

14th AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL NEW YORK

Presented by African Film Festival, Inc. and Film Society of Lincoln Center



2007
WALTER READER THEATER
APRIL 4 - 12
THE BRONX MUSEUM OF THE ARTS
APRIL 20 - 21
BAMcinémathèque
MAY 25 - 28



THE NIGHT OF TRUTH / LA NUIT DE LA VÉRITÉ
Fanta Régina Nacro BURKINA FASO

ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE

In addition to a unique selection of films, we are pleased to present rare and never-before seen archival footage, ranging from colonial propaganda films to newsreels capturing the very moment of independence, military coups and historic moments serving to remind us of the immeasurable importance of self-representation.

50 YEARS OF AFRICAN INDEPENDENCE

While the first fifty years of African Independence have undoubtedly been fraught with violence and political transgression, the realities we encounter in films throughout the Festival – tightly knit communities of resourceful immigrants, extended families of powerful, committed women, and new generations of unlikely activists – offer hopeful glimpses of what lies ahead for Africa as she enters her second half century of independence.

MID-CAREER RETROSPECTIVE

Throughout the Festival, films will be presented as an offering of a remarkable contrast to the ways in which we are able to now view African life. In addition, these films will serve as an important reminder of the power of the gaze of the camera lens. Furthermore, a Mid-Career retrospective celebrating Burkinabè director Fanta Regina Nacro and a groundbreaking program of shorts, "Women of Zimbabwe" and "Women in the Diaspora" will be presented.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

On Monday, April 9th, AFF will present its annual roundtable discussion at the Furman Gallery, Lincoln Center exploring in further detail the guiding themes of the 2007 Festival, offering audiences and filmmakers alike the opportunity for further rumination on the complex and multi-faceted role of cinema in post-colonial, national and pan-African liberation.

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CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE AND CINEMA

Expanding upon the 2007 Festival themes, this discussion with African filmmakers, scholars and artists will look closely at selected films that reveal the ways in which cinema has been used as a political and social tool to undo the various legacies of colonization. Moving beyond the relationship between cinema and decolonization, guest panelists will also discuss the role of cinema in addressing contemporary issues facing the African Diaspora today.

Films in this year's Festival once again dismantle long-held notions about African society and cinema — expanding and challenging the audience's perception of concepts such as tradition and modernity, femininity, even what constitutes a tragedy or comedy, documentary or fictional feature is called into question upon entering the highly complex realm of African cinema. In the showcased films presented this year, heart wrenching tragedies are often imbued with a loving and even comedic touch, transforming harrowing stories and images into touchstones of resilience and fortitude (with films such as *Clouds Over Conakry*, *Teranga Blues*, *Paris Selon Moussa*, *Movement (R)* *Evolution Africa*); historically situated films are sprinkled with elements of magical realism (*Max and Mona*); and our 11 female-directed films ensure African cinema is no longer mistaken as under male dominion. Other highlights of this year's festival include an exploration of African cinematic storytelling and the often permeable boundaries between documentary and narrative features. Films such as *Rustov-Luanda*, *Colonial Misunderstanding* and *Love in a Time of War* demonstrate the myriad ways African filmmakers have explored some of Africa's complex historical issues outside the confines of traditional documentary cinema.

The Festival continues at The Bronx Museum of the Arts on April 20th and 21st and at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's BAMCinematek, May 25 through May 28, 2007

The 14th New York African Film Festival was organized by Richard Peña of the Film Society of Lincoln Center and the African Film Festival, Inc. (Mahen Bonetti, Aba Taylor, Muriel Placet-Kouassi, Alonzo Speight, and Wilson Sherwin). With special thanks to the AFF Board of Directors, Joan Baffour, Luca Bonetti, Françoise Bouffault, Rumbi Bwerinofa, Gabriel Donati, Kevin Duggan, Jacki Fischer, Belynda Hardin, Alexander Markov, Sarah Mboodji, Andrew Milne, Philippa Naughten, Prerana Reddy, Keith Shiri, Antoine Tempe, Carol Thompson, Stephan Zaubitzer, National Council of Ghanaian Associations, Terrie Williams Agency, Kojo Associates and AFF's volunteer team.

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OUSMANE Dyana Gaye SENEGAL/FRANCE

www.africanfilmny.org

THE 11TH HOUR

Zelalem W/Mariam ETHIOPIA 2006 90m

A determined father is on a quest to save his eight year old daughter who's suffering from a serious heart condition. This moving and dramatic film is a mirror image of the ups and downs as well as extreme sacrifices that are paid to save a helpless young child.

AFRICAN RHYTHMUS

Archival Footage SENEGAL/USSR 1966 50m

At the First World Festival of African Art, delegates from 37 counties of the world met. The festival, taking place in the open air rather than in theater halls, created a merry and friendly atmosphere that laid the foundation for a new way for people to converge.

AFRICA UNITE

Stephanie Black ETHIOPIA/USA 2007 110m

Featuring the "Africa Unite" concert performed for over 350,000 people in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to celebrate what would have been Bob Marley's 60th birthday. Starring Rita Marley, Danny Glover, Angélique Kidjo, Lauryn Hill and Marley's children Ziggy, Cedella, Sharon, Stephen, Kymani, Julian and Damian *"SPECIAL PREVIEW SCREENING OF A WORK IN PROGRESS" WITH SURPRISE GUESTS.*

BLING: A PLANET ROCK

Raquel Cepeda SIERRA LEONE/USA 2007 90m

This satirical, hard-hitting feature documentary takes a look at how "blinging" in the flashy world of commercial hip-hop played a role in the 10-year civil war in Sierra Leone. *SPECIAL SCREENING*

BUL DÉCONNÉ

Massaër Dieng and Marc Picavez

SENEGAL/FRANCE 2005 75m

Bul Déconné explores some of the issues of contemporary Africa, by following the trajectory of Sogui, a young Senegalese man, whose vision of the world comes into direct conflict with "the system"...

A CHILD'S LOVE STORY/UN AMOUR D'ENFANT

Ben Diogaye Beye SENEGAL 2004 96m

A touching investigation of innocent love between children in Senegal set against the background of a traditional class system.

CLOUDS OVER CONAKRY US PREMIERE

Cheick Fantamady Camara GUINEA 2007 115m

Son of the inflexible imam Karamo, BB is chosen to be his father's worthy successor. But he refuses to accept his destiny, preferring to fight to work independently and live life to the fullest.

PRECEDED BY

AFRICANS DEMAND LIBERATION

Archival Newsreel GHANA/GUINEA 1958 2m

THE COLONIAL MISUNDERSTANDING

Jean-Marie Teno CAMEROON 2004 78m

A bold exploration of Germany's "African past" — specifically, its attempts to colonize parts of Africa through religion and trade and the policies which served as a precursor to Nazi actions in Europe.

PRECEDED BY

FOCUS ON AFRICA

Archival Newsreel

CENTRAL AFRICAN NATIONS/CAMEROON 1960 3m

DAUGHTER OF KELTOUM

Mehdi Charef ALGERIA 2001 106m

Rallia, a young woman, raised in Switzerland, travels to an isolated and barren Berber settlement located in the rocky Atlas Mountains of Algeria to discover her relationship to her extended family and her traditional Berber culture.

DEATH OF TWO SONS

Micah Schaffer USA/GUINEA 2006 64m

Stunningly shot, this documentary examines the political, personal, and spiritual implications of the 1999 shooting death of Amadou Diallo and the death less than a year later of Jesse Thyne, an American Peace Corps volunteer, who lived and worked with Diallo's family in his home village in Guinea.

DON'T F*** WITH ME I HAVE

51 BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Dumisani Phakathi SOUTH AFRICA 2004 86m

Dumisani's epic journey to find his 51 siblings and come to terms with the loss of his father as a child is as much the story of South Africa in search of its origins.

ETHIOPIA – THEN AND NOW: SHORTS PROGRAM

ETHIOPIAN CAMPAIGN

Archival Newsreel ABYSSINIA (ETHIOPIA) 1941 21m

FOLLOWED BY

THE FATHER

Ermias Woldeamlak ETHIOPIA 2000 30m

During the Derg period in Ethiopia, the artist Alazar provides safety for his politically involved friend Jonas, but not without paying a heavy price.

MENGED

Daniel Taye Workou ETHIOPIA 2006 21m

Adapted from a traditional folk tale, Menged is a comedy that touches playfully on various issues facing Ethiopia, including competing religions, modernity, and "free market" capitalism.

GHANA'S POLITICAL EXPERIMENTS: SHORTS PROGRAM

AFRICAN FOOTSTEPS US PREMIERE

John Akomfrah GHANA/UK 1995 25m

Popular personalities undertake journeys in an African travelogue series; comedian David Baddiel goes on a spoof safari to the Etosha National Park in Namibia.

FOLLOWED BY

CPP WELCOME FREED LEADER

Archival Newsreel GOLD COAST (GHANA) 1951 46s

GHANA CELEBRATES

Archival Newsreel GHANA 1957 1m

TESTAMENT

John Akomfrah GHANA/UK 1988 80m

As seen through the lens of Akomfrah, we witness cultural and spiritual exile, dispossession and recovering personal memory of Ghanaians' political and personal lives, post independence.

HERITAGE AFRICA

Kwah Ansah GHANA 1989 111m

Kwesi Atta Bosomefi, the perfect civil servant, rises through the educational and religious regimen of British colonialism, only to humbly rediscover his African heritage.

HOPE IN THE TIME OF CRISIS: SHORTS PROGRAM

CO-PRESENTED WITH HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

THE FORGOTTEN MAN US PREMIERE

Oswalde Lewat-Hallade CAMEROON 2004 58m

Sentenced to prison for three years for a minor offense, Léppé was optimistic he would be released early for good behavior. 33 years later, Léppé is still rotting away in prison, his prestigious family having long ago given up trying to secure his release.

FOLLOWED BY

UK: LONDON: MR LOUW'S VIEWS ON

UN CONGO INTERVENTION

Archival Newsreel

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO 1960 1m

THE CONGO – WHAT NOW?

Archival Newsreel

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO 1961 1m

A LOVE DURING THE WAR US PREMIERE

Oswalde Lewat-Hallade

CONGO/CAMEROON 2005 63m

This moving documentary explores the consequences of rape as a weapon of war from the perspective of women in Africa, and one particularly resilient family.

KONGI'S HARVEST

Ossie Davis, Nigeria/USA 1970 85m

After deposing the king, the dictator of a fictional African country endeavors to bring his people into the 20th century in this political satire based on a play by Nobel Prize-winner Wole Soyinka, and directed by the late Ossie Davis.

FOLLOWED BY

INTERVIEW WITH OSSIE DAVIS ON KONGI'S HARVEST

City Cinematheque USA 2002 30m

Ossie Davis and Jerry Carlson of City

Cinematheque discuss Kongi's Harvest.

LOVE BREWED IN AN AFRICAN POT

Kwaw Ansah Ghana 1980 125m

An interpretation of Romeo and Juliet set in colonial Ghana, where a young woman with a posh Cape Coast education falls in love with a semi-literate auto mechanic and outrages her father, who expects her to marry the man of his choice.

MAX AND MONA NY PREMIERE

Teddy Matterna South Africa 2004 99m

A rollicking mix of farce and folly about a young boy's coming of age and his wild adventure with a most unlikely partner-in-crime in this humorous and delightful contemporary tale.

PRECEDED BY

AFRICANS GET AUTHORITY

Archival Newsreel South Africa 1959 1m

MID-CAREER RETROSPLECTIVE:

FANTA REGINA NACRO

UN CERTAIN MATIN

Fanta Regina Nacro BURKINA FASO 1991 13m

Behind the appearance of a tragic situation lies a hidden story full of life and subtleties. This first film by a Burkinabe woman, has won numerous awards world-wide.

FOLLOWED BY

PUKNINI

Fanta Regina Nacro BURKINA FASO 1995 30m

A beautiful noble Senegalese woman arrives one day in Ouagadougou carrying with her remarkable seductive powers and creates chaos throughout the capital.

KONATE'S GIFT

Fanta Regina Nacro BURKINA FASO 1998 27m

Coming home from the city, Djénéba brings back a pack of condoms. Her extremely offended husband searches for help with the local 'boubou' (witch doctor) who shows him a magic tree full of condoms.

BINTOU

Fanta Regina Nacro

BURKINA FASO/USA/ FRANCE 2000 26m

Persistent Bintou starts her own business to earn the extra money necessary to send her daughter to school, but her husband worries Bintou's newfound financial freedom will lead her to adultery and tries to sabotage her efforts. Joyfully satirical!

MOVEMENT (R)EVOLUTION AFRICA

CO-PRESENTED WITH

MARGARET MEAD FILM & VIDEO FESTIVAL

Joan Frosch and Alla Kovgan

VARIOUS COUNTRIES/USA 2007 65m

An astonishing exposition of nine African choreographers from Senegal to South Africa who challenge stale stereotypes of "traditional Africa" and unveil soul-shaking responses to the beauty and tragedy of 21st century Africa!

MY LOST HOME / MA MAISON PERDUE

Kamal Al-Mahouti MOROCCO/FRANCE 2001 19m

The filmmaker recounts his childhood memories in the wake of the destruction of the housing project in which he grew up, exploring the complexly intertwined histories of France and Morocco through the eyes of Moroccan immigrants living in France.

THE NARROW PATH US PREMIERE

Tunde Kelani NIGERIA 2005 90m

Glowing with the proud colors of Yoruba land and representing the best talents of Nigerian film production, Kelani dedicates his latest film to Women of Africa.

PRECEDED BY

QUEEN IN SIERRA LEONE

Archival Newsreel SIERRA LEONE 1961 3m

THE NIGHT OF TRUTH / LA NUIT DE LA VÉRITÉ

Fanta Régina Nacro BURKINA FASO 2004 100m

Set in a fictional African nation, the Night of Truth is a raw fable that powerfully represents the tragedy of countless civil conflicts.

PRECEDED BY

SUMMIT MEETING

Archival Newsreel UGANDA 1967 2m

OUSMANE

Dyana Gaye SENEGAL/FRANCE 2006 15m

Dakar, Senegal. Ousmane, a 7-year-old child who begs in the streets, decides to write a letter to Santa Claus...

PARIS SELON MOUSSA US PREMIERE

Cheik Doukouré GUINEA/FRANCE 2003 96m

On his journey to Paris, Moussa encounters a plethora of remarkable characters and typical immigrant difficulties: crime, police raids, working random odd jobs. However, he also experiences the solidarity and strength of their community.

ROSTOV-LUANDA

Abderrahmane Sissako MALI/FRANCE 1997 58m

A travelogue in search of the past that discovers the present instead: Abderrahmane Sissako records his journey across war-torn Angola to find an old friend but really to recapture his own hopes for Africa.

TERANGA BLUES US PREMIERE

Moussa Sene Absa SENEGAL 2007 95m

This "Dakar urban rap musical" follows the struggle of a young Senegalese musician who is deported from France and sent back to Senegal with only 20 euros in his pocket. Music by the talented Senegalese rappers of Daara J.

TOI, WAGUIH

Namir Abdel-Wasser EGYPT/FRANCE 2005 28m

Toi, Waguih, is the story of a relationship between a screenwriter son and his father, told through the silence of the father's feelings about his political life in the twilight of Egypt's independence.

VIVA, FRELIMO

Archival Footage USSR 1981 30m

Samora Marcel, president of the National Republic of Mozambique, visited the USSR in 1981. This well-made film represents a kind of "road movie" on the USSR, following Marcel and Breshnev.

WHOLE: A TRINITY OF BEING

Shelley Barry SOUTH AFRICA 2004 16m

Three experimental shorts which deal with sexuality, visibility, and voice from the perspective of a wheelchair user who turns the camera on herself to celebrate love and survival.

WOMEN IN THE DIASPORA: SHORTS PROGRAM

REDEFINITION NY PREMIERE

Leslie To BURKINA FASO/USA 2006 4m

A young first-generation African girl's world is disrupted by a unique exchange between herself, her friends and an old African immigrant.

FOLLOWED BY

LYTTLETON IN KENYA

Archival Newsreel KENYA 1952 1m

KENYA GAINS INDEPENDENCE

Archival Newsreel KENYA 1963 2m

VIA NEW YORK NY PREMIERE

Kadengo Murungi KENYA/USA 1995 10m

Drawing from memory and narrative, Via New York explores the politicization of African students in New York and the participation of South African lesbians and gays in the anti-apartheid movement

WOMEN OF ZIMBABWE: SHORTS PROGRAM

GOVERNOR STANDS FIRM

Archival Newsreel Kenya 1965 3m

FOLLOWED BY

SPELL MY NAME / PERETERA MANETA US PREMIERE

Tawanda Gunda Mupengo ZIMBABWE 2005 24m

A journey of a sophisticated young schoolteacher whose city upbringing contrasts greatly with her new found environment. When it is up to her to reveal the shocking discovery she has made about one of her students, will local folks believe this arrogant city woman?

AT THE WATER / PAMVURA US PREMIERE

Women Filmmakers of the Zimbabwe Production

Skills Workshop ZIMBABWE 2005 14m

Strong beliefs and unknown forces drives Netsai, a devout young Christian woman, who lost her child while doing laundry at the river, to seek consultation with a spirit medium, who demands she make a sacrifice that shakes her Christian faith.

GROWING STRONGER US PREMIERE

Tsitsi Dangaremba ZIMBABWE 2005 30m

Two very different women and AIDS activists provide remarkable examples of how living with the AIDS virus has changed over recent years.

MOTHER'S DAY / KARE KARE ZVAKO

Tsitsi Dangaremba ZIMBABWE 2004 30m

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 folktale and rendered as a musical featuring a diversity of contemporary Zimbabwean music.

YOUNG REBELS: SHORTS PROGRAM

TANGANYIKA INDEPENDENCE

Archival Newsreel TANGANYIKA (TANZANIA) 1961 3m

FOLLOWED BY

THE TRAIN

Brahim Fritah MOROCCO/FRANCE 2005 18m

During a journey two men meet, talk and exchange ideas in a surreal atmosphere. Each of them will then continue on his way, but not without leaving something with the other.

MAMA PUT US PREMIERE

Seke Somolu NIGERIA 2006 30m

When a gang of three armed robbers arrive one night, a struggling mother soon finds herself feeding and sheltering criminals, in return for money and protection. But this fiery character uses her smarts and talents in the kitchen to extricate herself and her family.

MEOKGO & THE STICK FIGHTER US PREMIERE

Teboho Malatshi SOUTH AFRICA/LESOTHO 2006 19m

A beautiful and mysterious story of magical realism about a reclusive stickfighter who lives a solitary life high up in the Maluti Mountains of Lesotho.

TERANGA BLUES Moussa Sene Absa SENEGAL



WALTER READE THEATER

WED 4/04	1:00 ROSTOV-LUANDA WITH VIVA, FRELIMO
	2:50 THE COLONIAL MISUNDERSTANDING w/ FOCUS ON AFRICA
	4:30 WOMEN IN THE DIASPORA: SHORTS PROGRAM*
	6:30 KONGI'S HARVEST w/ INTERVIEW WITH OSSIE DAVIS*
	9:00 GHANA'S POLITICAL EXPERIMENTS: SHORTS PROGRAM*

THU 4/05	1:00 WOMEN OF ZIMBABWE: SHORTS PROGRAM
	3:00 KONGI'S HARVEST w/ INTERVIEW WITH OSSIE DAVIS*
	5:15 YOUNG REBELS: SHORTS PROGRAM
	7:15 CLOUDS OVER CONAKRY w/ AFRICANS DEMAND LIBERATION*
	10:00 THE NARROW PATH w/ QUEEN IN SIERRA LEONE*

FRI 4/06	1:00 TERANGA BLUES
	3:00 DEATH OF TWO SONS w/ OUSMANE*
	5:30 MID-CAREER RETROSPLECTIVE: FANTA REGINA NACRO*
	7:45 THE NIGHT OF TRUTH w/ SUMMIT MEETING*
	10:00 PARIS SELON MOUSSA*

SAT 4/07	1:00 RUSTOV LUANDA w/ VIVA, FRELIMO*
	2:50 WOMEN OF ZIMBABWE: SHORTS PROGRAM*
	5:30 MAX AND MONA w/ AFRICANS GET AUTHORITY*
	7:45 AFRICA UNITE*
	10:30 ETHIOPIA