

# 23<sup>rd</sup> AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL NEW YORK

film  
society  
lincoln  
center

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

**MAY 1**

Film Society of Lincoln Center

**MAY 4 - 10**

Film Society of Lincoln Center

**MAY 13 - 15**

Maysles Cinema

**MAY 26 - 30**

BAMcinémathèque, Bam Rose Cinemas

[africanfilmny.org](http://africanfilmny.org)

[filmlinc.org](http://filmlinc.org)

Tanna



Queen Nanny

**MAY 1 • MAY 4 - 10 • MAY 13 - 15 • MAY 26 - 30**

**THE 23<sup>rd</sup> NEW YORK AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL  
MODERN DAYS, ANCIENT NIGHTS: 50 YEARS OF AFRICAN FILMMAKING**

When Senegalese pioneer Ousmane Sembene premiered his masterpiece *Black Girl* at Cannes in 1966, it was the first time a Sub-Saharan feature film was accepted in the European cinema mecca. The international film world turned its head to Africa, and Sembene, "the father of African cinema" brought the highly regarded Prix Jean Vigo home to Dakar. The first generation of pan-African artists and activists used cinema as a platform to comment on and fight for their people's rights. The world these men and women envisioned was composed of free, independent, equal, and solidary nations and individuals, and the universal language of cinema was a perfect means to inform, educate, and entertain both local and international audiences. Fifty years later, historical and contemporary events make their dreams seem further away. Nevertheless, their personal and artistic commitment is a living model for the youth, who honor their legacy in the field of art and creation in our interconnected digital era.

Armed with their imagination, these fearless men and women continue the struggle of their ancestors, transforming film language in innovative and unexpected ways to forge new identities, find their way back home, and create new spaces to incite dialogue against injustice. Wars, migration and forced displacement are salient factors reshaping the face of the earth, concealing dramatic individual and collective stories. New languages, styles, genres, and narratives, stitched together with the richness of international references, pop culture, and vernacular traditions, bring to light an African-inflected world in constant change and mutation.

In its 23<sup>rd</sup> annual edition, the New York African Film Festival is pleased to show film-lovers the most fascinating selection of narrative features, documentaries, and shorts from the African continent and the Diaspora. More than 50 works from over 25 countries display the exhilarating labor of a new generation of filmmakers working from the four corners of the world, enriching the growing patrimony of African cinema.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> New York African Film Festival was organized by Dennis Lim, Director of Programming, Rufus de Rham and Dan Sullivan, Programmers, Film Society of Lincoln Center, Jesse Trussell, Programmer, BAMcinématek, Jessica Green, Cinema Director, Maysles Cinema, and Mahen Bonetti, Founder and Executive Director, African Film Festival, Inc. with Alimah Boyd, Francoise Bouffault, Beatriz Leal-Riesco, Hellura Lyle, and Dara Ojugbele. Thanks are due to the AFF Board of Directors and Jane Aiello, Joan Baffour, Luca Bonetti, Rumbi Bwerinofa, Aminata Diop, Gabriele Donati, Jacki Fischer, Belynda Hardin, Thomas Allen Harris, Muriel Placet-Kouassi, Ulli Maier, Mariah McKenzie, Karen McMullen, Julie Mehretu, Junita Middleton, Ekwa Msangi, Kagendo Murungi, Don Perry, Mohammed Sillah, Alonzo Speight, Malika Lee Whitney, Cheryl Duncan & Company Inc. Public Relations, Kojo Associates and AFF's volunteer team.

**NEW YORK AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL TOWN HALL EVENT -  
DIGITAL DIASPORA FAMILY REUNION ROADSHOW  
SUNDAY, MAY 1**

*Elinor Bunin Munroe Film Center Amphitheater @ 2:00pm*

The 23<sup>rd</sup> New York African Film Festival opens with a special live, interactive town hall event featuring the Digital Diaspora Family Reunion Roadshow (DDFR). Developed by photographer-filmmaker Thomas Allen Harris, Digital Diaspora Family Reunion Roadshow is a powerful program that helps bridge perceived differences between people and transforms strangers into family. People of all backgrounds are invited to bring family photos (on cameras or traditional print photos) to the event for a chance to share their family stories, and in the process discover the communal linkages that underlie our common humanity as their photos are projected on a large screen for the audience. Those who want to come and simply watch the event as audience members are welcome too. A panel discussion with creatives from the African Diaspora will follow the interactive family reunion roadshow. This event is free, but registration is required. 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](http://www.africanfilmny.org) for details.

**DIGITAL EXHIBIT: DIGITAL DIASPORA FAMILY REUNION ROADSHOW  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 4 - TUESDAY, MAY 10**

*Elinor Bunin Munroe Film Center Amphitheater*

A digital art exhibit featuring portraits and images from the Digital Diaspora Family Reunion Roadshow serves as a companion piece to the 23<sup>rd</sup> New York African Film Festival. Highlighting the ways in which photography has long been used to capture treasured moments, DDFR is also helping to show a new generation the power of the still photograph to retain powerful records of family trees and provide cultural touchstones across borders.

## 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 mission and organizational development: to use African cinema to promote and increase knowledge and understanding of African arts, literature and culture; to develop a non-African audience 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

Since our inception, African Film Festival (AFF) has collaborated with community groups, educational and cultural institutions, and international organizations to bring African film and culture to a wider audience. Please stay involved with us throughout the year!

## FEBRUARY through NOVEMBER

### ANNUAL NATIONAL TRAVELING FILM SERIES

This series makes African cinema available to national and international audiences by providing a package of AFF-curated films, promotional materials and professional cinema consultation to film programmers in cultural institutions, museums and universities.

## FEBRUARY

### AFF'S BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM

In collaboration with the **Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture**, AFF's Black History Month program features film screenings exploring issues within the African Diaspora, followed by thought-provoking panel discussions.

## MAY

### ANNUAL NEW YORK AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL (NYAFF)

In collaboration with **Film Society of Lincoln Center**, **Maysles Cinema**, and **BAM**, our annual festival showcases 14 days of classic and contemporary films, panel and post-screening discussions, digital exhibitions and performances from Africa and the Diaspora.

## JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER

### OUTDOOR SUMMER SCREENINGS IN NYC PARKS

AFF partners with community organizations to host free outdoor summer screenings in NYC Parks. Programs feature African/African Diaspora cinema, live performances, panels, workshops and authentic African cuisine, ensuring that AFF's programs reach residents throughout NYC.

## SEPTEMBER through JUNE

### EDUCATION & IN-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Through special matinees, documentary workshops and discussions with filmmakers, AFF works to give NYC public middle and high-school students a fun way to learn about African culture.

## YEAR-ROUND:

### DVD DISTRIBUTION

AFF's online DVD retail has a collection of DVDs (for in-home use only) representing the best in classic, contemporary and hard-to-find African and Diasporic film.

### AFF PUBLICATIONS

AFF has published several anthologies of conversations with African directors, capturing the experience, spirit, and wisdom of African filmmakers. 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.

### DIGITAL DATABASE

AFF's website contains an extensive database of film titles and reviews, directors' biographies, and scholarly articles, making AFF an invaluable resource for programmers all over the world. Users are also able to submit content pertaining to African media, culture and history.

### PARTNERS & COLLABORATORS

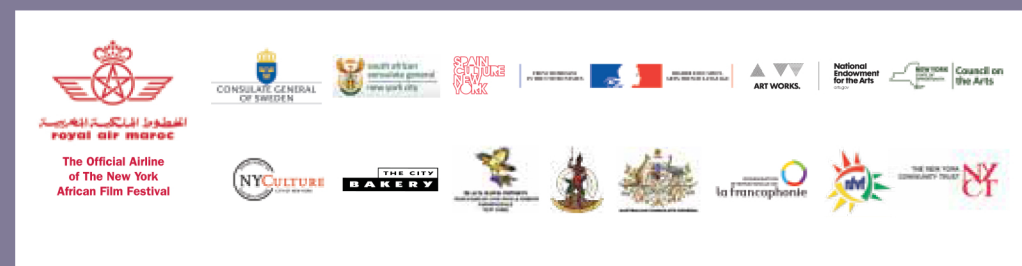
#### NYC & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Since AFF's inception, we have partnered with a multitude of community-based cultural institutions and city agencies, such as Apollo Theater, The Bronx Museum of the Arts, City College, CityParks Foundation, Cornerstone Mentoring Program, MoCADA, The East Harlem School, French Language Heritage Foundation, Global Kids Network, The Trust for Governors Island, New York Public Library, Ocularis, The Queens Museum and the United Nations, just to name a few.

### INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE & PARTNERSHIPS

AFF has co-curated film and cultural programs across the globe. Partner organizations include **AFRICALA** (Mexico), **Bob Marley Foundation** (Jamaica), **FESPACO** (Burkina Faso), **Helping Hands** (Australia), **Imagem Dos Povos** (Brazil), **Lights, Camera, Africa** (Nigeria), **Luxor African Film Festival** (Egypt), **Mercado Cultural Latino Americano** (Brazil), **Message to Man International Film Festival** (Russia), **Sierra Leone Cultural Conservation Project** (Sierra Leone), **Second Johannesburg Biennale** (South Africa) and **U.S. Speaker's Program/Film Festival** (Mexico; Swaziland).

The programs of AFF are 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, City Bakery, Bradley Family Foundation, International Organization of La Francophonie, Domenico Paulon Foundation, New York Community Trust, NYC & Company, French Cultural Services, Royal Air Maroc, Black Hawk Imports, Consulate General of Sweden in New York, South African Consulate General, National Film and Video Foundation, Consulate General of Spain in New York, Permanent Mission of Vanuatu in New York, Hudson Hotel, and Paso Almonds.





**BAMCINÉMATEK**

30 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11217

**FILM SOCIETY OF LINCOLN CENTER**

144 & 165 West 65th Street, New York, NY 10023

**AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL, INC.**

154 West 18th Street, New York, NY 10011

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
S. HACKENSACK, NJ  
PERMIT #897