

AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL  
NEW YORK



Film at  
Lincoln  
Center

29<sup>TH</sup>

NEW YORK

# African Film Festival

3  
Festival



The glory of freedom is a hymn  
دجهر olominira ti é hino



A song full of dignity  
N'kûng'a mendrika tokoa



This land of beaches, hills and mountains  
Péyi montany, lans et montagnes



Let us be the land of hope  
Soyons ardhi لمرأا

## VISIONS OF FREEDOM

MAY 12 — JUNE 2, 2022 • AFRICANFILMNY.ORG • FILMLINC.ORG

*The events of the recent past have illuminated how interconnected our worlds are. Through it all, and across the globe, the collective vision of freedom has come into sharp focus. This year's festival takes a look at the past while capturing the present pulse and looking forward in order to envision a brighter future.*

— Mahen Bonetti, Founder and Executive Director, see pg. 1



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*"...The glory of freedom is a hymn,  
A song full of dignity,  
This land of beaches, hills and mountains,  
Let us be the land of hope..."*

— freedom is a durational practice, see pg. 2

## *Festival Statement*

After great anticipation, the annual New York African Film Festival (NYAFF) returns under the banner, *Visions of Freedom*. With both in-theater and virtual offerings, the 29th edition of the NYAFF tunes into diverse and interconnected notions of freedom pertinent to Africa, the diaspora, and the world at large. This year's festival furthers the NYAFF tradition of offering accessible educational programs, screenings, and discussions with filmmakers and artists, in addition to presenting an interactive art exhibition and complimentary social events.

Presented with Film at Lincoln Center (FLC) and in partnership with BAM and Maysles Cinema, the 29th NYAFF showcases over 70 short and feature-length films, including premieres, recent award-winners, and retrospective works. The festival will be hosted in-theater at all venues, as well as in the FLC and Maysles virtual cinemas. This allows us to engage audiences in person, and also bring these incredible films directly to you at home.

## *Acknowledgements*

The 29th New York African Film Festival was organized by Mahen Bonetti, Founder and Executive Director, African Film Festival, Inc. with Dara Ojugbele, Farima Kone Kito, Fred Zucule, Sinat Giwa, Francoise Bouffault, and Jacki Fischer. The Festival was organized in collaboration with Film at Lincoln Center: Dennis Lim, Director of Programming; Erin Delaney, Manager, Operations & Productions; Dan Sullivan, Junior Programmer; Matt Bolish, Vice President of Marketing and Communications; Jeff Delauter, Director of Theater Operations; Jesse Trussel, Senior Programmer, BAM Film; and Allason Leitz, Theater Manager, and Programmer, Maysles Cinema.

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# Special Events

## ART + ACTIVISM: PERSONAL AND COLLECTIVE FREEDOMS TOWN HALL

This live, interactive town hall event will feature one-on-one conversations with four artists from across the African diaspora: Gessica Généus, Susan Oludele, Justin Lynch and Nikki Kynard, moderated by Neema Githere. The event concludes with a group panel discussion and Q&A with the audience.

**DAVID RUBENSTEIN ATRIUM AT LINCOLN CENTER  
WED, MAY 11 AT 7:30PM**

## DIGITAL ART EXHIBITION: FREEDOM IS A DURATIONAL PRACTICE

An experimental, durational moving image piece by Nigerian-American artist, Zainab Aliyu, foregrounding anthems of celebration across the diaspora and transversing borders to forge an infinite pan-African chorus. An excerpt of the piece, which is computationally generated using 80+ anthems, hymns and freedom songs from the diaspora, is featured on this year's festival materials:

*"...The glory of freedom is a hymn,  
A song full of dignity,  
This land of beaches, hills and mountains,  
Let us be the land of hope..."*

This excerpt features words of celebration from the people of the lands known today as Benin, Cape Verde, Congo, Dominica, Haiti, Madagascar, Mauritania, Saint Lucia, Tunisia and Uganda.

**FILM AT LINCOLN CENTER AMPHITHEATER  
WED, MAY 12 TO TUE, MAY, 17**

## CINEMA OF LIBERATION: FROM INCEPTION AND EXECUTION TO EXHIBITION WITH HAILE GERIMA

This master class led by renowned Ethiopian filmmaker, Haile Gerima, will center on the content, form, and aesthetics of liberation cinema, empowering one's particular narrative logic and the construction of audiences for partnership in liberation.

**FILM AT LINCOLN CENTER AMPHITHEATER  
SAT, MAY 14 AT 11:30AM**

# Films

Film at Lincoln Center  
May 12 - 17

Scan for Film at Lincoln Center Tickets



## Features

### ABDERRAHMANE SISSAKO, UN CINÉASTE À L'OPÉRA

US Premiere · Charles Castella / 2021 / France / 55m  
With "Le Vol du boli," filmmaker Abderrahmane Sissako takes up an unexpected artistic challenge: to stage, at the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris, an opera based on the history of Africa. English musician Damon Albarn, frontman of Blur and the virtual band Gorillaz, composes and conducts the music. The two artists from ostensibly different universes join forces to design work as engaged as it is powerful.

*preceded by*  
**SHAKA - INKOSI YAMAKHOSI**

US Premiere · Manzini Zungu & Nick Cloete / 2020 / South Africa / 15m

A meek young boy, Manzini, is attacked by three bullies on his way home from school in an incident that almost costs him his life. His grandmother narrates a profound tale of resilience, chronicling the coming of age of a great warrior and king, Shaka Zulu, to inspire Manzini through the strength of his lineage.  
**SUN, MAY 15 AT 4:30PM**

### AYAANLE

US Premiere · Ahmed Farah / 2022 / Somalia & Kenya / 90m

Ayaanle is a 21-year-old Somali man living in Nairobi, with dreams of becoming a world-famous actor. His life is turned upside down through a series of unlikely and adverse events that force him to defy the odds for his survival.

**SUN, MAY 15 AT 7:00PM**

### OPENING NIGHT: FILM AT LINCOLN CENTER FREDA

New York Premiere · Gessica Généus / 2021 / Haiti, France & Benin / 93m

Freda lives with her family in a popular neighborhood in Port-au-Prince. They make ends meet thanks to their small street shop. Faced with precarious living conditions and the rise of violence in Haiti, each of them wonders whether to stay or leave, but Freda is determined to believe in the future of her country.  
**THU, MAY 12 AT 6:30PM & MON, MAY 16 AT 4:15PM**



*The Gravedigger's Wife*

### FOR MARIA EBUN PATAKI

Damilola Orimogunje / 2020 / Nigeria / 75m  
 After the complicated birth of her first child, Maria, Derin becomes withdrawn from family life, unable to engage in the celebrations around her newborn. Her bewildered mother-in-law insists that she is not a good enough parent, while her increasingly worried husband Afolabi watches from the sidelines as she becomes a shadow of herself in this honest but empathetic account of postpartum depression.

**VIRTUAL** MAY 13 - 17

### THE GRAVEDIGGER'S WIFE

Khadar Ayderus Ahmed / 2021 / Somalia, France, Germany & Finland / 83m  
 Guled and Nasra are a loving couple, living on the outskirts of Djibouti City with their teenage son, Mahad. However, they are facing difficult times: Nasra urgently needs expensive surgery to treat chronic kidney disease. Guled is already working hard as a gravedigger to make ends meet: how can they find the money to save Nasra and keep the family together?

**VIRTUAL** MAY 13 - 17

### JOM, THE STORY OF A PEOPLE

Ababacar Samb-Makharam / 1982 / Senegal / 80m  
 To inspire striking workers, a griot (oral historian) tells of a legendary prince, Dieri Dior Ndella, who sacrificed his life during colonialism, and Koura Thiaw, an entertainer who took up the cause of oppressed domestics in the 1940s, with both becoming heroes to their people.

**TUE, MAY 17 AT 7:00PM**

### JUJU STORIES

Abba T. Makama, Michael Omonua & C. J. Obasi / 2021 / Nigeria & France / 84m  
 "Juju Stories" explores juju in contemporary Lagos through three stories about possession, love potions, and love and friendship turned to obsession.

**VIRTUAL** MAY 13 - 17

### JUWAA

New York Premiere · Nganji Mutiri / 2021 / Belgium & The Democratic Republic of the Congo / 85m  
 Shot in Belgium and the DRC, Juwaa is a subtly powerful drama offering African characters rarely seen on screens. Years after a traumatic night, a son and a mother reconcile and slowly peel away the layers of their complex relationship.  
**MON, MAY 16 AT 6:30PM**

### MARCHER SUR L'EAU / ABOVE WATER

Aïssa Maïga / 2021 / Niger, France & Belgium / 89m  
 Twelve-year-old Houlaye lives in Niger and travels several kilometers each day to fetch water. Her village's efforts to construct a well bring the promise of a new life for people who have literally been walking on water since birth.

**SAT, MAY 14 AT 3:30PM**

Co-Presented with Sustainable Brooklyn

### THE SUN RISES IN THE EAST

Tayo Giwa / 2021 / USA / 58m  
 "The Sun Rises in The East" chronicles the birth, rise, and legacy of The East, a pan-African cultural organization founded in 1969 by teens and young adults in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn. Featuring interviews with leaders of The East, historians, and people who grew up in the organization as children, Tayo Giwa's documentary delivers an exhilarating and compelling vision for today's movement for racial justice, showing just how much is possible.

*preceded by*

### PRECIOUS HAIR & BEAUTY

John Ogunmuyiwa / 2021 / UK / 11m  
 John Ogunmuyiwa's vibrant short is an ode to the mundanity and madness of the high street, told through the window of an African hair salon in London.

**SUN, MAY 15 AT 2:00PM**

Co-Presented with Be Reel Black Cinema Club



*Precious Hair & Beauty*

## TOUT SIMPLEMENT NOIR / SIMPLY BLACK

Jean-Pascal Zadi & John Wax / 2020 / France / 90m

In this mockumentary-style, politically-incorrect satire, Jean-Pascal Zadi organizes a protest while contemplating racial discrimination and his identity as a Black man in France.

SAT, MAY 16 AT 8:30PM & TUE, MAY 17 AT 4:00PM

## CENTERPIECE: FILM AT LINCOLN CENTER TUG OF WAR / VUTA N'KUVUTE

New York Premiere · Amil Shivji / 2021 / Tanzania, South Africa, Germany & Qatar / 92m

Denge, a young freedom fighter, meets Yasmin, an Indian-Zanzibari woman, in the middle of the night as she is on her way to be married. Passion and revolution ensue in this coming-of-age political love story set in the final years of British colonial Zanzibar.

preceded by

## NOTRE MÉMOIRE

US Premiere · Johanna Makabi / 2021 / France / 12m

Mbissine Thérèse Diop played the starring role in Ousmane Sembène's landmark first feature, 1966's *Black Girl* (La Noire de...). Today, she looks back on her experience as a Black actress in the 1960s.

FRI, MAY 13 AT 6:30PM & MON, MAY 16 AT 2:00PM

## Shorts Programs

### AFRICAN VOICES IN CHANGING CLIMATES: POST-PRODUCTION AND SOCIAL IMPACT CINEMA

An initiative by Let's Talk About Water, the Mayors Make Movies program presents films made in collaboration with mayors, youths, and filmmakers in cities across the African continent, and discussions about water policy and water science communication.

SAT, MAY 14 AT 1:30PM

#### SENEGAL - KEUR MASSAR

Centre Yennenga / 2022 / Senegal / 5m

In Keur Massar, Senegal, following annual flooding, residents and community organizers show the effects on their lives and homes of poor infrastructure and the increasing impact of climate change. This short film shows how the residents live with and through the flooding, and explores the causes of and possible solutions to this crisis.



Senegal - Keur Massar

#### GRAND DAKAR

Centre Yennenga / 2022 / Senegal / 5m

Residents of Grand Dakar renting apartments in big, crowded buildings elect to use public water taps for their everyday needs rather than the city's system. This short film explores the economic reasons behind their decision, and the challenges posed by municipal water pricing to the city's residents.

#### THE GAMBIA - BANJUL

Mystic Production / 2022 / The Gambia / 4m

In Banjul, a group of activists and members of the youth council speak about the need for decentralization of water management in the city and the country at large. Mayor Roheyatou Lowe focuses on the importance of women as primary water users, and invites the aid of partners interested in working on water in Banjul.

#### MOROCCO - CHEFCHAOUEN

Rachid Kasmi / 2022 / Morocco / 5m

In Chefchaouen, Morocco, a group of students learn about water resource management while walking around their city. Mayor Mohamed Sefiani leads us through Chefchaouen's conservation efforts for its drought-prone region, and explains what could be done to improve water access in the city.

#### INTERVIEW OF SECRETARY-GENERAL ELONG MBASSI

Rachid Kasmi / 2022 / Morocco / 5m

Secretary-General of the United Cities and Local Governments - Africa, Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi opens a conversation on the role of African mayors in leading local climate action and water security.

## INTERVIEW OF AZIZA AKHMOUCH

OECD / 2022 / France / 4m

Aziza Akhmouch describes the role of African mayors in ensuring water security and how film can raise the voices of underrepresented voices in climate change. Akhmouch is the Head of the Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development division of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and manages the OECD Roundtable of Mayors and Ministers.

## THROUGH THE NEW YORK LENS

Runtime: 88m

Intimate stories told through the lenses of filmmakers living in New York.

FRI, MAY 13 AT 9:00PM

## THE COUPLE NEXT DOOR

Abbesi Akhamie, 2020, USA, 11m

A single woman's feelings of loneliness begin to stir when an eccentric African couple moves in next door to her.

## EGÚNGÚN / MASQUERADE

Olive Nwosu / 2021 / Nigeria & UK / 14m

Salewa must return home for her mother's funeral, to Lagos, a place where she once had to hide herself. At the funeral, she runs into an important person from her past, and is forced to go in search of her own peace.

## FRIEDA

World Premiere · Tisa Chigaga / 2022 / USA / 8m

An older undocumented migrant is summarily dismissed from her housekeeping position. Cast into desperate uncertainty, she roams the city in despair.

## AFRO ALGORITHMS

Anatola Araba / 2022 / USA / 14m

This 3D-animated short film in the Afrofuturist genre explores topics of AI and bias. In a distant future, an artificial-intelligence entity named Aero is inaugurated as the world's first AI leader. However, she soon finds that important worldviews are missing from her database, including the stories of the historically marginalized and oppressed.

## A LISBON AFFAIR

US Premiere · Hoji Fortuna / 2021 / Portugal & Croatia / 14m

Waldo and Shey are in love. Waldo, who lives in Berlin, travels to Lisbon to meet Shey. Their encounter will test the emotional strength of their bond and expose uncertainties about their Afro-Portuguese cultural and historical identities.

## NKEMEFUNA / WHAT IS MINE CANNOT BE LOST

New York Premiere · Kaelo Iyizoba / 2021 / USA / 15m

"Nkemefuna" follows Nkem and Ike, a pair of Nigerian-American siblings still dealing with the death of their father, who perished in the Twin Towers. Nkem left home after his death; upon her return years later, her presence precipitates unresolved issues with her brother, leading to a public confrontation. As the siblings struggle to work through their issues, a looming threat crystallizes.

## MENES DE GRIOT: BABA MPHOSHANTO, KEEPER OF THE CULTURE

AnAkA / 2022 / USA / 12m

This short film is the beginning of a larger project documenting Baba Mpho Shanto, AKA Menes De Griot. A culture keeper of our time, Baba Mpho is actively preserving African traditions in the global community.

## MZANSI SHORTS

Runtime: 92m

Reflections on history, memory, and personal narratives in South Africa.

SAT, MAY 14 AT 6:00PM

## UKUHLOLWA KWEPHUPHA / A DREAM DECIPHERED

US Premiere · Hlumela Matika / 2022 / South Africa / 6m

A woman asleep begins to dream. It is a dream that distorts her perception of time and space in relation to her mundane daily tasks—an illusion that evokes a surreal experience of the self.

## MIER / THE ANT

US Premiere · Oliver North / 2021 / South Africa / 26m

Oliver North's "Mier" covers two days in the lives of Oupa, a San hunter/gatherer who lives in the desert, and Boetie, a 'colored' boy from a nearby settlement to which his people were relocated. Over the course of the story, we find out that they are hunting on this land illegally and that they have more in common than either would suspect.

## MMA MOEKETSI / MOTHER OF MOEKETSI

New York Premiere

Reabetswe Moeti / 2018 / South Africa / 25m

Based on true events, this film recounts a 2012 massacre in which a group of South African mine workers went on a wage-increase strike, leading to

a national tragedy in which 34 miners were brutally killed by the police.

## **BOTLHALE / INTELLIGENT**

US Premiere · Reabetswe Moeti / 2022 / South Africa / 35m

Bothale, who's mentally ill, makes new friends and finds love when he's institutionalized. The comrades plan an escape to Chicken Heart, a fast-food joint, where they'll live out their fantasies of being high-society people.

## **FREEDOM SONGS**

Runtime: 70m

Intimate stories told through the lenses of filmmakers. A program of shorts evoking the sounds of liberation, self-expression, and love.

**VIRTUAL MAY 13 - 17**

## **TRAPPED**

Athi Petela / 2021 / South Africa / 24m

Ayanda's double life comes crashing down around her when a surprise visit from her mom upsets the carefully built closet she hides in. Torn between traditional family expectations and career aspirations, Ayanda tears her relationship apart. But somewhere in the heart of it all, acceptance is found.

## **TWO OR MORE**

Ifeyinwa Arinze / 2021 / USA / 9m

Wrestling with the loss of her mother, a young girl questions her faith when she is asked to pray for her grandmother's healing.

## **A BIRTHDAY PARTY**

Victoria Adeola Thomas / 2021 / UK / 12m

The close relationship between twin sisters is shattered irrevocably when one insists on upholding tradition through the circumcision of her daughter.

## **THE K-Z**

Enricka MH / 2019 / France / 14m

"The K-Z" is the slang term for a leisure activity that the young boxer Moussa views with suspicion. But a friend advises him to give it a try in order to attract the attention of the beautiful Sanaa.

## **BORN AGAIN**

Candice Onyeama / 2020 / UK / 11m

A magical-realist film set in London, "Born Again" follows Nwa, a British-Nigerian woman tormented by her inability to have children. However, a transformative baptism leads her on a journey of healing and rebirth.

## **Maysles Cinema**

**May 19 - 22**

Scan for Maysles Cinema Tickets



## *Features*

### **10 SONGS FOR CHARITY**

Karin Junger / 2021 / The Netherlands, Belgium & Nigeria / 115m

A musical drama about the illegal trafficking of women, "10 Songs for Charity" follows Nigerian sisters Charity and Happy as they endure the day-to-day hardships of being illegal sex workers in Belgium.

**VIRTUAL MAY 20 - 22**

### **ABU SADDAM**

New York Premiere · Nadine Khan / 2021 / Egypt / 89m

In this comedy of errors, an old, experienced truck driver, Abu Saddam, who's been out of the business for some time, takes a transportation job that ends up getting out of control.

**SAT, MAY 21 AT 7:00PM**

### **AYA**

Simon Coulibaly Gillard / 2021 / Ivory Coast, Belgium & France / 90m

Young Aya lives with her mother on the island of Lahou. Joyful and carefree, she loves picking coconuts and sleeping in the sand. As waves begin to threaten her home, Aya makes a decision—the sea level may rise, but she won't leave her island.

**VIRTUAL MAY 20 - 22**

### **EL MAESTRO LABA SOSSEH**

New York Premiere · Maky Madiba Sylla & Lionel Bourqui / 2020 / Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Gambia & Senegal / 70m

With the first continental gold record in 1980, prolific singer, Laba Sosseh, became an emblematic figure of Afro-Cuban music in Africa. His career spanned more than 45 years, until his death in 2007. This documentary takes us on a journey ten years later, tracing his ever-present influence.

**FRI, MAY 20 AT 6:00PM**

Co-Presented with Cinema Tropical

### **OPENING NIGHT: MAYSLES CINEMA**

#### **THE LAST SHELTER**

New York Premiere · Ousmane Samassékou / 2021 / France, Mali & South Africa / 85m



At the southern edge of the Sahara desert stands The House of Migrants, a safe haven for those on their way to Europe, or those returning home. Here they come to terms with their individual migration stories. How does one feel, or what does one need, when their dreams have been buried in the sand, or when they are waiting to be lived?

**THU, MAY 19 AT 7:00PM**

## **NIGHT NURSERY**

New York Premiere · Moumouni Sanou / 2021 / Burkina Faso, France & Germany / 67m  
Every evening in a popular area of the city of Bobo-Dioulasso in Burkina Faso, Ms. Coda welcomes the children of sex workers into her home. The young women then stroll through the “Black,” a lively alley in the city center, until daybreak when they come to pick up their babies.

*preceded by*

## **DEATH AND CASH**

US Premiere · Lionel Doyigbé / 2020 / Benin & France / 44m  
Honoré and Grégoire are preparing for their mother's funeral. They are faced with the swarm of expenses associated with funerals in Porto Novo, Benin. The “nerve of war” is the nerve of their preparation.

**SUN, MAY 22 AT 4:30PM**

## **SANKARA'S ORPHANS**

Géraldine Berger / 2021 / Burkina Faso & France / 84m  
In 1986, under the leadership of President Thomas Sankara, 600 orphans and rural children from Burkina Faso were sent to Cuba with the mission of learning a trade in order to come back and develop their country. Their mission was deflected by the assassination of Sankara in 1987. This documentary mixes recounted memories with archival imagery, giving us a glimpse into the reminiscences of their revolutionary youth.

**SAT, MAY 21 AT 4:30PM**

Co-Presented with The Africa Center

## **THOMAS SANKARA, THE HUMAN**

US Premiere · Boubié Richard Tiéné / 2020 / Burkina Faso / 71m  
A rare, homegrown study on the life of the late Burkinabè president and revolutionary, “Thomas Sankara, The Human,” hands surviving witnesses of the Sankara era the microphone, allowing them to reveal what they have in the depths of their conscience without censorship.

**SAT, MAY 21 AT 2:00PM**

Co-Presented with The Africa Center

## **WHEN A FARM GOES AFLAME**

US Premiere · Jide Tom Akinleminu / 2021 / Germany / 112m  
Moving fluidly between Denmark, Nigeria, Canada, and the USA, this film gently unfolds as a poetic and psychologically complex exploration of the meeting between Western and African concepts of love, relationships, and family.

**SUN, MAY 22 AT 7:00PM**

## **WHEN WOMEN SPEAK**

Aseye Tamakloe / 2021 / Ghana / 90m  
“When Women Speak” shot entirely in Ghana, traces a cohort of 16 women who came of age during the 1960s and 1970s and catalogs their experiences, told in their own words, as Ghana passed through periods of single-party, military, and multi-party rule.

**VIRTUAL MAY 20 - 22**

## *Shorts Programs*

## **OMNIPRESENCE**

Runtime: 112 min  
Socio-political and cultural themes are explored through stories of migration, resilience, and a speculative envisioning of reparations.

**FRIDAY, MAY 22 AT 8:00PM**

## **THIS THING IS NOT FOR YOU**

Ifeanyi Awachie / 2022 / USA / 20m  
The first Black woman president of the United States announces that African Americans will finally receive reparations. A Nigerian-American family grapples with what this means for them, unearthing latent tensions along the way.

## **BECOMING BLACK LAWYERS**

Evangeline M. Mitchell / 2021 / USA / 25m  
Five Black lawyers discover the contradictions of studying in an institution that idealistically represents “justice” for all.

## **KASONGO (IM)MATERIEL**

Noemie Arazi & Georges Senga / 2021 / Belgium / 39m  
“Kasongo (Im)Materiel” explores the forgotten history of the Swahili-Arab in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Their trajectory from oppressors to oppressed, along with the local adoption of their culture and language, mirrors the tensions and ambivalence of history and heritage.

## FROM THE CAVE'S MOUTH

Jeani Varty / 2020 / South Africa / 3min  
This short animated film is centered on a Khoi-san family who leaves their ancestral home in search of a missing family member. Over the course of thousands of years, we watch as life comes and goes, until one day, the home is rediscovered by a very distant modern family member.

## A REAL DANCER CANNOT STAND STILL

Alice Aterianus-Owanga / 2021 / Switzerland / 25m  
Since the late 1980s, many Senegalese dancers have migrated to Europe in hopes of finding a better life. Through words and movement, H el ene recounts how she overcame the hardships of migration, built her fighter mentality, and progressed in her career—sharing her irreplaceable need to dance.

## TIME EMBODIED IN HUE, POETRY, AND BOLD IMAGERY

Runtime: 50 min  
This program of experimental and animated shorts follows trajectories of personal evolutions and connected temporalities, in hue, poetry, and bold imagery.

**VIRTUAL** MAY 20 - 22

## HOW THE TORTOISE CRACKED ITS SHELL (IJAPA FOR PRESIDENT)

Kamal Adisa / 2021 / Nigeria & USA / 15m  
Set in a not-so-distant future Lagos, Remi, an EFCC (Economic and Financial Crimes Commission) officer, investigates Ijapa's mysterious presidential campaign.

## ELE OF THE DARK

Yace Sula / 2021 / USA / 13m  
In this experimental short, nonbinary visual artist, Ele, contemplates their evolving relationship with darkness. The film quietly foregrounds the complicated influence darkness has held in their life, as well as their eventual realization of its importance as a survival tool and legitimate aspect of their identity.

## AN ODE TO A TIME I LOVED BREAD

Neema Ngelime / 2021 / Belgium, Portugal, Hungary & Tanzania / 11m  
This memory trip of juvenile sentiments recalls the filmmaker's time at a colonial legacy boarding school. To revisit those times, the director, Neema recreates her memories using collage. She lays down the absurd, the silly, and the sometimes unforgivable, interrogating it with her present self.

## WINTER INSECT, SUMMER FLOWER

Gbenga Komolafe & Tee Jaehyung Park / 2021 / USA / 11m  
Described as a trans woman's journey of love, loss, and redemption through the seasons, "Winter Insect, Summer Flower" uses a circular narrative to explore the ever-evolving body.

## BAM

May 27 - June 2

Scan for BAM Tickets



Looking back at more than a decade of FilmAfrica at BAM, the NYAFF gathers recent work with hits from past festivals presented with BAM each year during DanceAfrica, the nation's largest festival dedicated to African dance and music.

## Features

### A CHILD'S LOVE STORY

Ben Diogaye B eye / 2004 / Senegal / 96m  
This touching investigation of innocent love between children in Senegal, set against a traditional class system, chronicles their friendships and feelings between school, the street, and cultural divides.  
**SUN, MAY 29 AT 2PM**

### CLOUDS OVER CONAKRY

Cheick Fantamady Camara / 2007 / Guinea / 113m  
Young BB is faced with an impossible choice: succeed his father as his village's imam, or continue living his modern life full of love, art, and free will.  
**THU, JUN 2 AT 7:30PM**

### DON'T F\*\*\* WITH ME, I HAVE 51 BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Dumisani Phakathi / 2004 / South Africa / 86m  
Dumisani Phakathi documents his journey to find 51 siblings and face the loss of his father as a child. Critics have compared this film—as much a story about South Africa's search for its origins—to jazz music.  
**WED, JUN 1 AT 7:30PM**

### HEAD GONE

Dare Fasasi / 2014 / Nigeria / 111m  
In this comedy of errors, a bus driver loses psych patients en route to the hospital. To cover up their escape, he and a nurse try to substitute the patients

with unsuspecting commuters who must prove their sanity.

**MAY 31 AT 8:30PM**

## **HOT IRONS**

Andrew Dosunmu / 1998 / USA / 50m  
"Hot Irons" offers an inside glimpse at Motor City hair salons that turn the tresses of their African-American clientele into remarkable works of art.

*preceded by*

## **HISTOIRE DE TRESSSES / ABOUT BRAIDS**

Jacqueline Kalimunda / 2002 / Rwanda & France / 23m  
"Histoire de tresses" follows a magical encounter between a mysterious young woman and a gifted African hair-braider who is asked to recreate a completely unconventional style.

**SUN, MAY 29 AT 6:30PM**

Co-Presented with Alfrede's Cinema

## **JUJU FACTORY**

Balufu Bakupa-Kanyinda / 2006 / Democratic Republic of the Congo / 97m  
Kongo Congo lives in Brussels, where—contrary to his editor's wishes—he writes a book weaving together Congolese history with Belgium's ghosts.

**MON, MAY 30 AT 8:30PM**

## **MIN ALESH?**

Amleset Muchie / 2019 / Ethiopia / 84m  
An international race offers Selam, a persevering young woman who has grown up amid poverty and hardships in Ethiopia, the chance to achieve her dreams through her passion for running.

**SAT, MAY 28 AT 6:30PM & TUE, MAY 31 AT 4:30PM**

## **MRS. F**

Chris van der Vorm / 2019 / Nigeria / 77m  
In Makoko, Nigeria's floating slum, Mrs. F wants to highlight gender inequality and uplift women by staging a play based on true stories. But first, she must face oppressive patriarchy and religion head-on.

**SUN, MAY 29 AT 4:30PM**

## **THE PROMISES**

Hawa Aliou N'Diaye / 2020 / Mali / 70m  
Director Hawa Aliou N'Diaye explores Malian tradition, myth, and the ethereal through interviews with women who—like her—claim to be possessed by enigmatic spirits known as jinn.

**MAY 30 AT 6:30PM**

## **SALOUM**

Jean Luc Herbulot / 2021 / Senegal / 80m  
Three mercenaries on an escape mission to Dakar, Senegal are forced into hiding along the coast. When the past catches up to one of them, his decisions have devastating consequences.

**SAT, MAY 28 AT 8:30PM**

## **SEX, OKRA AND SALTED BUTTER**

Mahamat-Saleh Haroun / 2008 / Chad & France / 81m  
In this comedy about a Malian family living in France, Malik finds his role as a traditional African husband disrupted when his wife Hortense has an extra-marital affair.

**SUN, MAY 29 AT 8:30PM & WED, JUN 1 AT 5PM**

**OPENING NIGHT: BAM**

## **TGV**

25th Anniversary Screening · Moussa Touré / 1997 / France, Germany & Senegal / 90m  
Passengers traveling on a bus route between Senegal and Guinea are warned of a dangerous revolt at the border. During the arduous journey, each passenger's motivation for making the trip is slowly revealed.

**FRI, MAY 27 AT 7PM & MON, MAY 30 AT 4PM**

Co-Presented with MoCADA

# *Shorts Programs*

## **FILMAFRICA SHORTS**

Runtime: 73m

These short films invite us into the struggles and dreams of families in Sudan, Senegal, England, South Africa, and more.

**SAT, MAY 28 AT 4:30PM & TUE, MAY 31 AT 6:30PM**

## **AL-SIT**

Suzannah Mirghani / 2020 / Sudan & Qatar / 20m  
In a cotton-farming village in Sudan, 15-year-old Nafisa has a crush on Babiker, but her parents have arranged her marriage to Nadir, a young Sudanese businessman living abroad.

## **RUTHAN (AN ARABI-JUBA WORD MEANING LANGUAGE)**

Abul Ajak / 2019 / South Sudan, Uganda & South Africa / 12m

Through her relationship with her grandmothers, Abul Ajak explores how cultural identities are always in transition in this meditation on migration, loss of language, and the transcendence of reimagined forms of communication.

## **ALGO-RHYTHM**

Manu Luksch / 2019 / Austria, Senegal & UK / 14m  
Shot in Dakar with the participation of leading

Senegalese musicians, poets, and graffiti artists, "ALGO-RHYTHM" probes the rise in the algorithmic management of daily life and the insidious threats it poses to human rights and agency.

## APPRECIATION

Tomisin Adepeju / 2019 / UK / 14m

When an African Pentecostal pastor in London undergoes a life-changing event, she questions everything she believes in.

## TAB

Hlumela Matika / 2019 / South Africa / 13m

Khanya and Sandiswa's father leaves them in his car outside the local horse-racing tracks under strict instructions to stay put. But when Khanya gets her period and decides to enter the arena, she's confronted by her father, his gambling addiction and the tensions in their delicate relationship come to light.

## RETRO SHORTS

Runtime: 97m

Favorite short films from past years of FilmAfrica take us from a village in Ethiopia to the streets of Marseille, and beyond.

THU, JUN 2 AT 5PM

## OUSMANE / DEWENTI

Dyana Gaye / 2006 / Senegal & France / 15m

A 7-year-old child who begs in the streets decides to write a letter to Santa Claus.

## POUR LA NUIT

Isabelle Boni-Claverie / 2004 / Ivory Coast & France / 20m

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."

## LEZARE

Zelalem Woldemariam / 2009 / Ethiopia / 15m

A revealing and touching story about a homeless boy in a small village in southern Ethiopia, Lezare uses beautiful visuals to deliver a powerful message about global warming and shortsightedness.

## THIS IS MY AFRICA

Zina Saro-Wiwa / 2008 / Ethiopia / 47m

Through the answers on an 18-point questionnaire, a picture emerges of Africa woven together from different memories and personal perspectives. The interviewees reveal a place that has inspired, infuriated, and delighted them as part of a project that seeks to change the public dialogue surrounding the African continent.

# Tickets & Venue Information

Tickets for the NYAFF29 Opening Night Film and Reception at FLC on May 12 are \$200. For information please email [info@africanfilmny.org](mailto:info@africanfilmny.org) or call 212-352-1720. Visit [africanfilmny.org](http://africanfilmny.org) for more information. Note: Screening-only tickets are available at [filmlinc.org](http://filmlinc.org).

## FILM AT LINCOLN CENTER

Walter Reade Theater, 165 West 65th St., and the Elinor Bunin Munroe Film Center, 144 West 65th St., between Broadway and Amsterdam Ave. Directions: 1 train to 66th St.

In-Theater ticket prices are \$15 for the general public; \$12 for students, seniors, and persons with disabilities; and \$10 for FLC members. See more and save with the \$59 All-Access Pass or the \$25 Student All-Access Pass. Virtual Cinema prices are \$10 for the general public; \$8 for FLC members. See more and save with the 4-Film Bundle for just \$20. Visit [filmlinc.org](http://filmlinc.org) for more information about Film at Lincoln Center ticketing.

## MAYSLES CINEMA

343 Lenox Avenue, between 127th & 128th Streets. Directions: 2 or 3 train to 125th St.

In-Theater ticket prices are \$15 suggested donation. Virtual Cinema prices are \$10. Visit [maysles.org](http://maysles.org) or call 212-537-6843 for more information about Maysles Cinema ticketing.

## BAM

BAM FILM @ BAM Rose Cinemas, 30 Lafayette Avenue in Brooklyn. Directions: take the C train to Lafayette; the 2, 3, 4, 5, D, B, N, Q, R, or W train to Atlantic Avenue/Barclays Center; or the G train to Fulton.

In-Theater ticket prices are \$16 General Admission; \$11 for Students (Mon-Thu) / Seniors/Veterans, \$8 for Level 1-3 Members. Visit [BAM.org/film](http://BAM.org/film) or call 718-777-FILM for more information about BAM ticketing.

# Schedule

## DAVID RUBENSTEIN ATRIUM AT LINCOLN CENTER

MAY 11

7:30 PM Art + Activism: Personal and Collective Freedoms

## FILM AT LINCOLN CENTER

MAY 12

6:30 PM\* Freda Opening Night FLC

MAY 13

6:30 PM\* Tug of War + Notre Mémoire Centerpiece Night

9:00 PM\* Through the New York Lens Shorts Program

**VIRTUAL** MAY 13 - 17

**ALL DAY** The Gravedigger's Wife  
Juju Stories  
For Maria Ebum Pataki  
Freedom Songs Shorts Program

MAY 14

11:30 AM Master Class with Haile Gerima

1:30 PM\* African Voices in Changing Climates: Post-Production and Social Impact Cinema

3:30 PM\* Above Water

6:00 PM\* Mzansi Shorts

8:30 PM\* Simply Black

MAY 15

2:00 PM\* The Sun Rises in the East + Precious Hair & Beauty

4:30 PM\* Abderrahmane Sissako, un cinéaste à l'Opéra + Shaka - iNkosi Yamakhosi

7:00 PM\* Ayaanle

MAY 16

2:00 PM Tug of War + Notre Mémoire

4:15 PM Freda

6:30 PM\* Juwaa

MAY 17

4:00 PM Simply Black

7:00 PM\* Jom, The Story of a People

## MAYSLES CINEMA

MAY 19

7:00 PM\* The Last Shelter Opening Night Maysles

MAY 20

6:00 PM\* El Maestro Laba Sosseh

8:00 PM\* Omnipresence Shorts Program

**VIRTUAL** MAY 20 - 22

**ALL DAY** 10 Songs for Charity  
Aya  
When Women Speak  
Time Embodied in Hue, Poetry, and Bold Imagery Shorts Program

MAY 21

2:00 PM\* Thomas Sankara, The Human

4:30 PM\* Sankara's Orphans

7:00 PM\* Abu Saddam

MAY 22

4:00 PM\* Night Nursery + Death and Cash

7:00 PM\* When A Farm Goes Aflame

## BAM

MAY 27

7:00 PM\* TGV 25th Anniversary Screening

MAY 28

2:00 PM When the Stars Meet the Sea

4:30 PM FilmAfrica Shorts

6:30 PM\* Min Alesh?

8:30 PM Saloum

MAY 29

2:00 PM A Child's Love Story

4:30 PM Mrs. F.

6:30 PM\* Hot Irons + Histoire de tresses

8:30 PM Sex, Okra and Salted Butter

MAY 30

4:00 PM TGV

6:30 PM The Promises

8:30 PM Juju Factory

MAY 31

4:30 PM Min Alesh?

6:30 PM FilmAfrica Shorts

8:30 PM Head Gone

JUNE 1

5:00 PM Sex, Okra and Salted Butter

7:30 PM Don't F\*\*\* With Me, I Have 51 Brothers and Sisters

JUNE 2

5:00 PM Retro Shorts Program

7:30 PM Clouds Over Conakry

*\*Directors/Guests will be in attendance*

# About

## ABOUT FILM AT LINCOLN CENTER

Film at Lincoln Center is dedicated to supporting the art and elevating the craft of cinema and enriching film culture. Film at Lincoln Center fulfills its mission through the programming of festivals, series, retrospectives, and new releases; the publication of Film Comment; and the presentation of podcasts, talks, special events, and artist initiatives. Since its founding in 1969, this nonprofit organization has brought the celebration of American and international film to the world-renowned Lincoln Center arts complex, making the discussion and appreciation of cinema accessible to a broad audience and ensuring that it remains an essential art form for years to come. For more information, visit [www.filmlinc.org](http://www.filmlinc.org) and follow @filmlinc on Twitter and Instagram.



This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

## ABOUT MAYSLES CINEMA

Maysles Cinema, at Maysles Documentary Center (MDC), founded by the late documentary filmmaker and pioneer Albert Maysles (1926-2015) in 2008, is dedicated to the exhibition and discussion of documentary films. The Cinema is committed to a democratic experience, one where filmmakers are asked to attend the screenings of their work, and audiences have the opportunity to actively engage the films, subjects in the films, experts, and each other in post-screening forums. Coupled with its scheduled programming, Maysles encourages the programming participation of local social and cultural organizations to deepen community involvement and provide exposure for under-represented social issues and overlooked artists and their work.

## ABOUT BAM

BAM Rose Cinemas (BRC) opened in 1998 to offer Brooklyn audiences an alternative to the standard multiplex, screening independent films that might otherwise not play in the borough and making BAM the only performing arts center in the country with two mainstage theaters and a multiplex cinema. In July 1999, beginning with a series celebrating the work of Spike Lee, BAMcinémathèque was born as Brooklyn's only daily year-round repertory film program. BAMcinémathèque presents classic films, premieres, festivals, and retrospectives, often with special appearances by filmmakers, actors, and critics.

## ABOUT AFF

*Beyond the Film Festival:*

### AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL YEAR ROUND ACTIVITIES

African Film Festival, Inc. (AFF) is dedicated to advancing an enhanced understanding of African culture through the moving image. It offers diverse platforms for the wide distribution of African media through its flagship annual film festival and complementary year-round programming. AFF is committed to increasing visibility and recognition for African media artists by introducing African film and culture to a broad range of audiences in the United States and abroad, bypassing economic, class and racial barriers.

In 1990, AFF's founders established goals that continue to enrich the organization mission and organizational development: to use African cinema to promote and increase knowledge and understanding of African arts, literature and culture; to develop audiences for African films; to expand the opportunities for the distribution of African films in the United States and abroad. AFF programming goes beyond its flagship annual film festival



and related exhibitions to encompass a national traveling series, year-round screenings of both new and classic films in New York and beyond, and educational and community programs. Combined, these core programs serve to promote a better understanding of the full spectrum of African film and culture.

### AFF DIGITAL

Viewers enjoy our curated selection of African and diaspora cinema and live-streamed talks.

### ANNUAL NATIONAL TRAVELING FILM SERIES

AFF's National Traveling Series provides a package of AFF-curated films, promotional materials and professional cinema consultation to film programmers in cultural and community institutions.

### COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

AFF partners with community organizations to host free and low-cost programs. These include year-round screenings, discussions and performances with institutions including the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Apollo Theater, The Bronx Museum of Art, City University of New York, CityParks Foundation, Cornerstone Mentoring Program, MoCADA, Carnegie Hall, Global Kids Network, The Trust for Governors Island, New York Public Library, Ocularis, The Queens Museum and United Nations, just to name a few.

### EDUCATION PROGRAMS

AFF facilitates education programs in NYC schools where students are led in historical and cultural investigations of works produced by or about people of African heritage through guided conversations and inquiry-based lesson plans.

### DVD DISTRIBUTION and AFF PUBLICATIONS

AFF's online store offers DVDs representing the best in classic, contemporary and hard-to-find African and Diasporic film and self-published anthologies of conversations with African directors, capturing the experience, spirit, and wisdom of African filmmakers. Publication titles include Through African Eyes: Dialogues with the Directors, Through African Eyes: Conversations with the Directors Volume 2 and Looking Back, Looking Forward: 20 Years of the New York African Film Festival. The three publications are available on our website.

For more information on AFF's programs and initiatives, please visit [africanfilmny.org](http://africanfilmny.org)

# Sponsors

The New York African Film Festival is made possible by the generous support of:





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New York, NY 10023

**MAYSLES CINEMA**

343 Lenox Avenue/Malcolm X Boulevard  
New York, NY, 10027

**BAM**

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Brooklyn, NY 11217