

# MODERN DAYS

The 2nd New York African Film Festival

# ANCIENT NIGHTS

April 8 - 24

Presented by  
THE FILM SOCIETY OF LINCOLN CENTER  
and the AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL  
at the

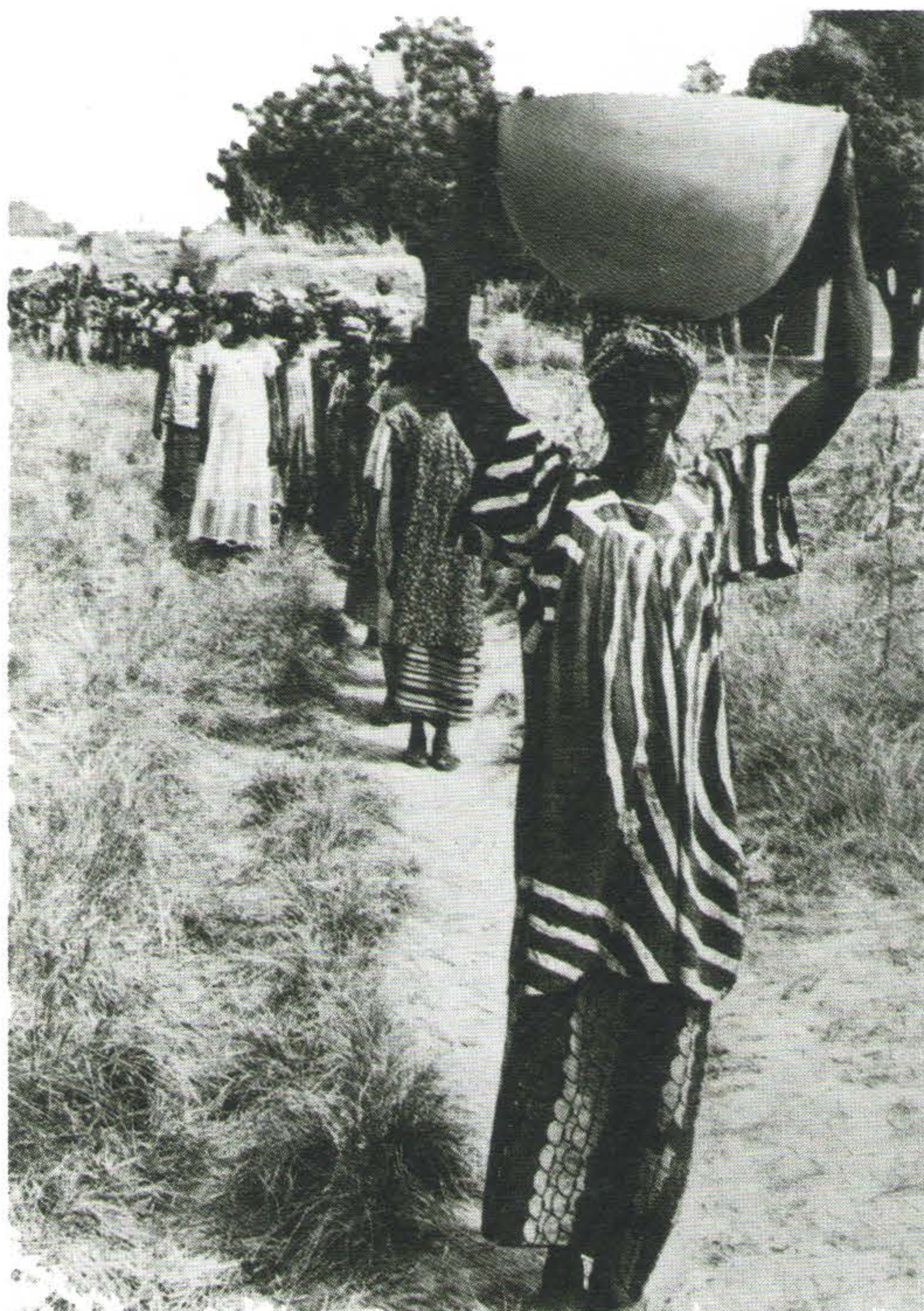
**WALTER READE THEATER**

165 West 65th Street (212) 875-5600

**F**ollowing on the success of last year's "Modern Days, Ancient Nights: Thirty Years of African Filmmaking"--the largest celebration of African cinema ever held in New York--the Film Society and the African Film Festival, Inc. present a wide-ranging selection of new and classic works from Africa. This year's series shifts the emphasis from the better known Francophone/West African cinemas to include acclaimed work from Anglophone cinemas of Western, Eastern and Southern Africa. This year's festival highlights a powerful selection of work by women directors, as well as provocative, innovative documentaries such as FIRE EYES and IN DARKEST HOLLYWOOD. One not-to-be-missed feature is JIM COMES TO JO'BURG, the first South African film (1949) with an all-black cast. Film milestones such as JIM and the later MAPANTSULA (1988) presage a post-liberation South African cinema which the April elections will make possible.

**Support for The 2nd New York African Film Festival has been provided by the Rockefeller Foundation, UNESCO, Mango Records, the 21st Century Foundation, New York State Council on the Arts, The Chase Manhattan Bank and The Mayflower Hotel.**

Programs will also be presented at **The Brooklyn Museum's Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Auditorium** April 24th through May 22nd. For more information, please call (718) 638-5000, extension 230.



Many screenings will be introduced by the filmmaker or guest speaker and followed by a discussion. Films are in English or have English subtitles.

## **MORE TIME**

**Isaac Mabhikwa,  
Zimbabwe, 1993;  
90 minutes**

A stirring portrait of a young woman discovering sexual intimacy in the age of AIDS.

**Friday, April 8: 6:30 pm  
Saturday, April 9: 6 pm  
Tuesday, April 12: 2 pm**

## **IN THE NAME OF CHRIST**

**Roger Gnoan M'Bala, Ivory Coast, 1993; 90 minutes**

A wry fable of religion in Africa that follows the exploits of a self-proclaimed "cousin of Christ."

**Friday, April 8: 9 pm  
Saturday, April 9: 4 and 8:10 pm  
Tuesday, April 12: 4 pm**

## **AMA**

**Kwesi Owusu & Kwate Nee-Owoo, Ghana/Great Britain, 1990; 100 minutes**

A computer floppy disk becomes a prophetic device through which a young Ghanaian girl living in England discovers her African identity.

**Saturday, April 9: 10:10 pm  
Sunday, April 10: 4 and 8:45 pm**

## SABABU

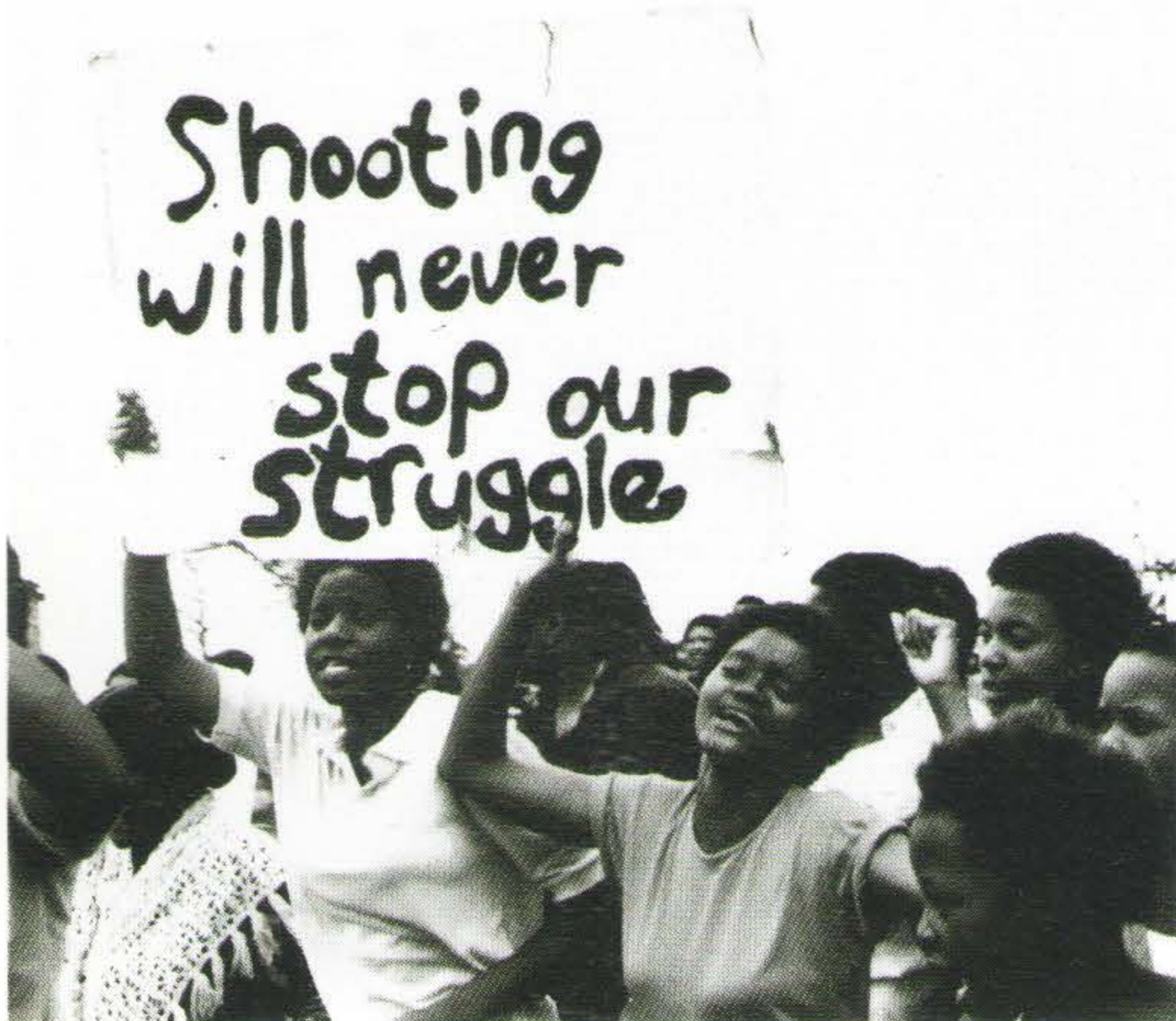
**Nissy Joanny Traoré, Burkina Faso, 1992;**

**90 minutes**

When asked to resolve a dispute with local authorities, a village interpreter uses his language skills to further his own ends. An ironic look at the clash of cultures in Africa.

**Sunday, April 10: 6:30 pm**

**Wednesday, April 13: 2 and 6:30 pm**



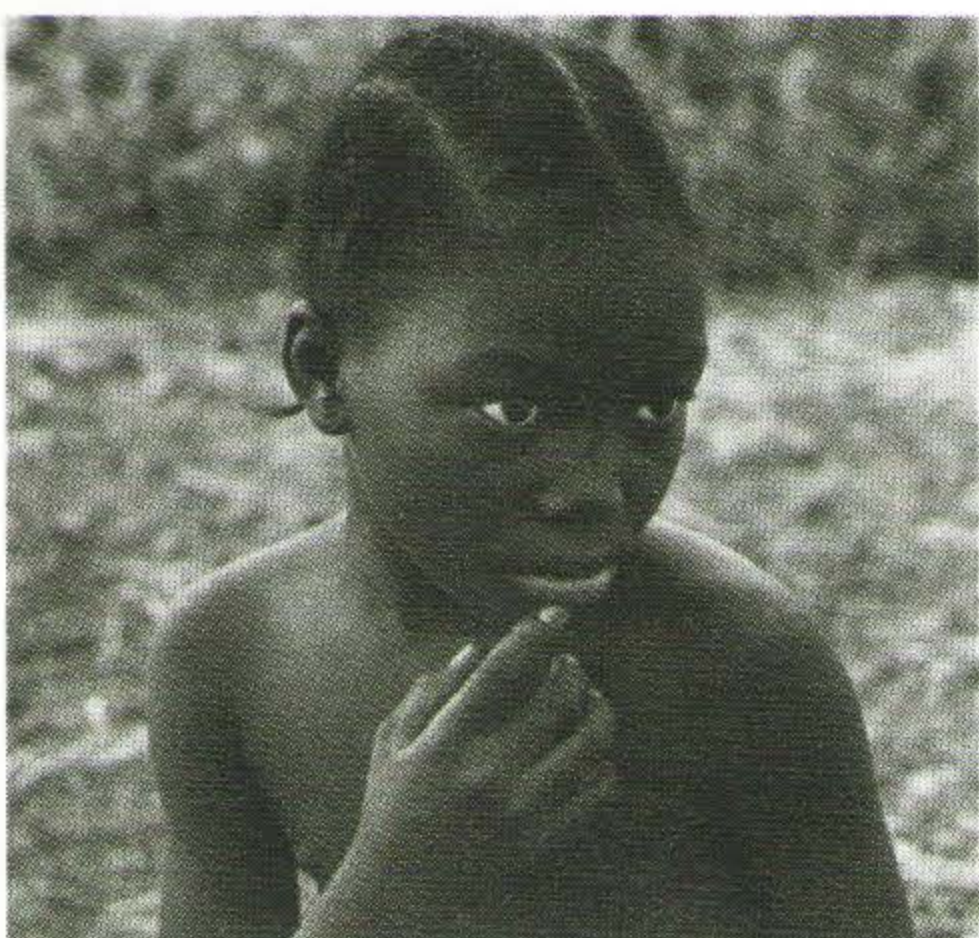
## LAADA

**Drissa Touré, Burkina Faso, 1991; 90 minutes**

A richly textured film about contemporary African youth torn between the traditional ways of their village and the promise of an urban future.

**Thursday, April 14: 2 and 6 pm**

**Friday, April 15: 4 and 8 pm**



## JIM COMES TO JO'BURG / AKA AFRICAN JIM

**Donald Swanson, South Africa, 1949;  
50 minutes**

This ground breaking film is a gentle tale of a young man finding his way in the big city. Its all-black cast features such musical greats as Dolly Rathebe, the African Ink Spots, and the legendary Jazz Maniacs.

**Saturday, April 16: 4 pm**

**Sunday, April 17: 6:30 pm**

## HERITAGE AFRICA

**Kwah Ansah, Ghana, 1989; 110 minutes**

A riveting exploration of the character and fate of an African Governor-General in the colonial Gold Coast.

**Wednesday, April 13:**

**4:15 and 8:30 pm**

**Friday, April 15: 10 pm**

## TILAI

**Idrissa Ouedraogo, Burkina Faso, 1990; 81 minutes**

Returning home after a long absence, a man discovers that his father has married his fiancée, thus setting in motion a gripping tale of passion, revenge and honor.

*with*

## DENKO

**Mohamed Camara, Guinea, 1992; 20 minutes**

A stranger promises to restore the sight of a blind boy if his mother will make an enormous sacrifice.

**Thursday, April 14: 4 pm**

**Friday, April 15: 2 and 6**

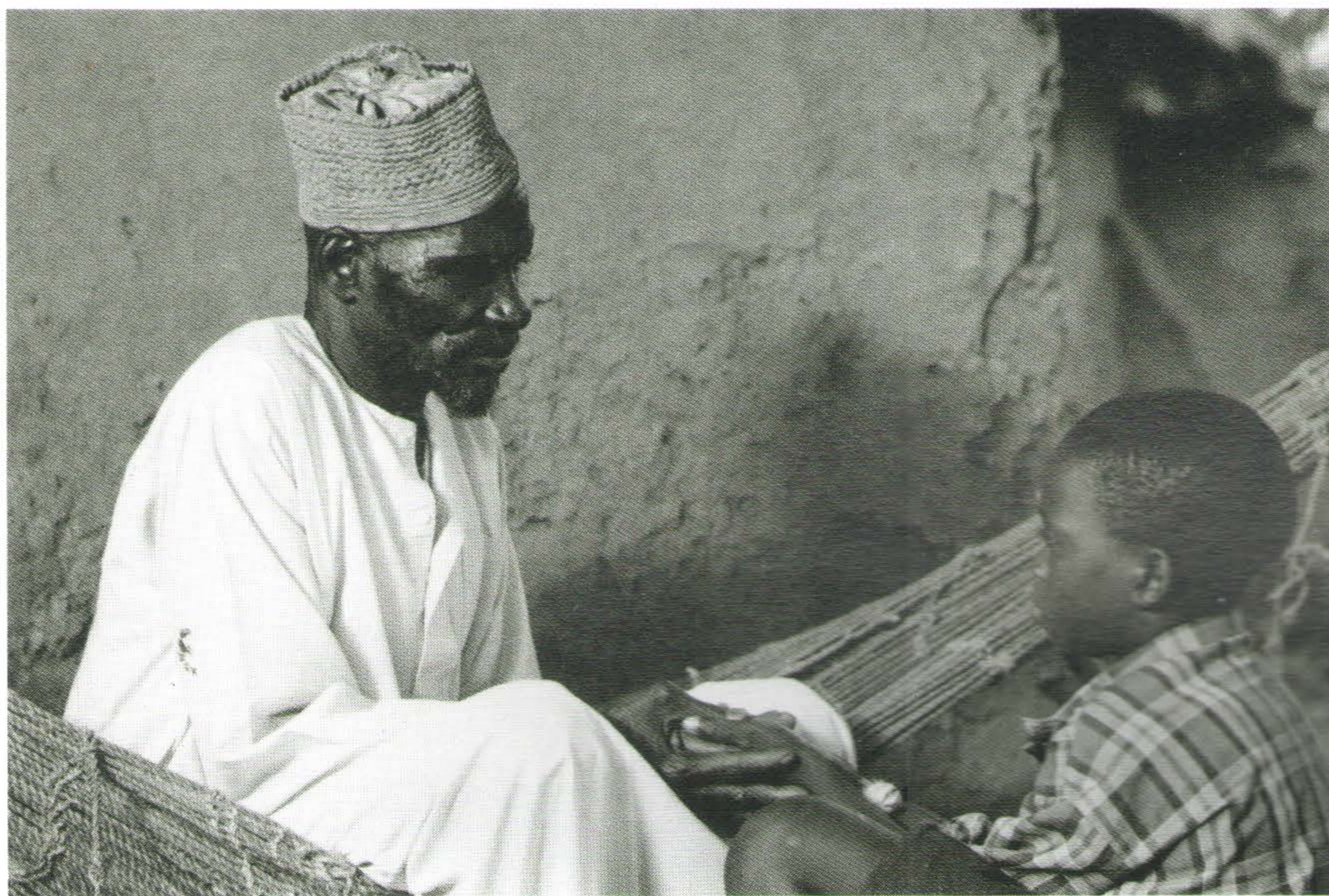
## MAPANTSULA

**Thomas Mogotlane & Oliver Schmitz, South Africa, 1988;  
105 minutes**

Panic, a small-time crook, barely notices the political struggle going on all around him until a trip to jail forces a sudden and radical change. A landmark in South African filmmaking.

**Saturday, April 16: 2, 5:15 and 10 pm**

**Monday, April 18: 4 pm**



## THESE HANDS

**Flora M'mbugu-Schelling, Tanzania, 1992; 45 minutes**

An exceptional documentary about the working day of Tanzanian women whose livelihood is stone churning.

*with*

## SHIDA AND MATATIZO

**Flora M'mbugu-Schelling, Tanzania, 1993; 50 minutes**

Ingeniously blending fact and fiction, this film is a moving plea against the exploitation of children in Tanzania.

**Saturday, April 16: 7:30 pm**

**Sunday, April 17: 4 and 8 pm**

**Monday, April 18: 2 pm**

## IN DARKEST HOLLYWOOD: CINEMA & APARTHEID

**Peter Davis & Daniel Riesenfeld, South Africa / USA, 1992;  
120 minutes**

A fascinating look at the role cinema has played in both the creation of--and the struggle against--the apartheid regime of South Africa.

**Monday, April 18: 6:15 and 9 pm**

## WEND KUUNI / GOD'S GIFT

**Gaston Kaboré, Burkina Faso, 1982; 70 minutes**

A powerful evocation of pre-colonial Africa, this beautiful film traces the path of an abandoned child given sanctuary by villagers who name him "God's Gift."

*with*

## AIDA SOUKA

**Mansour Sora Wade, Sénégal, 1992; 16 minutes**

A *disquette* (trendy young girl) is initiated into the art of love by a *dryanké*, an expert in the seductive arts.

*and*

## PICC MI

**Mansour Sora Wade, Sénégal, 1992; 16 minutes**

When almas beggar Madour meets Ablaye, who lives with his father in a rubbish dump, the street-smart Ablaye teaches him methods of survival and the two become fast friends.

**Sunday, April 17: 2 pm**

**Tuesday, April 19: 2 and 6:30 pm**

**Wednesday, April 20: 4 pm**

## MONDAY'S GIRLS

**Ngozi Onwurah, Nigeria / Great Britain, 1993; 50 minutes**

Two young Wakirike women offer opposing attitudes towards the *Iria*, the ritual by which Nigerian women are recognized as being suitable for marriage.

*with*

## FIRE EYES

**Soraya Mire, Somalia / USA, 1993; 60 minutes**

Uncompromising, this personal and insightful documentary takes on the previously taboo subject of female genital mutilation.

**Tuesday, April 19: 4 and 9 pm**

**Wednesday, April 20: 2 and 6:30 pm**



## JOM, THE STORY OF A PEOPLE

**Ababacar Samb-Makharam, Sénégal, 1981; 80 minutes**

"Jom" is a Wolof word meaning courage, dignity, respect, and the origin of all virtues. Roy Armes notes that the lyrical Jom "captures situations linked only by the concern with the concept of honor and dignity".

**Wednesday, April 20: 9 pm; Thursday, April 21: 2 pm**

**Friday, April 22: 10 pm; Saturday, April 23: 2 pm**

## LA VIE EST BELLE / LIFE IS ROSY

**Ngangura Mweze & Benoit Lamy, Zaire / Belgium, 1987; 85 minutes**

In this lively farce, Kourou, a youthful singer from the Zairian countryside, achieves superstardom in sprawling Kinshasha.

**Thursday, April 21: 4 pm**

**Friday, April 22: 2 and 6 pm**

## **TA DONA / FIRE!**

**Adama Drabo, Mali, 1991; 100 minutes**

Visually stunning, this tale of one man's search for ancestral knowledge moves seamlessly between reality, dreams, myth and even the supernatural.

**Thursday, April 21: 6:30 pm**

**Friday, April 22: 4 and 8 pm**

## **BLANC D'EBENE / WHITE EBONY**

**Cheik Doukouré, France /  
Guinea, 1991; 83 minutes**

In this refreshingly unsterotypical film, a French colonial official, an African wannabe, runs up against a Paris-educated West African.

**with**

## **OCTOBER**

**Abderrahmane Sissako,  
Mauritania, 1992; 37 minutes**

A departing African student must say goodbye to his Russian lover in this haunting film.

**Saturday, April 23: 4 pm**

**Sunday, April 24: 6:15 pm**

## **SPECIAL**

## **SCREENINGS OF : RUE PRINCESS**

**Henri Duparc, Ivory Coast / France, 1994; 87 minutes**

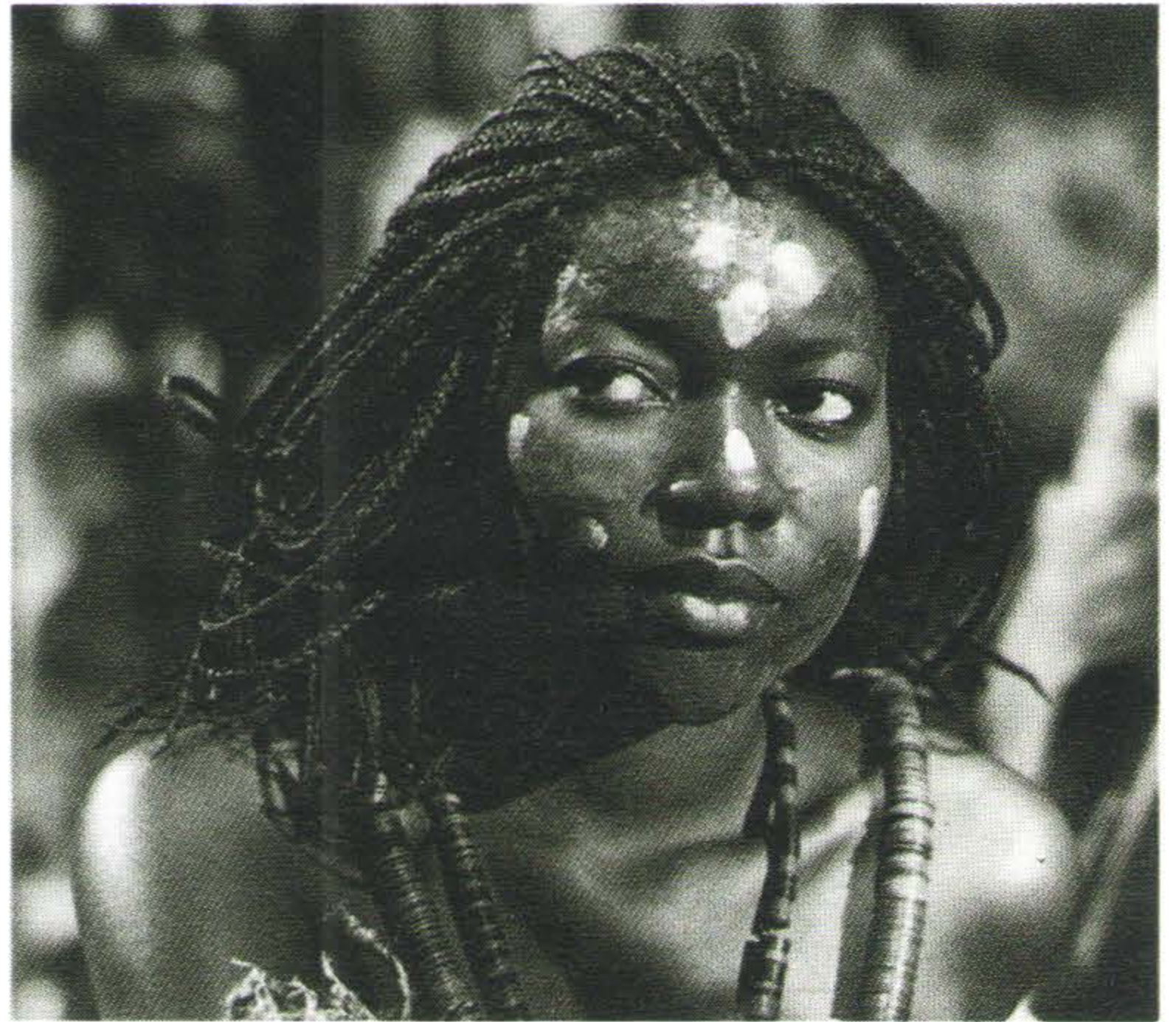
We're proud to be able to present the American premiere of the new film by Henri Duparc, whose *DANCING IN THE DUST* was one of the hits of last year's Festival. *RUE PRINCESS* is a remarkable tale of a young man's encounter with the "skin trade," the world of contemporary African prostitution -- a "tender comedy," according to its director, "about a serious subject."

**Saturday, April 23: 9 pm**

**Sunday, April 24: 2 pm**

African Film Festival, Inc. (Mahen Bonetti, Hilary Ney, Sharan Sklar, Linda Fiske, Fadhima Thiam) thank Maureen Slattery, Carol Davis Fiske, Valerie Woodson, Troy Brown, Nicole Kekeh, Tunde Giwa, Mamadou Niang, William C. MacKay, Dorothy Desir Davis, Kojo Ade, Anyango Odhiambo and Luca Bonetti for their help and support.

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Seybert-Nicholas Printing Corp.**



## **LE BALLON D'OR / THE GOLDEN BALL**

**Cheik Doukouré, France / Guinea,  
1992; 90 minutes**

An engaging tale that follows Bandian, a boy-wonder on the soccer field, from his village in the bush to superstardom in France.

**Saturday, April 23: 6:45 pm**

**Sunday, April 24: 4 and 8:45 pm**

For their help with this series, the Film Society wish to thank the French Ministry of Cooperation and Development, ATRIA (Claude Le Gallou and Annabel Thomas), French Cultural Services, Peter Davis, Erika Rutheford, KJM3 and Dramane Deme.



**American Airlines is the official  
airline of the African Film Festival,  
providing transportation from Paris  
for visiting African filmmakers.**