirt for Dinner , 6:50 pm, 9:15 pm |
| SAT | 5.28 | Cosmic Africa , 2:00 pm, 4:30 pm Madame Brouette , 6:50 pm, 9:15 pm |
| SUN | 5.29 | Agogo Eewo , 2:00 pm, 6:50 pm Soldiers of the Rock , 4:30 pm, 9:15 pm |

Walter Reade Theater, 165 West 65th St. on the plaza level at Lincoln Center. Visit www.filmlinc.com or call 212. 496. 3809 for tickets. **Box office:** opendaily from 12:30pm. Call 212. 875. 5600 for information. Admission \$10, \$7students, \$6 FSLC members, \$5 for seniors (weekday matinees), \$5 children (ages 6-12) accompanied by adult. **Directions:**Take 1 or 9 train to 66th Street. M5, M66, or M106 bus.

EYEBEAM, 540 W. 21st Street - 212. 937. 6580. Admission \$5 suggested donation. Info at www.eyebearm.org.

BAMcinématek @ BAM Rose Cinemas, 30 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn. Visit www.BAM.org or call 718. 636. 4100 for more information. Tickets also available through www.movietickets.com or 718. 777. FILM. General Admission \$10, Cinema Club Members \$6, Seniors, Children under 12, Students with valid ID (Mon-Thu, except holidays) \$7. **Directions:** C to Lafayette; N,R,D,M to Pacific; 2,3,4,5 to Nevins; or G to Fulton.