

PRESS RELEASE

Africa in Motion Film Festival 2010

November 2010



Africa in Motion (AiM) Film Festival on tour in rural Scotland

Africa in Motion (AiM) are going on tour again in November 2010. Following the success of AiM's Rural Tour in 2009, AiM directors Lizelle Bisschoff and Stefanie Van de Peer will take a selection of films from the 2010 programme to the Scottish Highlands and Islands. This exciting addition to the festival programme promotes African cinema among film-loving communities who have very limited access to African films.

Lizelle and Stefanie will give audiences at each venue an introduction to African cinema and Edinburgh's favourite Kenyan storyteller, Mara Menzies, will also be on the tour. She will entertain children and adults alike in an interactive and engaging storytelling session, with a mix of brand new stories and old favourites from across Africa.

Stefanie Van de Peer, AiM Co-Director explains,

"The Rural Tour last year was such a success we are going back to a few venues and reaching out to new ones. We hope to give lovers of Africa and lovers of film a wonderful experience with a selection of features, shorts and animation; fiction and documentary films. Mara Menzies, our storyteller, is joining us as well, for extra entertainment!"

AiM on Tour has been made possible by the collaborative efforts of the four venues involved and is funded by Regional Screen Scotland and Awards for All.

For full programme details please visit www.africa-in-motion.org.uk/2010/aimontour/

Tickets are available from:

Colinsburgh programme only - Colinsburgh Community Cinema, contact Peter Marshall on 01333 340 360. Tickets: £4.00

Orkney programme only - The Pickaquooy Centre, contact Box Office on 01856 879900. Tickets: Adults: £5.35; Children: £3.85

Cromarty programme only - Cromarty and Resolis Film Society, contact Tanya Karlebach on tkarlebach@eunoia.co.uk or 01381 600 703. Tickets: £6.00 for the full programme

Isle of Skye programme only - Club Film, contact Duncan MacInnes on 01471 844 207. Tickets: £5.00 (concessions available)

- ENDS -

Notes to Editors

1) AiM on Tour programme as follows:

Colinsburgh

Saturday 6 November

- 7.30pm - Welcome and intro
- Short film: *The Cassava Metaphor*
- African storytelling by Mara Menzies
- Snacks and drinks
- Main feature: *Madame Brouette*

Orkney

Thursday 11 November

- 11.00am - School screening: African films for children
- 6.00pm - Introduction to South African cinema (by Festival Director & Founder, Lizelle Bisschoff)
- Main feature: *Gugu and Andile*

Friday 12 November

- 6.00pm - Introduction to West African cinema (by Festival Co-Director, Stefanie Van de Peer)
- Main feature: *Madame Brouette*

Cromarty

Sunday 14 November

- 7.30pm - Short films: *The Souls of Black Folks, My White Baby, The Essence*
- Main feature: *Madame Brouette*

Isle of Skye

Friday 19 November

Portree High School

1.45pm - 3.30pm - School screening: *Joseph's Road* and *The Dancing Forest*

Club Film

7.30pm - African storytelling by Mara Menzies
- Main feature: *Madame Brouette*

Saturday 20 November

Club Film

7.30pm - Short film: *The Abyss Boys*
- Main feature: *Gugu and Andile*

The Cassava Metaphor (La Métaphore du Manioc)

Lionel Meta | Cameroon / France 2010 | 15m | French with English subtitles

Short film

African Storytelling

Mara Menzies

Brand new stories share a space with old favourites from across Africa. Mara the storyteller brings fantastic tales and incredible characters in an interactive and engaging storytelling session.

Madame Brouette

Moussa Sene Absa | Senegal / Canada / France 2002 | 1h44m | French with English subtitles | 15

Proud, independent and divorced, Mati survives by pushing her cart through the pathways of a Senegalese shantytown. She dreams of opening a small restaurant and earning a living with dignity. Despite encouraging many other women to stand up to their domineering husbands, Mati falls for Naago, a charming, smooth talking local policeman. Partly told through a Greek chorus in song, this feminist melodrama explores inequality in male / female relationships and how women within a violent relationship can ultimately be driven to violence themselves.

Senegalese artist, director, musician and writer Moussa Sene Absa has received many accolades for his work. Featuring music by famous West African musicians including Majoly, Serge Fiori and Mamadou Diabate, *Madame Brouette* features an extraordinary soundtrack and won a Best Film Music Award in Berlin.

African Films for Children

Various directors | Various countries | 1h 10m

AiM wants to offer Scottish children the opportunity to see on the big screen what African children watch at home. We will screen a number of animations, including one in which the figures are vegetables and fruit! Two shorts 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, and a range of animations from Kenya will bring colour and music to the morning.

Gugu and Andile (uGugu no Andile)

Minky Schlesinger | South Africa 2009 | 1h36m | Zulu and Xhosa with English subtitles | 15

The year is 1993, democracy is at hand, and South Africa's townships are burning. Gugu, a sixteen-year-old from a Zulu family falls in love with Andile, an eighteen year-old Xhosa youth. Their love is frowned upon by both communities. Based on Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, *Gugu and Andile* is a film about love, death and reconciliation.

Winner of numerous awards at film festivals all over the world, talented South African director Minky Schlesinger's film has a superb script, which expertly draws out the timeless appeal of Shakespeare's work. With editing that captures the breathless pace of the narrative, the result is a film that will speak to young and old.

Short films

The Souls of Black Folks

Liban Jama | Somalia 2010 | 4m

My White Baby (Me Broni Ba)

Akosua Adoma Owusu | Ghana 2008 | 22m | Twi and English with English subtitles |
Documentary

The Essence

Ebele Okoye | Nigeria 2010 | 6m | No dialogue | Animation

Joseph's Road

Sabine Hellmann & Julian Krubasik | Malawi / UK 2010 | 12m | English and Chichewa with English subtitles

This film lets you see the world through the eyes of a young Malawian man, Joseph Tenson. Like many teenagers, he goes to school and enjoys hanging out with his friends, but dreams of moving away to seek his fortune. At home in the village, the effects of a changing climate are felt and forests are cut down. A new initiative, JANEEMO, is planting trees for renewable bio-energy, food and medicine. Could this change Joseph's choices for the future?

This is one of two Scottish-produced films that will be used by schools across Scotland to teach about global citizenship and sustainable development.

The Dancing Forest

Brice Lainé | Togo 2008 | 52m | French and Nadwem with English subtitles

When Séda & Tiyéda Bawiena return to Baga, their native village in Togo, they find it on the brink of ruin, devastated by decades of sustained exodus, bleak economic prospects and an increasingly infertile land. Armed with their unshakeable faith in the ways of their ancestral land, they found the International Centre for Agro-Pastoral Development (CIDAP) that revolutionises life in their community.

The Dancing Forest seeks out the group of women who supported CIDAP from its beginning 25 years ago, and details their unlikely triumph. Disseminating new methods of sustainable agriculture anchored on the ways of their forefathers, they resurrected an entire village.

This award-winning documentary offers a rare and intimate encounter with the fascinating women and men who fight the fights of daily persistence. Bursting with West Africa's vibrant sights and sounds, *The Dancing Forest* goes beyond the usual African story of desolation and poverty to unveil a world of dignity and hope - a hope where forests can dance.

The Abyss Boys

Jan Hendrik Beelge | South Africa 2009 | 26m | Afrikaans with English subtitles

Short film

- 2) For press enquiries, please contact Gillian Cook on 07790 200471 or gillian@africa-in-motion.org.uk
- 3) Publicity images are available to download from www.africa-in-motion.org.uk/2010/press/
- 4) AiM is co-directed by Lizelle Bisschoff (lizelle@africa-in-motion.org.uk) and Stefanie Van de Peer (stefanie@africa-in-motion.org.uk). Both are available for interviews and photocalls.
- 5) Awards for All gives grants for people to take part in art, sport and community activities, and projects that promote education, the environment and health in the local community.
- 6) Regional Screen Scotland acts as a development agency, providing information and consultancy services and facilitates access to the cinemagoing experience in remote, rural, coastal and under-provided communities throughout Scotland.
- 7) 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.
- 8) 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.