

18<sup>th</sup> **AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL** **NEW YORK** film society lincoln center

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

**APRIL 2**

Museum of Art and Design

**APRIL 6-12**

Walter Reade Theater

**APRIL 14**

Institute of African Studies  
Columbia University

**APRIL 29 - MAY 1**

Maysles Cinema

**MAY 20**

Big Screen Project

**MAY 26-31**

BAMcinématek





# AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL NEW YORK

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

For its 18th edition, the New York African Film Festival (NYAFF) honors the landmark International Year for People of African Descent, as 2011 has been designated by the United Nations. The Festival also celebrates 50 years of independence in Sierra Leone and Tanzania, and highlights the following themes:

**Africa – the Next Generation:** These fictional and documentary films depict the resilience of Africa's youth as they rise above adversity, whether by bravely facing life with AIDS (*Thembi*) or by simply writing a letter to Santa Clause (*Ousmane*). Other films include *Soul Boy* and *Africa United*.

**Sorcery and Subversion in the 21st Century:** These filmmakers question perceptions of activists and outliers, who intentionally or unintentionally challenge their communities to question the norms that underline their societies. *The Witches of Gambaga*, *Taharuki*, *The Deliverance of Comfort*, and *Phyllis*.

**Examining the Heart of Africa:** Situated in the center of the African continent, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has long been considered the heart of Africa. Its politics and its cultures seem to pulse in time with the heart of the continent. Three films present different perspectives on the DRC: *Kinshasa Symphony*, *Viva Rival!*, and *Kongo – Grand Illusions*.

**The Retention of Memory:** A new generation of Africans filmmakers brings a fresh perspective to the longstanding conversation about traditional beliefs and modern rituals, cultural heritage and cultural evolution, and memories of the past and hopes for the future. Film include: *Besouro*; *For the Best and For the Onion*, *A Journey into Kono Womanhood*, and *Ebony Goddess*.

**Africa First Shorts:** The NYAFF is pleased to present the U.S. premiere of the 2011 Focus Features Africa First Shorts Program. The program, now in its third year, has been supporting the growth of groundbreaking emerging filmmakers. This year brilliant brilliant new works include: *Dirty Laundry*, *Umkhungo*, *Tinye So*, and *Mwansa The Great*.

**The Camera – A Filmmaker's Weapon:** The camera has transformed the lives of artists and everyday people throughout the continent: an Ethiopian man who protects his tribe with a Kalashnikov and a camera (*Shooting with Mursi*); a young boy who documents the life of immigrants in Italy (*One Way, a Tuareg Journey*); and unwitting outsiders whose cameras lead them toward a terrible secret (*Stolen*).

The 18th 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. (Toccarra Holmes Thomas, Morgan Seag and Alonzo Speight). Special thanks to the AFF Board of Directors, Jane Aiello, Joan Baffour, Lisa Bonetti, Francoise Bouffault, Sean Jacobs, Mamadou Diour, Gabriele Donati, Jacki Fischer, Jana Haimsohn, Luca Kim, Ulli Maier, Belynda M'Baye, Alexander Markov, Andrew Milne, Marina Pieretti, Muriel Placet-Kouassi, Prerana Reddy, Mohammed Sillah, Claudia Akyeampong, 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, JPMorgan Chase, New York State Council on the Arts, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, International Organization of La Francophonie, Divine Chocolate, United Airlines, Domenico Paulon Foundation, New York Foundation for the Arts, American Express, New York Times Community Affairs Department, The Ford Foundation, Bradley Family Foundation, South African Consulate General, The Russian State Documentary Film and Photo Archive at Krasnogorsk, French Cultural Services, Bloomberg, Broadway Cares, Lambert Foundation, Columbia University's Institute of African Studies and Center for African Education, WNYC, 57 Main St. Wine Company, Putumayo World Music, Websignia, Africa.com, and Omnipak Import Enterprises, Inc.

The Film Society of Lincoln Center receives major, year-round support from 42BELOW; American Airlines; Stella Artois; The New York Times; The New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency; and the National Endowment for the Arts.

**NYAFF FIVE-FILM PASS FILM SOCIETY OF LINCOLN CENTER SCREENINGS**  
**\$45 GENERAL PUBLIC; \$35 STUDENTS/SENIORS; \$30 FILM SOCIETY MEMBERS**

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## ARTISTIC VOICES OF THE DIASPORA

Co-presentation with Museum of Art and Design (MAD)

PANEL DISCUSSION AND SCREENING **SATURDAY, APRIL 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3:00pm**

*African Rhythmus* – a visually stunning fifty-minute Soviet film surveying the festivities and participants of the **World Festival of Black Arts** in Dakar, Senegal in 1966 – will be screened at MAD. The film will be preceded by a panel discussion of the contemporary exhibition of works by African and Diaspora artists. Panelists include renowned artists Harry Belafonte, Xenobia Bailey, and Zina Saro-Wiwa.

## AFRICAN DIASPORA: THE GENESIS

Co-presentation with Columbia University's Institute of African Studies (IAS)

**THURSDAY, APRIL 14<sup>th</sup>**

Screening Session I: 1:00pm - 2:20pm / Screening Session II: 3:00 - 4:05pm @ 125 Zankel Hall

PANEL DISCUSSION FOLLOWED RECEPTION **7:00pm – 9:00pm @ 509 Knox Hall**

A daylong public program at Columbia University, AFF and IAS will present free screenings and panels that explore the voluntary and forced migration of African people, the transatlantic slave routes, and the significant contributions of the African Diaspora to host societies.

## GALLERY EXHIBITION – THE BUST COLLECTION

Exhibition of artwork by Christopher Colvin

*Frieda and Roy Furman Gallery, Walter Reade Theater*

**MARCH 21<sup>st</sup> – APRIL 13<sup>th</sup>**

“The love affair between painters and film and vice versa is nothing new.” Christopher Colvin's portraits have a Golden Age cinematic timbre while giving voice to modern likeness using dynamic structure and color theory.

## OPEN AIR CINEMA

Co-presentation with The Big Screen Project

**FRIDAY, MAY 20<sup>th</sup> – 6:00pm**

AFF and The Big Screen Project partner to bring Africa and the Diaspora into the public sphere through the presentation of the film *I am Cuba* on a 30 x 16.5 ft. HD Format LED outdoor screen located Sixth Avenue between 29th and 30th Street in New York City. The screening will be preceded by public musical performances.



