



THE FOLLOWING EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. NO RSVP IS REQUIRED. FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED SEATING, UNTIL VENUE REACHES CAPACITY.

LIVE PERFORMANCE AND PANEL DISCUSSION - THURSDAY, APRIL 5th AFRICANS IN THE DIASPORA: EXPATRIATES AND HOMECOMING

Co-presentation with WNYC

The Jerome L. Greene Performance Space @ 7:00pm (Pre-event Reception at 6:00pm)

The 19th New York African Film Festival kicks off with a special preview of the two-month program at WNYC's The Jerome L. Greene Performance Space. Join us to create an anthem to African cinema, through the celebration of image and sound. As the lights go down, experimental musician and *Sound Unbound* author, Paul Miller (aka DJ Spooky), will set the tone for the evening, performing a live re-scoring of Ousmane Sembène's classic film, *Borom Sarret*. Following his performance, other guests who will lend their voices and insights to the evening, include NYU's Kanbar Institute of Film & Television Assistant Professor and filmmaker, Yemane Demissie, African cinema critic, Beatriz Leal, and award-winning new-media journalist, editor and filmmaker Raquel Cepeda. This event is moderated by WNYC's "The Takeaway" Senior Editor and Special Correspondent, Femi Oke, with an introduction by Organisation de la Francophonie Ambassador Filippe Savadogo (former director of FESPACO).

PANEL DISCUSSION - SATURDAY, APRIL 14th AFRICA IS A COUNTRY: TALKING MEDIA AND RUSSIAN ARCHIVES

Special presentation by Africa is a Country

Film Society of Lincoln Center - Walter Reade Theater's Frieda and Roy Furman Gallery @ 1:30

The popular blog, Africa is a Country (AIAC), will present a two-part panel discussion titled *Cinema and Propaganda*. Join AIAC as featured bloggers and special guests examine the relationship between Africa and the Soviet Union in the 1960s and 1970s, as is evidenced by Russia's extensive film archive of the continent, and then explore the relationship between film and social media movements on the continent and in the United States (i.e. Tahrir revolutionary cinema and Kony 2012, among others). This is a must see event!

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PANEL - THURSDAY, APRIL 19th

WHO'S STORY IS IT ANYWAY?: GRASSROOT MOVEMENTS ON THE CONTINENT

Co-presentation with Columbia University's Institute of African Studies (IAS) and Center For African Education (CAE)

CAE Columbia University @ 7:00pm - 525 West 120th Street, Room 130

African Film Festival, Inc. and Columbia University's Institute of African Studies will present a program examining the cross-section of technology and society in Africa. Using media to affect social change, grassroots movements in technology have been rippling throughout the continent, providing people with the tools needed to amplify their voices and messages. This program will highlight the initiatives spearheaded by Africans that exists in the remotest of villages and in the largest of cities and have brought the power of social media and other digital movements into the hands of those whose stories and experiences are often left told by others.



The 2012 New York African Film Festival, titled "21st Century: The Homecoming", is a two-month multi-venue event in New York City exploring ideas of home and homeland through films and their protagonists. A variety of films will be presented alongside programs aimed at a broader exploration of the festival's themes, including panel discussions, Q&A with the filmmakers, art exhibitions, professional development workshops, and presentations for K-12 and university students.

As has been the tradition since the founding of the NYAFF, we will present the best in contemporary and classic African cinema, challenging audience preconceptions, erasing distinctions between popular and high art, and emphasizing the importance of neglected genres such as melodrama, comedy and documentary. This is a populist cinema, one that defies the stereotype of African film made only for export or festival audiences.

We will pay homage to South Africa's celebration of the 100th anniversary of the African National Congress with dance and musical performances from that country as well as a broad offering of its films, including such documentaries as *The Creators* and *Stocktown X: South Africa*, which show its artistic vitality, and feature films like *Man on Ground* by Akin Omotoso and *How to Steal 2 Million* by Charlie Vundla, which adopt the techniques of the thriller and film noir to examine its dark underside. Africa's other cinematic powerhouse, Nollywood, will be represented by award-winning director Tunde Kelani's *Maami*, a sweeping chronicle of witchcraft, melodrama, love, and violence.

This festival will also honor the 50th anniversary of the independence of Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Algeria and Jamaica, further exploring themes of liberation and independence through attention to the role of artists as activists, to the unsung heroes and untold tales of African liberation, and to the concepts of literal and figurative homecoming in the 21st century by Africans in and of the Diaspora. *Mama Africa*, an unforgettable portrait of artist and activist Miriam Makeba by Mika Kaurismäki, will open the festival, and *Outside the Law* by Rachid Bouchareb, an epic story of three brothers fighting for Algeria's liberation, will bring it to a close. In between, we will see a pair of remarkable documentaries: Stevan Riley's *Fire in Babylon* and Clemente Bicocchi's *Black Africa White Marble*, which recover two unique symbols of the fight for liberation: the gifted West Indies cricket team and the 19th Century European explorer Pietro di Brazzà.

The 19st New York African Film Festival was organized by Richard Peña, Program Director, Film Society of Lincoln Center, and Mahen Bonetti, Founder and Executive Director, African Film Festival, Inc. with Toccarra Thomas, Hellura Lyle, Alonzo Speight, and Muriel Placet-Kouassi. Thanks are due to the AFF Board of Directors, Jane Aiello, Joan Baffour, Luca Bonetti, Francoise Bouffault, Rumbi Bwerinofa, Hervé Deswattenne, Mamadou Diouf, Gabriele Donati, Jacki Fischer, Jana Haimsohn, Sean Jacobs, Lisa Kim, Beatriz Leal, Ulli Maier, Alexander Markov, Belynda M'Baye, Prerana Reddy, Morgan Seag, Mohammed Sillah, 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, New York State Council on the Arts, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, International Organization of La Francophonie, Domenico Paulon Foundation, New York Foundation for the Arts, Divine Chocolate, The Ford Foundation, Bradley Family Foundation, South African Consulate General, French Cultural Services, Bloomberg, Lambent Foundation, Columbia University's Institute of African Studies & Center For African Education, WNYC, 57 Main St. Wine Company, HudsonHotel, Putumayo World Music, Flavorpill, Giant Step and Omnipak Import Enterprises, Inc.

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 www.filmlinc.com.

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



























Filmed in the Ponte, Africa's tallest residential apartment building, which is home to more than 4000 people from every corner of Africa. The film allows the viewer to be a fly on the wall, and intimately interact face to face with Africa. This serious, poignant, humorous, and uplifting film reveals the courage, heart, hope, beauty and stories of daily struggles of Africans from the rest of the continent living in South Africa today.

AFRICA: THE BEAT (N.Y. PREMIERE)
Samaki Wanne, Spain/Tanzania, 2011, 60min. Filmed in Nzali, an enclave situated in the heart of Tanzania where the Wagogo live, this film captures and reveals this unique musical universe. From the film's first frame to the last sound heard, each image takes us further into their daily reality while their music gradually engulfs us in a world of surprising sensations.

AYEN'S COOKING SCHOOL FOR AFRICAN MEN

In Sudan it is taboo for a man to cook. What happens when a Sudanese woman starts a cooking school for the Sudanese refugee men in Australia and asks them to prepare a feast for their biggest critics, the elder women?

BLACK AFRICA WHITE MARBLE (U.S. PREMIERE) Clemente Bicocchi, USA/Republic of the Congo/Italy, 2011, 77min.

In the Republic of the Congo, the long-time dictator plans to sweep aside the country's most revered spiritual leader. A lavish spectacle, funded by the French multinational TOTAL, is set to betray the population's ancient traditions and re-write the nation's history.

The genesis of Black African cinema can be traced to this short, stark masterpiece that chronicles a day in the life of a Dakar cart-driver. The frustrating day of this **borom sarret** (a Wolof expression for cart-driver) leaves him cheated out of his wages and deprived of his cart. In this striking evocative film with urban details, Sembène conveys the toll of natural loss, poverty, and the stain of European colonization on Africa.

COME BACK, AFRICA

In this milestone of insurrectionary cinema, American independent filmmaker Lionel Rogosin chronicles the life of a black young man who arrived in Joburg in search of a better life. This neorealist film is a unique document that denounces the harsh conditions of life under the Apartheid regime while showing the cultural richness of the Joburg neighborhood of Sophiatown in the 50s.

THE CREATORS
Laura Gamse, South Africa/USA, 2011, 82min.

An intimate, refreshing and deeply revealing journey through the lives of several contemporary South African artists who are using their individual disciplines – graffiti, hip hop, spoken word, opera - to rewrite history and the legacy of apartheid.

THE DANCE OF KING DAVID (N.Y. PREMIERE)

The film is based on a dance King David performed in front of the Ark over 3000 years ago and which is still practiced today during the Jewish festival of Simchat Torah and the festival of Timkat in Ethiopia. The film is a beautiful journey through the ancient

THE EDUCATION OF AUMA OBAMA (N.Y. PREMIERE) The life and times of Auma Obama told from her homestead in Kenya during the run up to the 2008 US Presidential elections that brought her brother Barack Obama to power, A captivating and intimate portrait of his older half-sister, who embodies a

post-colonial, feminist identity in her native Kenya.

and modern worship of this object.

Bernadette, a single mother in Paris, is thrilled when her eldest daughter, Elza, is the first in the family to graduate from college. But her happiness turns to disappointment when Elza runs away to their native Guadeloupe to meet a father she barely remembers.

FAREWELL EXILE/SALAM GHOURBA

Fatima, 30, is waiting to join her husband who migrated to France over a year ago to escape the misery which surrounds her, and the harmful

environment in which her naïve son is immersed. **FIRE IN BABYLON**

Throughout the Caribbean, one sport rules over all others: cricket. Fire in Babylon is the thrilling story of how the West Indies triumphed over their colonial masters through the achievements of one of the most gifted teams in the history of sport.

HOW TO STEAL 2 MILLION (U.S. PREMIERE) Charlie Vundla, South Africa, 2011, 85min.
When cold-blooded Jack goes back to the streets

after spending five years in jail for robbery, he resolves to leave his criminal ways behind. However, adhering to his new resolve turns out to be more difficult than he anticipated.

IN DARKEST HOLLYWOOD: CINEMA & APARTHEID Part I & II

Using a wealth of archival footage and commentary by filmmakers and actors, including a young John Kani and Miriam Makeba, this two-part series examines the role of cinema in both supporting and attacking apartheid. It also questions Hollywood's commitment to racial stereotypes and reluctance to depict black heroes.

KINSHASA SYMPHONY Claus Wischmann and Martin Baer, Germany/DRC, 2010, 95min.

Central Africa's only symphony orchestra, L'Orchestre Symphonique Kimbanguiste of Kinshasa, Congo, prepares for its first open air concert in its neighborhood, Ngiri-Ngiri. This multi-award winning documentary portrays the daily realities of a country, the people living in its capital and the universal passion transmitted by music

KONGO: 50 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE OF CONGO

Kongo is a documentary series in three episodes that focuses on the colonization of the largest country in Central Africa, Congo. The series surveys the region, drawing on historiography and using docudrama. Ep. 1 - *The Wild Chase*: Through the eyes of French, Portuguese, Belgian and African pioneers, this introductory episode retraces the first major phases of Congo's colonial occupation. Ep. 2 - *The Grand Illusion*: This second episode examines how, during the fifty years that followed the annexation of the Congolese Independent State by Belgium in 1908, both opposing colonists and indigenes built the Congolese "nation". Ep. 3 The Stumbled Giant: Patrick Emery Lumumba, Congo's first prime minister, was assassinated during the turbulent times of the independence movement.

LEZARE/FOR TODAY

Zelalem Woldemariam, Ethiopia, 2010, 14min. Lezare (For Today) is a revealing and touching story about a homeless boy in a small village in southern Ethiopia. A powerful message about global warming, shortsightedness and the dangers posed for future generations when we think only for today.

MAAMI (N.Y. PREMIERE)

Tunde Kelani, Nigeria, 2010, 97min. Leading to the 2010 World Cup, **Maami** is an inspiring story of a poor, conscientious single parent's struggles to raise her only child, Kashimawo, who eventually rises to international stardom in an English football club, Arsenal, and becomes a national hero.

MAMA AFRICA+ OPENING NIGHT FILM

Kaurismäki's *Mama Africa* is an unforgettable portrait of Miriam Makeba, also known to many as Mama Africa. The world-famous South African artist and civil right activist who devoted her life to promoting peace and justice and fighting racism around the planet, was a figurehead of the Black African movement in exile.

MAN ON GROUND (N.Y. PREMIERE)

Akin Omotoso, South Africa, 2011, 80min. When Ade, a London banker's political dissident brother goes missing, he sets out to find him during a turbulent time and is led throught the townships of Johannesburg.

MONICA WANGU WAMWERE: THE UNBROKEN

Armed only with traditional wisdom and an uncompromising sense of justice, Monica Wangu Wamwere (a.k.a. Mama Koigi), mother of Kenyan human rights activist and political prisoner Koigi wa Wamwere, has devoted herself to the struggle against political atrocities in Kenya.

ONE WAY, A TUAREG JOURNEY

The story of two brothers of a Tuareg family: Sidi, living in northern Italy and dreaming of becoming a journalist, and the youngest, Alkassou, who was forced to stay in Niger waiting for his father's return. Passing the camera to Sidi, the director allows him and his family to tell their own compelling story of immigration in present-day times.

OUR BELOVED SUDAN (U.S. PREMIERE) Taghreed Elsanhouri, Sudan/UK, 2011, 92min. Our Beloved Sudan documents the political

destiny of the Sudanese nation; from its birth in 1956 to its eventual partition in 2011. Juxtaposing a personal narrative with a larger social commentary, the filmmaker seeks to understand how the world reached the inevitable conclusion of Sudan's partition.

Nominated for an Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film, acclaimed writer-director Rachid Bouchareb's epic story follows three brothers who fight for Algeria's independence from France post-WWII.

After losing their family home in Algeria, the brothers are scattered across the globe, until destiny reunites them in the French capital, where freedom is a battle to be fought and won.

PLAYING WARRIORS (U.S. PREMIERE)

Rumbi Katedza, Zimbabwe, 2011, 78min Set in modern day Harare, this sexy social comedy features four ambitious young women and the challenges they face in balancing the expectations of tradition and social norms with being modern, independent women in present day Zimbabwe.

The filmmaker retraces the lost history of his great grandfather, Joseph Orderson, who was of the generation of newly emancipated slaves, who left Barbados to settle all over the world, including Cape Town, South Africa.

RELENTLESS † (U.S. PREMIERE) CENTERPIECE FILM

In this visually stunning film, a former peace-keeping soldier in Sierra Leone battles the scars of war upon his return to the throbbing megacity of Lagos. This haunting story is about loneliness, love and self-discovery.

RESTLESS CITY

Andrew Dosunmu, USA/Nigeria, 2011, 80min.

Djibril, an African immigrant, survives on the fringes of New York City where music is his passion, life is a hustle, and falling in love is his greatest risk.

SDEROT, LAST EXIT (U.S. PREMIERE) Osvalde Lewat, Cameroon/France/Belgium,

Located 2 km from the Gaza border, the film school of Sderot in the south of Israel is a microcosm of the geo-political landscape, where the issue of training is not only artistic, but clearly political and ideological.

STOCKTOWN X: SOUTH AFRICA (U.S. PREMIERE)

This film brings you face-to-face with the new urban Africa, where fashion creators, animators, cultural entrepreneurs, music producers and guerilla filmmakers define what it is to be young, talented and passionate in Africa's 21st century.

Michel Ocelot, France, 2011, 84min. Every night, a girl, a boy and an old technician meet in a small cinema that looks abandoned but is, in fact, full of wonders. The three friends invent, research, draw, dress up and enact all the stories they want during a magical night where everything is possible.

ARCHIVES (WORLD PREMIERE)
Archival Footage, USSR, 1954-1976, 70min. There are seven hundred documentary films catalogued under the keyword "Africa" in the Russian State Film and Photo Archive. In a certain sense, the relationship between the Soviet Union and Africa in the post-war period was one of pure cooperation. When the Soviet empire collapsed, however, Africa was completely forgotten.

A TRIP TO ALGIERS/VOYAGE À ALGER

In 1962, a young woman has lost everything during the war for independence in Algeria. A Frenchman who is leaving the country offers her and her six children his former home. An unscrupulous government official is trying to take the home away from her.

THE UNSEEN ONES (N.Y. PREMIERE)

Kurt Orderson, South Africa, 2012, 19min.

A musical documentary film that centers around a 27-year old dispossessed youth from the township Wesbank/Delft, who is struggling against the high crime rate, substandard schooling and unemployment on the Cape Flats, while trying to raise his three-year old daughter, Allevia.

UP YOUR BLACK ARSE! (U.S. PREMIERE)

Aurélien Bodineaux, Belgium/DRC, 2011, 12min. In a Brussels retirement home, a Belgian and Congolese drink to their long lasting friendship. They argue over an old story. It's one of broken dreams and wasted lives.

WHERE DO I STAND?

Where Do I Stand? is a window into the lives of seven young people who are thinking deeply about their actions, their communities, and the state of their country during and after xenophobic attacks that broke out across South Africa in May 2008.

YOOLE, THE SACRIFICE

In April 2004, a boat was found in Barbados with

eleven dead bodies on board; the boat had left Senegal bound for Europe four months earlier. Absa, lecturing in Barbados at the time, decided to go home to Senegal to explore the lives of the men found on the boat.

FILM SOCIETY OF LINCOLN CENTER, Walter Reade Theater, 165 West 65th St., between Broadway and Amsterdam Ave., upper level. Tickets: General Admission \$13, Students & Seniors (62+) \$9, FSLC members \$8. Online: FilmLinc.com. In Person: Film Society box offices. More information available at FilmLinc.com. Directions: 1 train to 66th.

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† NYAFF Tickets for the Opening Night Reception and film on April 11 are \$25.00. Tickets for the April 17 Festival Celebration Party and film are available upon request. For information please e-mail AFF at nyaff@erols.com or call 212-352-1720

BAMCINÉMATEK @ BAM Rose Cinemas, 30 Lafayette Avenue in Brooklyn. Tickets: \$12 per screening for adults; \$9 for seniors 65 and over, children under twelve, and students 25 and under with valid I.D. Monday-Thursday, except holidays; \$7 for BAM Cinema Club members. Buy online at BAM.org/BAMcinematek, by phone at 718-777-FILM (theater ID #545) or at the BAM Rose Cinemas box office. Directions: take the C train to Lafayette; the N, R, or D train to Pacific; the 2, 3, 4, 5, B or Q train to Atlantic Avenue; or the G train to Fulton. Bus: B25, B26, B41, B45, B52, B63, B67.

MAYSLES CINEMA, 343 Lenox Avenue, between 127th & 128th Streets. Suggested donation: \$10. Visit mayslesfilms.com or call 212 582 6050. **Directions:** #2 or #3 train to 125th Street.

THE JEROME L. GREENE PERFORMANCE SPACE

A special preview of the 2012 New York African Film Festival

THUR APR 5

Borom Sarret (with a Live Score)

Music and Panel Discussion

FILM SOCIETY OF LINCOLN CENTER

WED APR 11

Treasures From the Russian State Archives

In Darkest Hollywood: Cinema & Apartheid Pt. I & II Mama Africa

THU APR 12

3:30

Monica Wangu Wamwere: The Unbroken Spirit Elza/Le Bonheur d'Elza
The Education of Auma Obama 4:00

How to Steal 2 Million

FRI APR 13 Mama Africa Sderot, Last Exit 1:30 3:30

Farewell Exile/Salam Ghourba

Up Your Black Arse! Treasures From the Russian State

6:00 8:00 Relentless

SAT APR 14

Black Africa White Marble 7:00 The Creators

Stocktown X: South Africa 9:30* **Restless City**

SUN APR 15

Monica Wangu Wamwere: The Unbroken Spirit 2:00 Playing Warriors Elza/Le Bonheur d'Elza Fire in Babylon

MON APR 16

The Education of Auma Obama Black Africa White Marble
In Darkest Hollywood: Cinema & 6:00

Apartheid Pt. I & II 8:45* Maami

TUE APR 17 Sderot, Last Exit

Farewell Exile/Salam Ghourba

Up Your Black Arse! Outside the Law/Hors la Loi 8:30

INSTITUTE OF AFRICAN STUDIES, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

THU APRIL 19

Films and Panel Discussion

MAYSLES CINEMA

FRI MAY 4

Yoole: The Sacrifice

SAT MAY 5

7:00

Africa: The Beat

5:00 **Africa Shafted: Under One Roof** Where Do I Stand?

The Unseen Ones

The Prodigal Son

SUN MAY 6 3:30 5:15 Ayen's Cooking School for African Men Our Beloved Sudan Fire in Babylon

The Dance of King David

BAMcinématek

FRI MAY 25

2:00, 6:50 A Trip to Algiers/Voyage à Alger 4:30, 9:15 One Way, A Tuareg Journey

Lezare/For Today

SAT MAY 26

Man on Ground

Come Back, Africa

SUN MAY 27 3:00, 9:00 Kinshasa Symphony 5:00 Kongo: 50 Years of Independence of

Episode 1: The Unbridled Race Episode 2: The Great Illusion

MON MAY 28

Episode 3: The Failed Giant

2:00**, 4:30**, 6:50, 9:15 Tales of the Night ** titles read aloud)

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY: 606 West 122nd Street, (between Broadway and Claremont). **Directions:** Take 1 train to 116th or 125th. No admission fee.

THE JEROME L. GREENE PERFORMANCE SPACE, 44

Charlton Street. Visit www.thegreenespace.org. **Directions**: Take the 1 train to Houston St. or the C, E train to Spring St.; M20 bus to Varick St–Charlton St.