

Africa in Motion Film Festival
PRESS RELEASE: For immediate release



Africa in Motion (AiM) Children's Day: 30 October 2010

Africa in Motion (AiM) Film Festival dedicates Saturday 30 October to children with an action-packed day of film screenings, storytelling and animation at Edinburgh's Filmhouse cinema. AiM wants to offer Scottish children the chance to see on the big screen what African children watch at home. The purpose of the day is to take the young people on a journey of colour and invention as well as to show films made by children, demonstrating that it is possible for kids to make wonderful films.

All the films, made by and for children, were selected from submissions and from workshops in North, West, East and South Africa. The day starts at 10.30am with the screening of an action-packed film made by young children in Accra, Ghana. The film was written, directed, produced, filmed and acted by the children of Street Academy, a school for poor children aged between 7 and 15 years, initiated by an organisation called Akosia.

The screenings include a number of animations, one of which features vegetables and fruit as characters. Two short films made by Eritrean immigrants in the UK explain to children how strange it is to live far away from home; a Tunisian film touchingly portrays a boy who is learning to live without his beautiful mother. A range of animations by Kenyan animator **Alfred Muchilwa** will bring colour and music to the morning.

After the film screenings, **Mara Menzies**, the Kenyan/Scottish storyteller, is back with fantastic tales and incredible characters in an interactive and engaging storytelling session. Brand new stories share a space with old favourites from across Africa.

Jim Stirk from Red Kite Animation Studios teams up with animator **Alfred Muchilwa** from Kenya to give local children the chance to create and film their own African inspired animation in an afternoon workshop.

The three-hour animation workshop costs £15 per child and is suitable for children between the ages of 9 and 12. Children will be able to view their film afterwards on the Africa in Motion TV channel - www.africa-in-motion.tv

For full programme details please visit www.africa-in-motion.org.uk

Tickets are available from Filmhouse box office on 0131 228 2688 or www.filmhousecinema.com. Concessionary discounts and ticket deals are available.

- ENDS -

Notes to Editors

- For press enquiries, please contact Gillian Cook on 07790 200471 or gillian@africa-in-motion.org.uk
- Publicity images are available to download from www.africa-in-motion.org.uk/press
- AiM is co-directed by Lizelle Bisschoff (lizelle@africa-in-motion.org.uk) and Stefanie Van de Peer (stefanie@africa-in-motion.org.uk).
- The AiM day dedicated to children is sponsored by the Commonwealth Foundation, who promote inter-cultural exchange of skills and knowledge.
- Akosia is an organisation that creates and organises cultural projects for underprivileged children and in Accra they took 40 children who attend Street Academy on a creative filmmaking journey.
- The Director of Lola Kenya Screen in Nairobi has chosen a few children's films for the programme. Lola Kenya Screen is an annual international audiovisual media festival, production workshop and market for children and youth in eastern Africa. It is their goal to encourage children from around the world to express themselves in film and other media, to learn new skills and have fun.
- Alfred Muchilwa is a Kenyan animator and comic book creator who began his animation career creating two films for the Africa Animated! series of workshops facilitated by UNESCO. His comics have been published in anthologies such as East Africa's renowned literary journal *kwani?*. His main focus has been on creating content with a strong African flavour that is accessible to a global audience, an endeavour that led him to his current designation as lead animator for Tiger Aspect's *Tinga Tinga Tales*; East Africa's first full animation production currently airing on Cbeebies.
- Jim Stirk is Red Kite's workshop co-ordinator. He is an experienced workshop leader who believes children do better animation than big people.