# 2AFRICAN EFESTIVAL NEW YORK

film society lincoln center

Love the One You Love

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



MAY 1

The Jerome L. Greene Performance Space

**MAY 6 - 12** 

Film Society of Lincoln Center

**MAY 14 - 17** 

**Maysles Cinema Institute** 

**MAY 22 - 25** 

BAMcinématek, Bam Rose Cinemas





THE FOLLOWING EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. NO RSVPS REQUIRED FOR THE FIRST AND SECOND EVENTS. FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED SEATING UNTIL VENUE REACHES CAPACITY.

# LIVE PERFORMANCE AND PANEL DISCUSSION - FRIDAY, MAY 1 ACTIVISM AND ART: PERSONAL JOURNEYS IN THE DIASPORA

The Jerome L. Greene Performance Space @ 7:00pm

The 22<sup>nd</sup> New York African Film Festival opens with a special preview program honoring the "International Decade of People of African Descent." Join us as we celebrate an exchange between the crème de la crème of interdisciplinary artists from the Diaspora who are lending their voices and insights to the evening. Guests include the socially conscious wordsmith Blitz the Ambassador; the illustrious duo Les Nubians, who are celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary; Andrew Dosunmu, representing an exciting generation of diasporan and transnational filmmakers; and Nana Ekua Brew-Hammond, author of the innovative novel *Powder Necklace*. This event is moderated by international journalist Femi Oke.

### DIGITAL EXHIBIT: THE PROPHECY - WEDNESDAY MAY 6 - SUNDAY MAY 17

Film Society's Elinor Bunin Munroe Film Center Amphitheater

The Prophecy, by Fabrice Monteiro, is a series of hypnotic photographs that represent the intersection of art, fashion, mythology, and nature. Based in Dakar, this Beninese-Belgian photographer has collaborated with a collective of young artists to depict some of Senegal's worst-hit areas in order to raise awareness of environmental concerns. The Prophecy digital exhibit will highlight stills from the series and show how Monteiro and his team created each image. Check the schedule at filmlinc.com.

### THE RESTLESS PITCH - SATURDAY, MAY 9 - RSVP REQUIRED

Stories and creative talent are the foundation of cinema; without them, there would be no such thing as "the film business." The Restless Pitch is an open, dynamic, and fun pitching session that focuses on the creative. In front of a live audience, filmmakers are randomly invited to present their best creative ideas for film or TV to a panel of industry experts. For FAQ, Do's & Don'ts, and more about Restless Talent Management, go to www.restlesstalent.com/#Pitch. Presented by Restless Talent Management.

# NYCULTURE OSIWA WNYC METROWINE FOUNDA

# MAY 1 • MAY 6 - 12 • MAY 14 - 17 • MAY 22 - 25

# THE 22<sup>nd</sup> NEW YORK AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

Loyal to its mission, the New York African Film Festival returns with the most thrilling and multifaceted annual selection of African films from the continent and the Diaspora to NYC audiences. Commemorating the "International Decade of People of African Descent," this year's lineup of 50 titles from 25 countries represents a unique opportunity to reflect on the ways in which African men and women have broken through borders with films and narratives that form part of the global imagination.

Displacement, emigration, and personal journeys rooted in economic and sociopolitical upheavals have shaped African cinema since its inception, and 50 years later, in a world defined by economic crisis, climate change, and burgeoning regional conflicts, these issues are more salient than ever.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of the New York African Film Festival offers a selection of narrative features and documentaries that places special emphasis on the short format and digital technology, both of which have become conduits for new stories, sounds, and images by freeing their creators from budgetary and technical limitations.

Along with these contemporary offerings, the festival will feature Senegalese pioneer Safi Faye's *Mossane*, an international classic and milestone for African women filmmakers. Thanks to her achievements and those of others, the preeminence of female voices in the international scene can be seen in the broad range of women's works this year.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> New York African Film Festival was organized by Dennis Lim, Director of Programming and Isa Cucinotta, Programmer, Film Society of Lincoln Center, and Mahen Bonetti, Founder and Executive Director, African Film Festival, Inc. with Alimah Boyd, Francoise Bouffault, Beatriz Leal Riesco, Hellura Lyle, and Steffan Horowitz. Thanks are due to the AFF Board of Directors and Jane Aiello, Joan Baffour, Luca Bonetti, Rumbi Bwerinofa, Andreas Damm, Aminata Diop, Gabriele Donati, Jacki Fischer, Belynda Hardin, Ulli Maier, Karen McMullen, Ekwa Msangi, Dara Ojugbele, Muriel Placet-Kouassi, Prerana Reddy, Mohammed Sillah, Alonzo Speight, Toccarra Thomas, Malika Lee Whitney, Cheryl Duncan & Company Inc. Public Relations, Kojo Associates, and AFF's volunteer team.

The programs of AFF are made possible by the generous support of the National Endowment for the Arts, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Lambent Foundation, New York State Council on the Arts, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, Open Society Institute for West Africa, Bradley Family Foundation, Vilcek Foundation, International Organization of La Francophonie, Domenico Paulon Foundation, WNYC, New York Community Trust, NYC & Company, New York Times Community Affairs Department, The Africa Channel, French Cultural Services, Manhattan Portage Bags, City Bakery, Metrowine, South African Consulate General, Hudson Hotel, Divine Chocolate, and Paso Almonds.

The Film Society receives generous, year-round support from Royal Bank of Canada, American Airlines, *The New York Times*, Stella Artois, the National Endowment for the Arts, and New York State Council on the Arts. For more information, visit filmlinc.com.

FILM SOCIETY OF LINCOLN CENTER/NYAFF THREE-FILM PASS:
GENERAL PUBLIC - \$39, STUDENTS/SENIORS - \$27, FILM SOCIETY MEMBERS - \$24

THE FILM SOCIETY OF LINCOLN CENTER RECEIVES GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM:

PREMIUM MEDIA HOSPITALITY













AFRIPEDIA Series (U.S. PREMIERE)
Teddy Goitom, Benjamin Taft & Senay Berhe,

Afripedia is a five-part short documentary series produced by the Swedish collective Stocktown. Shot in Kenya, Ghana, Angola, Senegal, and South Africa, each of the five episodes focus on a different group of artists and creators in their respective country.

The Art of Ama Ata Aidoo explores the artistic contribution of one of Africa's foremost female writers. Director Yaba Badoe charts Aidoo's creative journey over seven decades, from colonial Ghana, through the tumultuous era of independence, to a more sober present-day Africa.

In a small seaside village, Shirley cares for her ailing grandmother, works on a coconut farm, and longs to become a tattoo artist. She passes her time with Jeison, her co-worker and boyfriend. These young souls wrestle with life, death, and other natural forces in the stifling summer heat.

Ekema's hard and uncompromising attitude toward his very pregnant wife, Joffi, is quickly adjusted when he has to spend an entire day "in her shoes." A quirky, poignant and pertinent look at gender roles.

Black Orpheus is the classic retelling of the Orpheus and Eurydice Greek myth set in Rio de Janeiro during Carnival. It features a timeless bossa nova soundtrack from Luiz Bonfá and Antônio Carlos Jobim.

COLD HARBOUR (N.Y. PREMIERE)
Carey McKenzie, South Africa, 2014, 73mir

While investigating a smugglers' turf war in Cape Town, township cop Sizwe discovers police corruption linked to the illegal abalone trade, and integrity demands that he take the law into his own hands.

In Zanzibar, a 28-year-old heroin addict believes he is cursed. In a battle to be freed from a life of drugs, he seeks help from a Sheik.

During Sierra Leone's civil war, rebels amputated countless limbs. Most of the victims are orphans and outcasts in a society that has yet to face its past. For some of them, only the amputee soccer league offers a chance at a better life.

Ghosts of Amistad follows a group of historians and a film crew to Sierra Leone, as they attempt to interview elders about surviving local memory of the Amistad case.

In this comedy of errors featuring some of Nigeria's finest entertainers, a bus driver loses some psychiatric patients on the way to a federal hospital and decides to substitute them with unsuspecting commuters.

Seven teenagers provided with cameras capture the daily routines of their family's housemaid, depicting the complex legacy of race and class in modern Brazil.

The tiny Kirikou decides to take it upon himself to rid his African village of the terrible spell that has been cast on his people and land by a sorceress called Karaba.

Across the city of Cape Town, a sex-line operator, a dog handler, and an IT technician begin to suspect that their romantic relationships are the subject of a bizarre conspiracy, involving their friends, family, and possibly even greater forces.

Looking for answers to her deepest questions about love and career choices, Chocolat uses a small video camera to explore and question her life by interviewing her friends in the US and abroad.

A detailed look at the denizens of Melillenses, a border city whose people both bridge and personify the immense gaps between Europe and Africa.

MIND OF A CHEF: SENEGAL Travel to Senegal with Chef Sean Brock to

understand how West Africa influenced the ingredients of America.

A beautiful 14-year-old girl from a rural Senegalese village who has long been promised as a bride to the wealthy local falls in love and refuses to go through with the marriage—with tragic results.

The intersecting journeys of three disparate characters—a young orphan, a writer in search of his brother, and the woman the writer left behind—leads audiences across Morocco, to Istanbul, the plains of Kurdistan, and beyond.

### NATIONAL DIPLOMA

eudo Hamadi, Democratic Republic of the

Dieudo Hamadi's documentary follows a group of Congolese high-school students—from the classroom, to the communal house where they study, to the chaotic city streets they walk looking for work—as they prepare for the state exam.

Key areas of expression-today's social and internet networks-have become an outlet through which the most racist, homophobic, and sexist ideas are expressed.

This documentary offers a vibrant portrait of the youthful and creative arts scene in Dakar, revealing a world of people who stand for a passionate, collective, and creative fight against all economic and political burdens in Senegal's buzzing capital city.

Intending to make a film about the pirate phenomenon in Somalia, the filmmakers of Pirating Pirates had no idea that they'd have to lay their original plans aside. The film takes a surprising turn as they become entangled in a web of lies and deception.

In this documentary thriller, heads of state, generals, diplomats, master spies, and anti-apartheid fighters reveal how Africa's front line states helped end apartheid. Plus, an improbable key to Mandela's prison cell was a mysterious French businessman, dubbed "Monsieur Jacques."

A Danish-Nigerian family is torn apart by geography. When Jide visits his father's poultry farm for the first time in five years, we see through his camera the unfolding of a story about family, love, and legacy.

Concerned about the environmental issues that Senegal is facing, photographer Fabrice Monteiro, in collaboration with the designer "Jah Gal," created The Prophecy, a project whose objective is to raise global awareness by combining art, culture, and tradition.

After losing his wife, Meseganio sets out on a journey leading him through his children's homes and realizes that, having immigrated to Israel from Ethiopia 28 years ago, he belongs to a rapidly disappearing class that believes in retaining Ethiopian culture.

After arriving in Uganda, a downtrodden photographer befriends a local taxi driver who offers him a place to stay—which forces him to embrace a culture very different than his own.

This alternately dreamlike and ultra-realistic coming-of-age tale—the first film from the Ivory Coast selected to screen at Cannes—uses mesmerizing flashbacks to recount the life of Run, who is hiding out after assassinating the Prime Minister of the Ivory Coast.

SHIELD AND SPEAR

Disabor South Africa, 2014, 89min. A cultural revolution is taking place as artists, musicians, and designers tackle issues of politics, race, and history in today's South Africa. This documentary spotlights intimate stories about the painter Brett Murray, photographer and activist Zanele Muholi, the Smarteez design collective, musician Xander Ferreira of Gazelle, and many more.

This film celebrates the life of Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe, the founder of the Pan Africanist Congress, restoring him to his rightful place as a leading figure in South African history.

When his wife gets sick, Ed takes his daughter Kibibi to the market to get her hair braided before school. Soko Sonko is a hilarious, fish-out-of-water roller-coaster of a journey, about a well-intentioned dad who goes where no man has gone before... because only women have been there!

A soon-to-be-released documentary on an artist-led youth movement that erupted after a political crisis in West Africa.

### STORIES OF OUR LIVES

Created by the members of The NEST Collective, a Nairobi-based arts collaborative, this anthology of five short films dramatizes true stories of LGBT life in Kenya.

In the tranquil setting of a small fishing community in the East Coast of Zanzibar, Amri is trapped between the traditional role of the family man his father expects him to fulfill, and his desire for Mashua, a local fisherman.

In a town not far from Timbuktu, the inhabitants are suffering and feel powerless from the regime of terror imposed by the Jihadists determined to control their faith. Music, laughter, cigarettes, and even soccer have been banned. How do the inhabitants now face the new laws of the foreign occupants?

Set against the momentous backdrop of the whirlwind protests of Cairo's Tahrir Square that began on January 25, 2011, director Ibrahim El Batout's film takes us on a compellingly raw, starkly moving journey into the lives of activist Amr journalist Farah and state security officer Adel.

# (TRT: 113min.) Seven shorts by and about womer The Summer of Gods Eliciana Nascimento, Brazil, 2014, 20min. Co-presented by Cinema Tropical

Young Lili connects with her Afro-Brazilian religious heritage on a summer visit to her ancestral village.

Burkina, All About Women Nicole Mackinlay Hahn, Burkina Faso/USA, 2015,

This look at the professional lives of women in Burkina Faso focuses on to a firefighter, a swimmer, a mushroom biologist, a mechanic, an astrophysicist, a rapper, and more...

Handmade in Thamaga chronicles the founding and work of Bothlalo Centre, a women's pottery collective and business in the small rural village of Thamaga, Botswana.

Bus Nut rearticulates the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott, a political and social protest against U.S. racial segregation on the public transit system, and its relationship to an educational video on school-bus safety.

Set in the Belgian Congo in the 1950s, Sister Oyo tells the story of Godelive, a schoolgirl sent to

Catholic boarding school to be westernized.

The dark-skinned 11-year-old Cholo meets his fair-skinned younger stepbrother Abdullah for the first time. Although strikingly different, the two boys enjoy a crackling chemistry.

From the moment that Tshepo, a security guard, breaks through Jenny's multi-locked door to save her, she feels as if she's been swept off her feet. But as Jenny imagines herself falling in love with him, an unhealthy, delusional obsession begins to

Five-year-old Amira thinks she has the perfect

plan to stay home from Koranic school: superglue her hand to her mother's chair.

The Daily Show's new host, Trevor Noah, was born to an interracial couple in South Africa, at a time when such a union was illegal. You Laugh But It's True reveals the story of an outsider who has somehow figured out a way to relate to everyone through his comedy.

# ZIARA. BEYOND THE THRESHOLD (ZIARA. MÁS ALLÁ DEL UMBRAL) (N.Y. PREMIERE)

A documentary focusing on the Morabitos (or

Marabouts), important religious pilgrimage sites in northern Morocco, and the precarious situation they are now in due to repression from Islamic radicals.

# THE JEROME L. GREENE

7:00

A special preview of the 2015 New York African Film Festival

# **FILM SOCIETY**

7:00 \* Opening Night: Cold Harbour

### FRI MAY 8

Sobukwe: A Great Soul Centerpiece Night: Red Leaves 6:45\* Love the One You Love 9:00

### SAT MAY 9

## **SUN MAY 10**

Melillans &

Ziara. Beyond the Threshold 4:15\* **Red Leaves** 

National Diploma & The Road We Travel

MON MAY 11
2:00 Cold Harbour
4:00 Stories of Our Lives & Surrender
6:30 The Narrow Frame of Midnight

100% Dakar - More Than art &

Women in the Media – Shorts Program 6:00\* Mossane

# **MAYSLES CINEMA**

### **THU MAY 14 Pirating Pirates**

5:30\* Flying Stars & Ghosts of Amistad

8:00\*

# BAMcinématek

9:30\*

Shorts Program (Soko Sonko & Beleh & Curse of an Addict & Wooden Hand)

**Maybe Dreams Can Come True** 

Kirikou and the Sorceress - GKIDS 2:00

MON WAY 25
2:00, 6:30 August Winds
4:00, 8:45 Winter of Discontent

4:00, 6:30, 9:00 Black Orpheus

# PERFORMANCE SPACE

# FRI MAY 1

# OF LINCOLN CENTER filmlinc.com

# WED MAY 6

Sobukwe: A Great Soul

### THU MAY 7

# 4:00\*

# 1:00\*

6:30\* **Special Work-in-Progress Screening** 

**TUE MAY 12** 

The Prophecy

FRI MAY 15

### SAT MAY 16 Portrait of a Lone Farmer

# **SUN MAY 17**

FRI MAY 22 **Shield and Spear** 

SAT MAY 23

**SUN MAY 24**