

Africa in Motion Film Festival
Press Release: For immediate release



Africa in Motion (AiM) reveals the reality of life in Africa's 'Heart of Darkness'

Africa in Motion (AiM) Film Festival, explores the reality of life in the Democratic Republic of Congo in an evening dedicated to Africa's 'Heart of Darkness' at the Filmhouse Cinema in Edinburgh on Saturday 30 October.

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) occupies a huge space, not only geographically but psychologically in Africa. In Western consciousness it is a country, seductive in its mystery; full of jungles, wild animals and savage tribes. In the eastern part of the country especially, nature offers up its riches in abundance, with the beautiful Lake Kivu under which there are bubbling beds of methane and Mount Nyiragongo near Goma throwing out red hot lava every day.

Through four changes of name since its inception as Congo Free State in 1884, its history has rarely, if ever, not been brutal. With such a tumultuous history, there seems to be very little to celebrate.

Our evening dedicated to the DRC, one of the countries commemorating 50 years of independence this year, will show the reality of life in the Congo stripped of myth and mystery. However the films also celebrate the resilience of human beings and their dignity in the face of the toughest surroundings and the most unfortunate of circumstances.

In the first screening, ***Congo in Four Acts***, young Congolese directors share their vision of their beloved country; the first film follows the absurd everyday life of a run-down maternity ward; the second is a hard-hitting tour through Kinshasa, the capital; the third focuses on rape as a weapon of war and the fourth focuses on Kipushi, a mining town which keeps the elite of the DRC in extreme wealth. The screenings will be followed by a discussion.

Congo in Four Acts is shown alongside a screening of Fiona Lloyd-Davies's hard-hitting BBC documentary ***The World's Most Dangerous Place for Women***. Congolese human rights activist **Judith Wanga**, who features in the documentary, will be present at the festival to share her experiences with the audience. This

documentary also celebrates the power of storytelling and includes readings, music and a slide-show of photographs from the DRC.

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.filmhouse.com. Concessionary discounts and ticket deals are available.

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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)
- AiM is funded by Creative Scotland; Commonwealth Foundation; Awards for All; and Regional Screen Scotland, with sponsorship from University of Edinburgh's Centre of African Studies; Scottish Documentary Institute; University of Stirling's School of Languages, Cultures and Religions; Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Edinburgh; Global Concerns Trust; Society for Francophone Postcolonial Studies; The Africa Channel; African Movie Channel; and Scotland Food and Drink.
- AiM is supported by a Board of Advisors consisting of high profile film critic, writer and producer Mark Cousins, Professor Noe Mendelle, Head of Film and TV at the Edinburgh College of Art and Director of the Scottish Documentary Institute; Professor David Murphy, Professor at the University of Stirling and a leading scholar on African film; Professor Paul Nugent, Professor of Comparative African History and Director of the Centre of African Studies at the University of Edinburgh; and Dr. Andrew Lawrence, lecturer in African Politics at the Centre of African Studies at the University of Edinburgh.