

# FILM YORK 11



# **Panel Discussion**

on Saturday April 10th 3-5 pm Lifetime Screening Room 511 Dodge Hall, Columbia University @ 116th Street and Broadway Free & Open to the Public. Take 1 or 9 trains to 116th Street.

### **TABOO:** That's not African!

Panel Discussion co-sponsored by the Film Division of Columbia University School of the Arts. This panel will discuss African films that address such controversial topics as traditional religious practice, homosexuality, and the experience of people of mixed race. Guests include: Tunde Kelani, Yves Sonokobi, and Branwen Okpako. Moderated by Richard Peña. Featuring Excerpts from: *Agogo Eewo, Woubi Chéri,* and *Dirt for Dinner*.

### SAVE THE DATE! June 4th, 2004

Film Screening of Amandia! A Revolution in Four-Part Harmony and Concert featuring Hugh Masakela

AFF and the Apollo Theater Foundation, Inc. celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the Apollo Theater and the 10th Anniversary of Democracy in South Africa. Stay tuned to www.africanfilmny.org for more information.

# **The New York African Film Festival** April 3 - 15 & 23 -25, 2004

The 11th New York African Film Festival was organized by Richard Peña and The African Film Festival, Inc. (Mahen Bonetti, Prerana Reddy, Alonzo Speight, Kaine Agary and Muriel Placet-Kouassi). Thanks are due to, Tracy Binta Austin, Joan Baffour, Luca Bonetti, Francoise Bouffault, Rumbi Bwerinofa, Joy Elliott, Tunde Giwa, Belynda Hardin, J. Michelle Hill, Brigitte Houngbedji, Kojo Associates, and Seke Somolu.

The programs of AFF are made possible by the generous support of Ford Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, JPMorgan Chase, Diageo, New York State Council on the Arts, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, American Express, UNDP, UNESCO, 57 Main Street Wine Company, The New York Times, Time Warner Cable and Mayflower Hotel.

The African Film Festival, Inc. is pleased to present the 11th New York African Film Festival. The program will open with the US Premiere of *Critical Assignment*, Africa's first action thriller that combines stunts and special effects with a strong humanitarian message.

Entertaining stories, homegrown plots and locally relevant themes are also a feature of the wildy successful Nigerian video industry. As part of its second Nigerian spotlight "**Living, Loving & Fighting ... Naija Style,**" AFF is proud to present a mid-career retrospective of Tunde Kelani, one of the most highly regarded cinematographers and Yoruba filmmakers.

April 2004 marks **"Ten Years of South African Democracy."** To commemorate this occasion, AFF will screen both classic and contemporary films that demonstrate a dynamic society transitioning from decades of apartheid to an egalitarian future.

Other highlights include the US premiere of *The Legend of the Sky Kingdom*, Africa's first animated feature, as well as "**Let's Talk About Sex**," a selection of four films on the controversial issue of sexual minorities in the African context. We also continue the annual tradition of featuring African cinema classics such as the late Lionel Nkagane's *Jemima & Johnny* and Kwaw Ansah's *Love Brewed in an African Pot*.

With this diverse array of films, AFF continues to lead the mission in bringing the distinctive experience of African cinema to the hearts and imagination of the world.







NATIONAL

ENDOWMENT

FOR THE ARTS











About Braids / Histoire de tresses Jacqueline Kalimunda Rwanda, 2003, 23 min. A magical encounter between a mysterious young woman and a gifted African hair-braider who is asked to recreate a completely unconventional style.

### Agogo Eewo / Taboo Gong

Tunde Kelani, Nigeria, 2002, 100 min. In Kelani's prize-winning sequel to *Saworoide*, Jogbo's new ruler surprises the corrupt chiefs who install him by leading a charge to return fairness and honesty to the government.

### Alex's Wedding

Jean-Marie Teno Cameroon/France, 2003, 45 min. Unlike any wedding video you've ever seen, Teno's sharp eye captures every uncomfortable moment in a polygamous marriage ceremony.

### Campus Queen

Tunde Kelani Nigeria, 2003, 100 min. When beautiful Banké reveals her mistreatment by her boyfriend, the president of an influential university social club, the head of a more socially conscious rival group comes to her aid. World Premiere

### Cora Player

Cilia Sawadogo Burkina Faso 1996

Burkina Faso, 1996, 7 min. In this animated short a girl confronts the wrath of her father when she challenges tradition by falling in love with a boy from the griot caste.

### **Cosmic Africa**

Craig Foster and Damon Foster South Africa, 2002, 72 min. An extraordinary personal odyssey of African astronomer, Thebe Medupe, who journeys into this ancient continent's astronomical past unveiling the deep connection humans have with the cosmos.

### **Critical Assignment**

Jason Xenopoulos South Africa/UK/Nigeria/Cameroon, 2003, 98 mins. In this stunt-filled thriller, Africa's first action hero, Michael Power, is a reporter who returns to Africa to uncover a secret plot that threatens a clean water project. **US Premiere** 

### **Dirt for Dinner**

Branwen Okpako Nigeria/Germany, 2000, 75 min. This documentary tries to find out how the former East Germany's first black cop and posterboy for diversity ends up becoming a criminal serving a ten-year jail sentence.

### A Drink In the Passage

Zola Maseko South Africa, 1997, 28 min. In 1960's South Africa, a man wins a prize for his sculpture in a contest strictly for whites, creating a nation-wide outcry.

### **Emotional Crack**

Lancelot Oduwa-Imasuen Nigeria, 2003, 105 min. Crystal always forgives her abusive husband, until she develops a special friendship with a new girlfriend. **US Premiere** 

### Four Rent Boys & A Sangoma

Catherine Muller South Africa, 2003, 47 min. Set in the townships and streets of Johannesburg, this documentary charts the inner lives of five black South African men who have sex with men. NY Premiere

### Hello, Nigeria!

### **Kemi** Amo

Nigeria/USA, 2003, 26 min. A teenage girl from Africa comes to America to care for the five year-old son of an African husband and his African American wife.

### Kounandi

Apolline Traore Burkina Faso, 2003, 49 min. Orphaned and rejected by her village for being a dwarf, Kounandi falls in love with Karim, a kind-hearted man who aids her. However, he's already married ...

### Le Pacte

Guy Desire Yameogo Burkina Faso, 2002, 24 min. Tinga makes a deadly pact that he will make a human sacrifice in seven years in order to build up his fortune, but finds it hard to keep his bargain.

### The Legend of the Sky Kingdom

Roger Hawkins Zimbabwe, 2003, 74 min. Africa's first animated feature, with characters made entirely of junk, is an adventurous tale of three orphans who escape from their underground city of enslavement and search for the legendary Sky Kingdom. **US Premiere** 

### A Lion's Trail

François Verster South Africa, 2002, 55 min. Everyone knows the song "The Lion Sleeps Tonight," but how many people realize that it was originally written by Solomon Linda, a Zulu shepherd boy in the 1920s? **US Premiere** 

### Love Brewed in an African Pot

Kwaw Ansah

Ghana, 1980, 125 min. In this amusing comedy, a young, educated woman falls in love with a semi-literate auto mechanic, outraging her father who expects her to marry the man of his choice, a respected lawyer.

### Mapantsula

Oliver Schmitz South Africa, 1998, 100 min. Panic is a petty gangster caught up in the events of the student riots in Soweto, through which he is transformed from an irresponsible loner into someone compelled to take a stand.

### Mboutoukou

Metsi

Victor Viyuoh Cameroon/USA, 2002, 14 min. When twelve-year old Napo overhears his brother and mother question his ablity to take on a man's responsibilities, he sets out to prove them wrong.

### Me & My White Pal

Pierre Yameogo

Burkina Faso/France, 2003, 90 min. When drug dealers go after Mamadi, an African student in Paris, he and his white friend flee back to his home country, Burkina Faso. Little do they know that their adventures are just beginning.

Blair Lynzee Doroshwalther South Africa, 2003, 10 min. *Metsi* is a poetic documentary on the water crisis in Orange Farm, a township in a "not-so-postapartheid" South Africa.

## A Normal Daugher: The Life and Times of Kewpie of District 6

Jack Lewis South Africa, 1998, 50 min.

Before District 6 was destroyed by the apartheid government in the '70s, gay life was an accepted part of this racially diverse community in Cape Town, and Kewpie's hairdressing salon was the

### Rapbizz

Benny Malapa France/Cameroon, 2002, 20 min. Tony, an African immigrant in Paris, dreams of becoming a rap star. Not getting any results from industry bigwigs, he decides to work with a producer from the ghetto.

### The River / Le Fleuve

Mama Keita Guinea/France. 2003. 96 min. After avenging the death of his best friend, Alfa returns home to Guinea not only to escape the brother of the person he's killed, but also to discover Africa.

### Saworoide / Brass Bells

Tunde Kelani Nigeria, 1999, 105 min. Upon ascending the throne of the Jogbo kingdom, Lapite shows himself to be a corrupt and despotic ruler, terrorizing his subjects and plundering the natural resources for personal gain.

### Si Gueriki, The Queen Mother

Idrissou Mora Kpai Benin/France/Germany, 2003, 62 min. The director, a member of the Wassangari tribe of northern Benin, returns to his village after ten years following the death of his father. Having lived in a sex-segregated society, he finally gets to know his sister and mother, and what he learns surprises him.

### Soldiers of The Rock

Norman Maake South Africa, 2003, 94 min. To experience the world in which his father died, Vuyo decides to take a break from business studies to join a jaded crew of deep level miners.

### Something Else / Nkan Mii

Seke Somolu Nigeria, 2003, 16 min. A man in financial distress is left with few options and must turn to his family for help in this microcosmic look at middle-class life in Nigeria today.

### Surrender Celine Gilbert

Tanzania/Zimbabwe, 2000, 30 min. In the tranquil fishing community in Zanzibar, we meet Amri, a man trapped between the traditional role of the family man his father expects him to fulfill and his own desire for Mashua, a local fisherman.

### Tasuma

Daniel Sanou Kollo Burkina Faso, 2003, 90 min. In this comedy, Sogo, a Burkinabe veteran of the French Army is finally due his war pension. With mounting debts and his efforts at collecting leading nowhere, Sogo goes back to the official one last time with gun in hand.

### Thunderbolt

Tunde Kelani Nigeria, 2001, 105 min. Ngozi, an Igbo woman and Yinka, a Yoruba man marry, enflamig the ethnic prejudices of those around them. Driven to jealousy by rumors, Yinka tries to ensure his wife's fidelity by using an ageold folk method, "magun," which will strike either Ngozi or her next lover dead.

### Traces, Women's Imprints

Katy Lena Ndiaye Burkina Faso/Senegal, 2003, 52 min. Three grandmothers attempt to pass their knowledge of the exclusively feminine art of mural paintings to their granddaughter who has left the village to study. **Co-presented with Human Rights Watch International Film Festival** 

### Train, Train Medina

Mohamadou Ndoye Senegal / Belgium, 2001, 7 min. A poetic animation about the Medina of Dakar in all her beauty and chaos.

### Twins of The Rainforest

Mahmood Ali-Balogun Nigeria, 1998, 26 min. An expectant couple are horrified when the mother gives birth to twins. According to tradition, the villagers believe that twins are evil and must be drowned immediately after birth.

### Valley of The Innocent

### FILM SOCIETY OF LINCOLN CENTER

### WALTER READE THEATER

(\*) Indicates Q&A session involved

	0-00	The Lorendor ( the Olar Wardsmith Oran
<b>Sat</b> 4.03	2:00	The Legend of the Sky Kingdom with Cora Player and Train, Train Medina * Hello, Nigeria! with Something Else and Twins of The Rainforest
	4:30	
	7:00	*OPENING NIGHT FILM Critical Assignment with White Handkerchief
	9:45	*Agogo Eewo
~	1:00 3:00	Cosmic Africa with Petite Lumière * Saworoide
Sun	5:30	Love Brewed in an African Pot
4.04	8:00	* A Normal Daughter with Four Rent Boys & A Sangoma
	1:00	A Lion's Trail with The Journey
	2:45	to Nyae Nyae Qula Kwedini with Mboutoukou and Metsi
Mon	4:30	* The Legend of the Sky Kingdom with Cora
4.05	7:00	Player and Train, Train Medina * Critical Assignment with White
		Handkerchief
	9:30	Emotional Crack
Tue		Me & My White Pal
4.06	3:00	In Darkest Hollywood
<b>\</b>		* Saworoide
		* Agogo Eewo *CENTERPIECE Campus Queen
4.07		* Ouaga Hip Hop with Rapbizz
There	1.00	*Thunderbolt
Thur	3:30	*Hello, Nigeria! with Something Else and
4.08		Twins of The Rainforest
		Love Brewed in an African Pot
Fri		* Traces with Alex's Wedding Mapantsula
4.09		* Valley of The Innocent
	9:45	Emotional Crack
Sat		* Campus Queen
4.10	7:30 10:00	* Traces with Alex's Wedding Me & My White Pal
	12.45	Tasuma
Sun		Qula Kwedini with Mboutoukou and Metsi
4.11		* Owo Blow with Kemi
		* Dirt for Dinner with Jemima & Johnny * Woubi Chéri with Surrender
	12:30	A Normal Daughter with Four Rent Boys
Mon	2:30	& A Sangoma * Kounandi with About Braids and Le Pacte
4.12	5:00	A Lion's Trail with The Journey
4.12	6:45	to Nyae Nyae In Darkest Hollywood
		Tasuma
Tue	12:30	* Valley of the Innocent
4.13	2:45	Owo Blow with Kemi
4.13	5:00	Ouaga Hip Hop with Rapbizz
		Woubi Chéri with Surrender
Wed		*Soldiers of The Rock Thunderbolt
4.14	7:00	Cosmic Africa with Petite Lumière
	9:00	*Kounandi with About Braids and Le Pacte
		Mapantsula
Thur	4:00 6:30	* Dirt for Dinner with Jemima & Johnny * Soldiers of The Rock
4.15	9:00	Critical Assignment with
		White Handkerchief



Zina Saro-Wiwa Nigeria, 2004, 40 min.

Can we better understand Nigerian society by examining the contents of Ovation!, Nigeria's very own glossy society and celebrity magazine?

### In Darkest Hollywood

Peter Davis and Daniel Riesenfield South Africa, 1994, 120 min. Using a wealth of archival footage and commentary by filmmakers and actors, including a young John Kani and Miriam Makeba, this twopart series examines the role of cinema in both supporting and attacking apartheid.

### Jemima & Johnny

Lionel Ngakane

South Africa, 1966, 30 min. Late African cinema pioneer, Lionel Ngakane, explores the impromptu friendship between the lonely son of a white supremacist and the daughter of recent Caribbean immigrants in 1960s London.

### Journey to Nyae Nyae

Daniel Riesenfeld South Africa/Namibia, 2004, 25 min. A poignant portrait of N!xau, a Ju/'hoansi man from the Kalahari desert who rocketed to international fame as the star of *The Gods Must be Crazy* films. Shot just before his untimely death. epicenter of this culture.

### Petite Lumière

Alain Gomis Senegal, 2002, 15 min. This poignant exploration of childhood wonder and philosophical inquiry follows an eight-year-old Senegalese girl as she figures out life's little mysteries.

### Ouaga Hip Hop

### Benny Malapa

Cameroon/France/Burkina Faso, 2004, 52 min. This documentary shows how a hip hop festival in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso enables dancers, actors, and rappers from France and West Africa to exchange ideas. World Premiere

### **Owo Blow - The Genesis**

Tade Ogidan

Nigeria, 1997, 80 min.

Mr. Owolabi is a father of four whose quest to create a just society unwittingly earns him a tenyear jail term. His incarceration wreaks havoc on his family, who are forced to do whatever it takes to survive.

### Qula Kwedini: A Rite of Passage

Mandilakhe Mjekula and Jahmil XT Qubeka South Africa, 2003, 57 min. Ndipiwe lives a privileged and carefree life in Johannesburg, until he decides to undergo a traditional initiation that includes going to the bush to be circumcised. Branwen Okpako

Nigeria/Germany, 2003, 84 min. Black police officer Eva researches the Stasi archives to uncover the identity of her birth parents. She finds her family's plot to hide her birth mirrors East Germany's own suppressed history in this noir thriller ...

Wariko, The Jackpot / Wariko, le gros lot Kramo-Lanciné Fadika

Ivory Coast, 1994, 100min.

A traffic cop wins the lottery, but the winning ticket has disappeared in this satire on the African dream of socio-economic success.

### White Handkerchief

Tunde Kelani

Nigeria, 1998, 17 min.

Odejimi is marrying his childhood love Awero. On their wedding night, Odejimi has a white handkerchief that has to be stained by the virginal blood of Awero.

### Woubi Chéri

Philip Brooks and Laurent Bocahut Ivory Coast/France, 1998, 62 min. The first film to give the African homosexual community a chance to describe themselves. Often funny, sometimes ribald, but always real, this documentary introduces us to Abidjan's gender pioneers. **Fri** *Alex's Wedding* preceded by *A Drink in The Passage* 6:50 pm, 9:10 pm

Sat *Wariko, The Jackpot*, 2:00 pm, 6:50 pm *Me and My White Pal*, 4:30 pm, 9:10 pm 4.24

Si Gueriki preceded by Petite Lumière,2:00 pm, 6:50 pm4.25The River preceded by Rapbizz, 4:30 pm, 9:10 pm

Walter Reade Theater 165 West 65th St. on the plaza level at Lincoln Center. Visit www.filmlinc.com or call 212. 496.3809 for more information. **Box office:** open daily from 12:30pm. Call 212. 875. 5600. Admission \$10, \$7 students, \$6 FSLC members, \$5 for seniors (weekday matinees), \$5 children (ages 6-12) accompanied by adult. **Directions:** Take 1 or 9 train to 66th Street. M5, M66, or M106 bus.

**BAM Cinematek @ BamRoseCinemas**, 30 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn. Visit www.bam.org or call 718. 636. 4100 for more information. Tickets also available through www.moviefone.com or 718. 777. FILM. General Admission \$10, Cinema Club Members \$6, Seniors & Children under 12\$6, Students with valid ID (Mon-Thu, except holidays) \$7. **Directions:** C to Lafayette; N, R,W,M to Pacific; 2,3,4,5 to Nevins; or G to Fulton.