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
Following 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 Ghanian 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

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

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

TILAI
Idrissa Ouedraogo, Burkina Faso, 1990; 81 minutes
Returning home after a long absence, a man discovers that his father has married his fiancee, 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

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
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 Riesenfield, 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 became 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 Iru, 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-Makhamaram, 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 Kinshasa.
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

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

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. (Mahan 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.

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.

Printed by:
Seybert-Nicholas Printing Corp.