

25TH

AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL NEW YORK

film
society
lincoln
center

PRESENTED BY AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL, INC., AND FILM SOCIETY OF LINCOLN CENTER

MAY 16 - 22
FILM SOCIETY OF LINCOLN CENTER

MAY 24 - 28
BAMCINÉMA TEK, BAM ROSE CINEMAS

JUNE 7 - 10
MAYSLES CINEMA

The Wedding Ring

AFRICANFILMNY.ORG

FILMLINC.ORG



Larabilamp: Le Talibé et Moi

25 YEARS

OF THE NEW YORK AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL

SPECIAL EVENTS

All Special Events take place in the Elinor Bunin Munroe Film Center Amphitheater

NYAFF TOWN HALL EVENT

SUNDAY, MAY 13 - 4:00PM

ART & ACTIVISM: PERSONAL JOURNEYS

With all iterations of art, the artist's work is as much, if not more, a reflection of their internal environment as it is a depiction of the world that surrounds them. In light of this idea and in an era where activism is essential, NYAFF once again brings you the townhall program, *Art & Activism: Personal Journeys*. The panel, featuring artists of various disciplines, poses the question of whether and how their art affects their activism and vice versa. Guests include visual and performance artist **Oroma Elewa**, sculptor and archivist **Onyedika Chuke** and musician and rapper **Shayna McHayle**, aka Junglepusy. Moderated by editor and writer **Shirine Saad**.

NYAFF DIGITAL ART EXHIBITION FALLING

FRIDAY, MAY 18 - MONDAY, MAY 21 - 1:00PM TO 8:30PM

FALLING

Sethembile Msezane, South Africa, 2017

Zimbabwe, South Africa and Germany share a common story about the soapstone birds that were taken from Great Zimbabwe. After Zimbabwe gained its independence all the birds, except one, were returned to the monument. *Falling* explores the plight of the remaining bird and the mythological belief that there will be unrest until the remaining bird is returned.

MASTER CLASS

SATURDAY, MAY 19 - 11:30AM TO 1:00PM

A conversation with filmmaker Ekwa Msangi about building a sustainable career as a filmmaker, supported by creative allies both on the continent and in the Diaspora. This talk is sponsored by HBO.

These events are free, but registration is requested. Seating is limited. For all free events, AFF will release registered seats 15 minutes before start time, at which point seating will be on a first-come, first-seated basis until venue reaches capacity. We recommend that you arrive early. Visit www.africanfilmny.org to reserve your seat.

25 years ago, African Film Festival joined forces with Film Society of Lincoln Center (FSLC) to honor African cinema and give a voice to artists, activists, and filmmakers from Africa and the diaspora, through the creation of the flagship New York African Film Festival (NYAFF). To celebrate our landmark 25th edition, the New York African Film Festival returns to the Film Society of Lincoln Center, Brooklyn Academy of Music's BAMcinématek and Maysles Cinema with a fascinating selection of more than 70 narrative and documentary features and shorts from 25 countries. We pay homage to the early generations of filmmakers, whose long-lasting influence continues to challenge creative thinkers around the world to use cinema to deepen our understanding of the rich cultures and worldviews of peoples of African descent. As digital media has come into its own, new languages, styles, genres, and narratives that blend together vernacular traditions with pop culture from diverse international sources have emerged, showing our interconnectedness and situating Africa as a powerful actor on the world stage.

We honor visionary filmmakers, including Safi Faye, the first Sub-Saharan woman to direct a commercially distributed feature film, Nigerian writer and director, Rahmatou Keïta, a daughter of the Sahel whose first feature recounted the lives of African cinema pioneers, and Burkinabe director, Apolline Traore, whose poignant film, *Borders*, will open the festival. We also pay tribute to two late pioneers: internationally awarded Burkinabe filmmaker, Idrissa Ouédraogo, and Tahar Cheriaa, Tunisian film critic, theorist and founder of the first ever African Film Festival, the Carthage Film Festival. Another notable figure, Paulin Vieyra, who mentored Ousmane Sembène and Djibril Diop Mambéty, will be honored with a program featuring his short films. These artists and activists envisioned a new world and have inspired younger generations to grab the baton and continue telling their own singular stories and asserting their presence worldwide.

To commemorate Nelson Mandela's centennial, we are bringing a stunning selection of the newest South African films, ranging from contemporary Western, to comedy, and melodrama. These films display the country's explosion of imagination and the dynamism of its film industry. In this year's festival, youth, as the agents of change, are recognized by the significant number of works by filmmakers under the age of 35. The films of the 25th NYAFF come together to spotlight an intergenerational discourse in the world of film surrounding Africa and her diaspora.

The 25th New York African Film Festival was organized by Mahen Bonetti, Founder and Executive Director, African Film Festival, Inc. with Dara Ojugbele, Françoise Bouffault, Rumbi Petrozello, Dora King, Jacki Fischer, and Beatriz Leal-Riesco; Dennis Lim, Director of Programming, Rufus de Rham, Programmer at Film Society of Lincoln Center, Ashley Clark, Senior Programmer at BAMcinématek and Jessica Green, Cinema Director, Maysles Cinema.

Thanks are due to the AFF Board of Directors, Joan Baffour, Luca Bonetti, Gabriele Donati, Belynda Hardin, Ulli Maier, Karen McMullen, Julie Mehretu, Ekwa Msangi, Mohammed Sillah, Alonzo Speight, Malika Lee Whitney, Cheryl Duncan & Company Inc. Public Relations, Precision Plus Communications, Kojo Associates and AFF's volunteer team.

**SHORTS PROGRAM #4:
FILM AFRICA SHORTS (TRT: 85MIN)**

BOXING GIRL

Iman Djioune, Senegal, 2016, 26min.
Boxing Girl is a coming-of-age tale about a bored 17-year-old hairdresser who finds red boxing gloves after getting hit by a motorbike in Dakar. As soon as she puts them on, she gets mysteriously carried all over the city.

MARABOUT

Alassane Sy, Senegal, 2016, 18min.
Marabout is the story of Police Detective, Diagne, who pursues a group of street kids in the city of Dakar for stealing from him and discovers the dangers they are exposed to in their daily lives.

SAMEDI CINEMA

Mamadou Dia, U.S., 2017, 11min.
Two young Senegalese boys' friendship is tested after they are determined to see one last film at the town movie theater before it closes.

TWAAGA

Cedric Ido, France/ Burkina Faso, 2013, 30min.
Burkina Faso, in 1985, is a country in the throes of revolution. Manu, a young boy who loves comics, tags along with his big brother Albert. When Albert decides to undergo a magic ritual, Manu realizes there are real powers to rival even those of superheroes.

**SHORTS PROGRAM #5:
SOUTH AFRICAN SHORTS (TRT: 113MIN)**

DANCEDANCE/REOLUTION (N.Y. PREMIERE)

Mark Freeman, South Africa, 2017, 26min.
dancedance/REOLUTION is an introduction to the vibrant diversity of contemporary dance in South Africa.

CONQUEST AND PRISON (N.Y. PREMIERE)

Mark Freeman, South Africa, 2018, 8min.
Conquest and Prison is a two-part suite of site-specific dance films set in Grahamstown, South Africa.

THE HANGMAN (N.Y. PREMIERE)

Zwelethu Radebe, South Africa, 2017, 30min.
When the truth of his father's disappearance is brought to the surface on the eve of his execution, Khetha, a prison warder working in The Gallows' death-row prison in Pretoria in 1989, must either choose forgiveness or live forever with regret of failing to accept the truth.

THE SUIT

Jarryd Coetsee, South Africa, 2016, 30min.
Based on the acclaimed short story by banned South African investigative journalist and author Can Themba, *The Suit* is set in 1950s Sophiatown, Johannesburg, against the backdrop of the apartheid regime's forced removals.

**SHORTS PROGRAM #6:
FILM AFRICA SHORTS (TRT: 85MIN)**

MEOKGO AND THE STICK FIGHTER

Teboho Mahlatsi, South Africa/Lesotho, 2005, 19min.
Reclusive stick fighter Kgotso lives a solitary life high up in the Maluti Mountains of Lesotho. Whilst tending sheep and playing his concertina, he sees a beautiful and mysterious woman. This story of unrequited love is spiced with magical realism.

SEGA (WORLD PREMIERE)

Idil Ibrahim, Senega/U.S., 2018, 25min.
When his efforts to reach Europe prove unsuccessful, Sega is thrust back to Dakar where he must now confront his family and friends and also navigate his disappointment.

FATIMA (N.Y. PREMIERE)

Gerald Barclay, U.S., 2018, 25min.
Fatima, a hard-working single mother, and undocumented immigrant, who has the day off, plans to celebrate her son's birthday. A call from her job changes everything.

FALLOU (U.S. PREMIERE)

Alassane Sy, Senegal/UK, 2017, 30min.
Fallou has been sent on a mission from West Africa to London by a guru linked to an extremist group. He will discover London's energy, music and make friends, but will eventually need to make a choice.



Running After

AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL MISSION

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's 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.

**BEYOND THE FILM FESTIVAL:
AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL YEAR ROUND ACTIVITIES**

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.

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

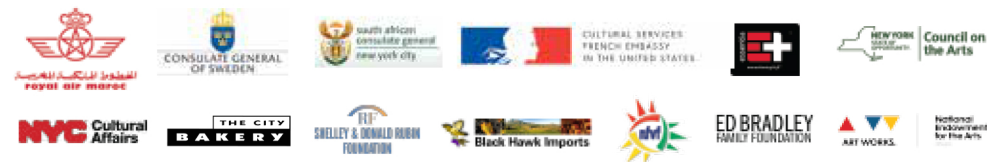
AFF facilitates education programs in NYC schools where students are led in historical and cultural investigations of works produced by or about people of African heritage through guided conversations and inquiry-based lesson plans.

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.

The New York African Film Festival is made possible by the generous support of the National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, Bradley Family Foundation, The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation, Domenico Paulon Foundation, French Cultural Services, Manhattan Portage, Paso Almonds, City Bakery, Divine Chocolate, Black Hawk Imports, Essentia Water, South African Consulate General, National Film and Video Foundation, Consulate General of Sweden in New York, Hudson Hotel, and Royal Air Maroc.



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NEW YORK

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Artwork by Dara Ojugbele