

15th AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL NEW YORK

Presented by African Film Festival, Inc. and Film Society of Lincoln Center



2008
WALTER
READER
THEATER

APRIL 9 - 15

FRENCH INSTITUTE
ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE
MAY 6, 13, 20, 27

BAMcinémathèque
MAY 23 - 26



BUSHMAN'S SECRET Rehad Desai | South Africa | 2006

SPECIAL GUEST RECEPTIONS

Wednesday, April 9th 7:30pm
Namibia: The Struggle for Liberation
 African Film Festival, Inc. pre-screening
 reception with Charles Burnett. 6:00pm \$20

Saturday, April 12th 5:30pm
The African Slave Trades
 African Film Festival, Inc. post-screening
 reception with Wole Soyinka. 7:30pm \$20

PANEL DISCUSSION

Monday, April 14th
6:30 - 8:30pm
 Columbia University
 511 Dodge Hall @ 116th & Broadway
 Free & Open to the Public.
 Take #1 train to 116th Street.

Cinema and History: Africa and the Future
 African Film Festival, Inc. will present its annual
 panel discussion in collaboration with Columbia
 University's Institute for African Studies. Panelists
 will take up African history as a living dynamic that
 actively engages with and informs the syntax of
 tomorrow's cinema history. Internationally acclaimed
 Senegalese historian Dr. Mamadou Diouf will officiate
 the day in collaboration with the Festival.

HOMAGE TO OUSMANE SEMBÈNE

FIAF, Florence Gould Hall
 Tuesday, May 27, 7pm
Featuring DJ Spooky
 African Film Festival, Inc. and FIAF present a special
 screening of Sembène's first film *Borom Sarret*, and
 an original sound score performed by DJ Spooky. \$15

SPONSORS

The 15th Anniversary New York African Film Festival was
 organized by Richard Peña of the Film Society of Lincoln
 Center and by Mahen Bonetti, Aba Taylor, Alonzo Speight,
 Muriel Placet-Kouassi of the African Film Festival, Inc. With
 special thanks to the AFF Board of Directors, Joan Baffour,
 Luca Bonetti, Françoise Bouffault, Rumbi Bwerinofa, Gabriel
 Donati, Kevin Duggan, Jacki Fischer, Odette A. Gregory,
 Belynda Hardin, Alexander Markov, Andrew Milne, Philippa
 Naughten, Prerana Reddy, Cheryl Duncan, Terrie Williams
 Agency and Kojo Associates.

The programs of AFF are made possible by the generous
 support of the National Endowment for the Arts, American
 Express, RGAKFD-Russia, New York State Council for the
 Arts, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, JPMorgan Chase,
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 Cultural Services, Institute of African Studies of the University
 of Columbia, Columbia University School of the Arts,
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15th AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL NEW YORK

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THE 15TH NEW YORK AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL takes cinema from all genres
 throughout Africa and the African Diaspora to weave a story of the present—
 reaching backward into time and forward into the unknown. In a compelling
 array of features, shorts and documentaries, as well as experimental film and
 archival footage, the festival selects from treasured stories of the past, as well
 as contextualizes the present and future within the framework of history.

In this spirit, whether non-fiction or fantasy, the work in this year's festival follows a
 documentary flow. We continue our tradition of screening archival footage from
 the African continent by observing the 50th anniversary of independence of the
 Republic of Guinea. Also featured are slave routes and migration passages from
 Eastern and Northern Africa, including the films *Baa Baa Black Girl*, which examines
 the indigenous Afro-Turk community born during the Ottoman Empire, and the
 premiere episode of *The African Slave Trades: Across the Indian Ocean*, narrated
 by Nobel Laureate Wole Soyinka. Films such as Charles Burnett's *Namibia: The
 Struggle for Liberation*, *Cuba: An African Odyssey* and *Brothers in Arms* all directly
 link liberation movements in Southern and Western Africa to the history of the
 African Diaspora, charting trajectories of political awakening that are not yet
 popularly known. In *Juju Factory* and *Shoot the Messenger*, we become interlocutors
 within the realms of truth and reconciliation. *Goodbye Mothers*, based on the 1960s
 emigration of Moroccan Jews to the new state of Israel, reminds audiences of
 the long-standing relationship that Jews and Muslims have consciously shared.
 Through ironic inversion, *Africa Paradis* chronicles tomorrow's émigrés who find
 themselves in a prosperous yet sometimes inhospitable African nation.

Finally, Isaac Julien's experimental film *Fantôme Afrique*, along with *This is My Africa*
 and *Awaiting for Men*, represent the epitome of the 2008 New York African Film Festival.
 Daring, crisp and lush, the films manifest visual metaphors for Africa — at once
 historical and futuristic — exposing the timelessness and rigor of the storytelling epic.

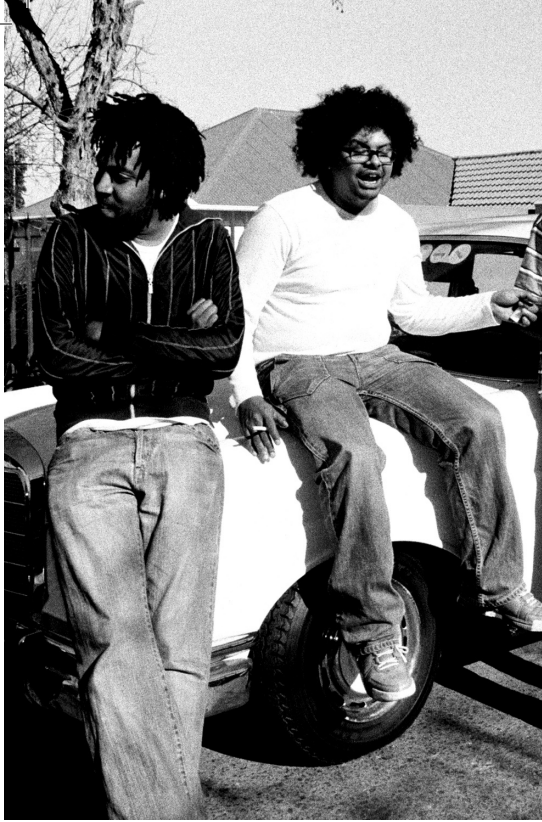
This year's festival explores the past and the future of African cinema as we
 anticipate a renaissance in African media-making both on the continent and
 around the world. The films in the festival address this spirit of the times and allow
 us to take cinema, history, Africa and the future and set forth into the cosmos—as
 the lights go down let us explore our history and our future together.

We are also honored to welcome such notable artists as Wole Soyinka and
 Charles Burnett to pre-screening receptions during the festival. Go to filmlinc.com
 for details and tickets.

On Monday, April 14, the African Film Festival will present its annual panel discussion
 in collaboration with Columbia University's Institute for African Studies. The festival
 continues at French Institute Alliance Française on May 6, 13, 20 and 27, and
 concludes at BAMCinématek, May 23-26.

Exclusive Sponsor
 of Classics
 and Archival Films





BUNNY CHOW John Barker South Africa 2006

www.africanfilmny.org

THE AFRICAN SLAVE TRADES: ACROSS THE INDIAN OCEAN

Diane Seligsohn and Richard Rein
USA | 2007-2008 | 26m

Nobel Laureate Wole Soyinka traces the earliest documented history of enslavement and deportation of people from the East Coast of Africa up the Red Sea and across the Indian Ocean. Emphasis is put on one of the earliest known revolts of enslaved Africans, the Zanj Rebellion, which took place in what is currently Iraq during the 9th century CE. The film will be followed by an extensive post screening discussion with Professor Wole Soyinka, historian Salah Trabelsi and filmmakers Diane Seligsohn and Richard Rein.

ALI ZAOUA

Nabil Ayouch | Morocco | 2000 | 90m

Four young boys live in the streets of Casablanca together, and despite bullying from a local gang, manage to remain happy, unified and largely unafraid. When Ali is killed by a recklessly thrown rock, his three friends are suddenly left without their anchor. Through a tapestry woven in concrete, glass shards and a brothel, they help their fallen friend find his way to the sea.

A LOVE DURING THE WAR

Oswalde Lewat-Hallade | Cameroon | 2005 | 63m

Aziza and her husband were separated when the Congo-Kinshasa war broke out in 1996. Six years later, they reunite in Kinshasa. Soon, Aziza feels obliged to return to her abandoned home where women have started denouncing the abuses they suffered during the war.

BAA BAA BLACK GIRL

Gül Büyükbese Muyan | Turkey | 2007 | 47m

Mustafa Olpak came to Istanbul as a result of the Kemalist revolution. His African grandfather was bought as a domestic slave by an Ottoman Turkish family. Movingly, Mustafa tells the history of his family, which began in Africa and extended as far as Azmir passing over Crete and Ayvalik.

/// SCREENING WITH ///

BUSHMAN'S SECRET

Rehad Desai | South Africa | 2006 | 64m

The Khomani are descendants of the Bushmen, carrying on traditional medicinal practices with the Hoodia plant. Now that Hoodia is in use internationally as a pharmaceutical cure, the ancient Bushmen lands and people are threatened with extinction.

BARRA

Souleymane Cissé | Mali | 1978 | 93m

Barra recounts the story of a young engineer and his friend, the barra (porter). Their relationship becomes a metaphor for African liberation movements and solidarity amongst different ethnic groups and classes on the Continent.

BLACK BUSINESS (NY PREMIERE)

Oswalde Lewat-Hallade

Cameroon/France | 2007 | 90m

In the 1990s, thousands of young men began to disappear across Cameroon. Horrified by the turn-of-the-century events in her home country, award-winning filmmaker Oswald Lewat-Hallade's latest documentary is about Cameroonian families who are victims of government disappearances and are still seeking to find out what happened to their loved ones.

BOROM SARRET

Ousmane Sembène | Senegal | 1963 | 18m | bw

The genesis of Black African cinema can be traced to the short, stark masterpiece that chronicles a day in the life of a Dakar cart-driver. In this strikingly evocative film filled with urban detail, Sembène conveys the toll of natural loss, poverty and the residue of European colonization on Africa.

/// SCREENING WITH ///

IN MEMORY OF OUSMANE SEMBÈNE

Mamadou Niang | USA | 2008 | 4m

(work-in-progress)

A reflection on Sembène's oeuvre and his influence on several generations of friends, colleagues and peers.

BROTHERS IN ARMS (U.S. PREMIERE)

Jack Lewis | South Africa | 2007 | 83m

Co-presented with Cinema Tropical

This is a deeply moving story of an ordinary South African's love of his native land and of Cuba where he spent most of his life in exile and his lifetime journey home. Ronald Herboldt, a South African native, lived in Cuba for 40 years and was a leading member of Castro's Cuban military. Brothers in Arms is an extraordinary tale of Pan-Africanism as it lives well beyond the borders of Africa.

BUUD YAM

Gaston J-M Kaboré | Burkina Faso | 1997 | 99m

Wend Kundi was found in the bush while he was a very small child and adopted by a family that loves him very much. Family life is tranquil until the day Pughneere, his adoptive sister, falls gravely ill. Leaving his adopted village to find a healer, he embarks on a rite of passage that will take him to his destiny.

CLOUDS OVER CONAKRY

Cheick Fantamady Camara | Guinea | 2007 | 113m

The artist BB finds himself faced with an impossible choice. Son of the inflexible imam Karamo, the guardian of his village's ancestral traditions, BB is chosen to be his father's successor. But he refuses to accept his destiny. Elegantly laying out the tradition-vs-modernity battle inherent in much of African cinema, this is a modern twist on an age-old problem.

CUBA: AN AFRICAN ODYSSEY

Jihan El Tahir | France | 2006-2007 | 118m

Co-presented with Cinema Tropical

From Che Guevara's military campaign to avenge Lumumba in the Congo up to the fall of apartheid in South Africa, 300,000 Cubans fought alongside African revolutionaries. *Cuba: An African Odyssey* is the previously untold story of Cuba's support for African independence movements.

DRUM

Zola Maseko | South Africa | 2004 | 104m

Drum depicts Sophiatown in the 1950s. The popular *Drum* magazine is the platform for the film, led by "Mr Drum" Henry Nxumalo—a fun loving, hard-drinking philanderer and hot-shot journalist played by Taye Diggs. As Nxumalo gets swept up in the movement to challenge apartheid, his enterprising reportage leads him into direct conflict with South Africa's apartheid machinery, with fatal consequences.

EZRA

Newton I. Aduaka | Nigeria/France | 2007 | 110m

Kidnapped when he was seven, Ezra is trained as a child soldier in a rebel army. Years later his sister Onitcha reveals a secret to a truth and reconciliation court that forces Ezra to bear the truth of his recent history.

FANTÔME AFRIQUE

Isaac Julien | Burkina Faso/UK | 2005 | 16m

In Fantôme Afrique, West Africa is painted as a place where a multitude of traditions intersect—within a contemporary, transnational culture. Stephen Galloway and Vanessa Myrie figure as "trickster/phantom" and "witness" in this carefully composed meditation on the denationalized, de-territorialized spaces born of the encounters between local and global cultures.

/// SCREENING WITH ///

THIS IS MY AFRICA (U.S. PREMIERE)

Zina Saro-Wiwa

African continent/Nigeria/UK | 2008 | 47m

This Is My Africa is a project that seeks to change the public dialogue surrounding Africa. By answering an 18-point questionnaire, we hear about the Africa that inhabits 18 people's memories and personal perspectives. Featuring, amongst others, Yinka Shonibare, John Akomfrah, Chiwetel Ejiofor and Colin Firth.

GOODBYE MOTHERS

Mohamed Ismail | Morocco | 2007 | 110m

Goodbye Mothers, expected to spark controversy in Morocco, dares to depict the peaceful co-existence in 1960s Casablanca of two families — one Muslim and one Jewish — during the historical period known as the "Black Years of Emigration," when there Moroccan Jews faced a pervading sense of hesitation between two conflicting desires: remaining in Morocco or uprooting themselves to emigrate to Israel.

GROWING STRONGER

Tsitsi Dangaremba | Zimbabwe | 2005 | 30m

Two remarkable and positive examples of women coping with the HIV virus in Zimbabwe, contrast the lives of model Tendayi Westerhof (one of the first high-profile people to be public about her HIV-positive status) and activist Pamela Kanjenzana.

INDEPENDENTLY GUINEA

Archival footage | USSR | 1959 | 40m

One year after independence, we catch a glimpse of life in Guinea. The revolution is still alive in the minds and hearts of the people!

/// SCREENING WITH ///

THE PRESIDENT OF GUINEA IN THE USSR

Archival Footage | USSR | 1959 | 20m

Communist leaders welcome Guinean President Sékou Ahmed Touré on his first visit to the USSR as the leader of an independent Guinea.

/// SCREENING WITH ///

Hello Guinea

Archival footage | USSR | 1961 | 20m

Leonard Brezhnev visits Guinea and is welcomed by Sekou Touré and the people of Guinea. A brief sojourn into the heart of newly independent Guinea only three years after decolonization.

IRON LADIES OF LIBERIA

Daniel Junge and Siatta Scott Johnson

Liberia/USA | 2007 | 77m

After fourteen years of civil war, Liberia is a nation ready for change. In 2006, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf was inaugurated President and became the first elected female head of state in Africa. Can the first female Liberian president, bring peace and prosperity to her country?

JUUU FACTORY

Balufu Bakupa-Kanyinda

Democratic Republic of Congo | 2006 | 97m

An exiled writer, asked to write a travel guide about the African Matonge district of Brussels, is inspired by visions of complex and tormented souls from Congolese colonial history, and is at a crisis point. This witty and dark allegory of colonial power is an intelligent look at African authenticity and history.

LES SAIGNANTES

Jean-Pierre Bekolo | Cameroon | 2005 | 92m

In this superbly photographed and stylishly edited sci-fi/action/horror hybrid, two young femmes fatales set out to rid a futuristic country of its corrupt and sex-obsessed leaders. Young, attractive, and lethal, they are on a mission to change their country's destiny.

MAMA PUT

Seke Somolu | Nigeria | 2006 | 26m

The power of food to transform, rescue, and wreak revenge is eloquently demonstrated in this Nigerian film about a woman who cooks for a gang of armed youths.

MENGED

Daniel Taye Workou | Ethiopia | 2006 | 21m

A lot can happen in the Ethiopian countryside on the long way to the market. A father and his son follow everybody's good advice ... and come back to their senses. *Menged* is adapted from a traditional Ethiopian parable.

MEOKGO & THE STICK FIGHTER

Teboho Mahlatsi | South Africa/Lesotho | 2006 | 19m

When Kgotso, a young stick fighter, loses his mother and is raised by a healer, she bequeaths him with a concertina, which he plays to bring about his only joy in life. One day, as Kgotso amuses himself with his instrument, his performance unwittingly calls about the spirit of a woman whose body lies motionless as her soul is held in the captivity of a Mkgodutswane, an evil horseman.

/// SCREENING WITH ///

BUNNY CHOW

John Barker | South Africa | 2006 | 95m

When three stand up comedians embark on a road trip to South Africa's biggest annual rock festival, the trio slips out of their normal lives for a few dusty and increasingly absurd days with hopes of mass debauchery, drugs, rampant sex, true love and conquering the rock stages with their comedy. Unfortunately, they get a bit more than they bargained for.

METENI: THE LOST ONE

Wondessen Deresse | Ethiopia | 2002 | 30m

Co-presented with Margaret Meade

Film & Video Festival

Meteni is a young Afar woman with two small children. Her husband prefers to relax while she serves him and manages the children and the home. When she becomes pregnant, her punishing workload continues with disastrous consequences.

/// SCREENING WITH ///

AWAITING FOR MEN (EN ATTENDANT LES HOMMES)

Katy Lena Ndiaye | Belgium | 2007 | 56m

In the haven of Qualata, a red city on the far edge of the Sahara desert, three women practice traditional painting by decorating the walls of the city. In a society apparently dominated by tradition, religion and men, these women unabashedly express themselves freely, discussing the nature of relationships amongst women and men.

MUNA MOTO

Jean-Pierre Dikongue-Pipa

Cameroon | 1974 | 89m | bw

Ngando and Ndomé share a young and perfect love. Yet, tradition demands a dowry for Ndomé's hand that Ngando, an orphan, cannot afford. Forced to ask his uncle, a monied merchant, for assistance, Ngando finds himself at the mercy of his uncle's lust and greed. How can Ngando and Ndomé find peace together? Their journey will be challenged and everyone will learn that not everything special can be saved.

NAMIBIA: THE STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION

Charles Burnett | Namibia | 2007 | 161m

Critically acclaimed director Charles Burnett's latest film follows the legend of Samuel Nujoma, Namibia's first president and prominent leader in the struggle for independence from apartheid South Africa. Eventually Nujoma, in the face of severe racism, forms the SWAPO political movement that will eventually earn Namibia its independence.

SARRAOUNIA

Med Hondo | Mauritania | 1986 | 120m

Based on historical accounts of Queen Sarraounia, who leads the Azans into battle against the French colonialists at the turn of the 20th century, Med Hondo's sweeping epic is an African classic.

SHOOT THE MESSENGER

Ngozi Onwurah | UK | 2006 | 100m

To "shoot the messenger" means to blame the person who comes with news that while bad, is also true. In Ngozi Onwurah's film, the bearer of bad news is delivered by Joe, a teacher, who finds himself the target of a community-led attack on his professional practices. Isolated and surrounded by family and friends who are more concerned about public perception than truth, Joe descends into clinical depression. Later revived, he is a better person from this ordeal.

SIERRA LEONE INDEPENDENCE

Archival footage | UK | 1961 | 6.5m

On the dawn of independence, Freetown is the site of celebration as the Milton Margai administration is ushered in under the auspices of the Duke of Kent.

/// SCREENING WITH ///

AFRICA PARADIS

Sylvestre Amoussou | France | 2007 | 86m

This award-winning film examines immigration with a touch of geopolitical irony. The story follows two French citizens who decide they want to live in the prosperous United States of Africa. After failing to obtain an entry visa, they decide to emigrate illegally, and they then begin a journey of hardships and discovery as fugitives of the state.

IRON LADIES OF LIBERIA
DANIEL JUNGE AND SIATTA SCOTT JOHNSON LIBERIA/USA 2007



WALTER READE THEATER

WED APR 9

- 1:30 BAA BAA BLACK SHEEP
/// SCREENING WITH ///
- BUSHMAN'S SECRET
- 3:45 RUSSIAN ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE –
FOCUS ON GUINEA
- 5:15 EZRA
- *7:30 NAMIBIA: THE STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION

THU APR 10

- 1:15 IRON LADIES OF LIBERIA
- *5:45 BLACK BUSINESS
- *7:45 SHOOT THE MESSENGER
- 10:00 JUJU FACTORY

FRI APR 11

- *5:45 FANTÔME AFRIQUE
/// SCREENING WITH ///
- THIS IS MY AFRICA
- *7:30 SIERRA LEONE INDEPENDENCE
/// SCREENING WITH ///
- AFRICA PARADIS
- 9:45 MEOKGO & THE STICKFIGHTER
/// SCREENING WITH ///
- BUNNY CHOW

SAT APR 12

- *1:15 GOODBYE MOTHERS
- *3:30 METENI: THE LOST ONE
FOLLOWED BY
AWAITING FOR MEN
- *5:30 THE AFRICAN SLAVE TRADES:
ACROSS THE INDIAN OCEAN
- *7:30 BROTHERS IN ARMS
- *9:30 SHOOT THE MESSENGER

SUN APR 13

- *1:30 THE AFRICAN SLAVE TRADES:
ACROSS THE INDIAN OCEAN
- *3:30 BAA BAA BLACK GIRL
/// SCREENING WITH ///
- BUSHMAN'S SECRET
- *5:45 RUSSIAN ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE
- *9:00 FANTÔME AFRIQUE
/// SCREENING WITH ///
- THIS IS MY AFRICA
- *9:30 CUBA: AN AFRICAN ODYSSEY

TUE APR 15

- *1:30 METENI: THE LOST ONE
/// SCREENING WITH ///
- AWAITING FOR MEN
- 3:30 BLACK BUSINESS
- 5:30 GOODBYE MOTHERS
- *7:45 SIERRA LEONE INDEPENDENCE
/// SCREENING WITH ///
- AFRICA PARADIS
- *9:30 BROTHERS IN ARMS

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TUE MAY 6

- 12:30 BUUD YAM
- 4:00 SARRAOUNIA
- *7:00 BUUD YAM
- 9:00 SARRAOUNIA

TUE MAY 13

- 12:30 MUNA MOTO
- 4:00 ALI ZAOUA
- *7:00 MUNA MOTO
- 9:00 ALI ZAOUA

TUE MAY 20

- 12:30 BARRA
- 4:00 DRUM
- *7:00 BARRA
- 9:00 DRUM

TUE MAY 27

- *7:00 HOMAGE TO OUSMANE SEMBÈNE
FEATURING DJ SPOOKY
/// SCREENING ///
- BOROM SARRET
/// SCREENING WITH ///
- IN MEMORY OF SEMBÈNE

BAMcinematek

FRI MAY 23

- 6:50 AFRICAN SHORTS PROGRAM
- 9:15 AFRICAN SHORTS PROGRAM
/// FEATURING ///
- MEOKGO AND THE STICK FIGHTER,
MENGED, MAMA PUT

SAT MAY 24

- 6:50 LES SAIGNANTES
- 9:15 LES SAIGNANTES

SUN MAY 25

- 2:00 JUJU FACTORY
- 4:30 CLOUDS OVER CONAKRY
- 6:50 JUJU FACTORY
- 9:15 CLOUDS OVER CONAKRY

MON MAY 26

- 6:50 A LOVE DURING THE WAR
/// SCREENING WITH ///
- GROWING STRONGER
- 9:15 A LOVE DURING THE WAR
/// SCREENING WITH ///
- GROWING STRONGER

*Directors will be in attendance.

WALTER READE THEATER

165 West 65th St. on the upper level between Broadway and Amsterdam Ave.

Visit filminc.com or call 212.496.3809 for tickets. Box office: open daily from 12:30pm. Call 212.875.5600 for information. General Admission \$11, \$7 FSLC members, \$7 students, \$7 for seniors (weekday matinees), \$7 children (ages 6-12) accompanied by adult. Directions: 1 train to 66th Street. M5, M66 or M106 bus. B, D, A, C train to 59th Street. M10, M20.

FRENCH INSTITUTE ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE

FLORENCE GOULD HALL

55 East 59th Street, New York, NY 10022

Visit fiaf.org or Ticketmaster at 212.307.4100 for tickets. Tickets for *Cinéma Tuesdays* screenings are free for FIAF Members. \$10 for non-members and \$7 for students with a valid photo ID. For more information call our box office at 212.355.6160. Directions: N, R or W to 59th Street or the 4, 5 or 6 to 59th Street.

BAMCINÉMATEK @ BAM ROSE CINEMAS

30 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn

Visit BAM.org or call 718.636.4100 for information.

Tickets also available through movietickets.com or 718.777.FILM. General Admission \$11, BAM Cinema Club Members \$7, Seniors, Children under 12, Students with valid ID (Mon-Thu, except holidays) \$7.50. Directions: C train to Lafayette; N, R, D, M to Pacific; 2, 3, 4, 5 train to Nevins; or G train to Fulton St.