



MEDIA RELEASE

AFRICA IN MOTION (AiM) FILM FESTIVAL 2012

Thursday 25 October – Friday 2 November

Taking the very timely theme of 'Modern Africa', the festival's diverse, continent-spanning programme of documentary and fictional films (totalling 23 features and 32 shorts) will explore African urban and rural experiences, identity and popular culture, contemporary politics and social issues, Africa's rich heritage and its exciting future.

Kenya features prominently in this year's programme with two features and five short films, more than half of which are receiving their UK premieres. There is also an African Storytelling event featuring Kenyan/Scottish storyteller Mara Menzies.

Kenya

The films and events in the programme are:

Fluorescent Sin - UK Premiere

Amirah Tajdin · Kenya 2011 · 9m

At Nairobi's iconic central station, a lithe, majestic drag queen sits on a bench, lightly crying, smoking a cigarette and descending into a breakdown through a poetic soliloquy. Filmmaker Amirah Tajdin challenges our ideas of beauty, sexuality, and Kenyan attitudes to 'otherness', suggesting that being caught between two places might not be a bad thing.

Yellow Fever

Ng'endo Mukii · UK/Kenya 2012 · 7m · Documentary

Yellow Fever explores the concept of skin and race and what they imply. It asserts that the idea of beauty has become globalised, creating homogenous aspirations and distorting people's self-image across the planet. Using mixed media, the film focuses on African women's self-image through memories and interviews.

Peace Wanted Alive: Kenya at the Crossroads

Stephen Marshall · Kenya/USA · 2010 · 18m · Digibeta · 15 · Documentary

Documentary short about the courageous Kenyan peacebuilders who saved their country from descending into genocide during the 2008 election crisis.

These two documentaries are screened in collaboration with the University of Edinburgh's Centre for Theology and Public Issues (CTPI) project on 'Peace-building through Media Arts'.

Twende Berlin (Let's Go To Berlin)

Upendo Hero - Dr. Farasi · Kenya/Germany 2011 · 1h20m · English, Swahili and German with English subtitles

Twende Berlin is a documentary about urban spaces and our relationship to them as told through the eyes of a troupe of African hip-hop artists. The social issue which underpins the documentary is the importance of public space and public art in contemporary society, and how and why Western metropolises are affected by the emerging phenomenon of "gentrification". *Twende Berlin* film documentary is an opportunity for both European and African urban citizens to twist and subvert stereotypes, to become an object of both social and cultural investigation in order to discover ourselves again, told through the eyes of a group of African hip hop artists and their super hero - Upenda Hero (the hero of love).

AiM Short Film Competition

For the fifth consecutive year, AiM has invited African filmmakers to submit short films of up to 30 minutes for our annual Short Film Competition. From the dozens of submissions, eight films have been shortlisted, comprising a diverse and captivating collection of work from across the continent. With styles ranging from experimental and futuristic to animation and dramatic, these films are representative of the dynamic and progressive filmmaking in contemporary Africa.

The shortlisted films include:

Kichwateli (TV-Head) - UK Premiere

Muchiri Njenga · Kenya 2011 · 7m

Kichwateli is a story set in a city and slum of Nairobi about a child who comes back from a post-apocalyptic Africa to the present time. In a dream sequence, he transforms into a robot-like character whose head is replaced by a "live" TV set. The film takes the audience through a spiritual and metaphoric journey depicting that we are currently all plugged into the same images of global anxiety while ourselves being subjects of media scrutiny.

The Short Film Competition is part of AiM's commitment to nurturing young African filmmaking talent, offering a cash prize of £1,000 to the winning film. The winner is selected by our jury of acclaimed film practitioners and academics: Noe Mendelle (director of the Scottish Documentary Institute), Zina Saro-Wiwa (Nigerian filmmaker), Mark Cousins (director and film critic), Paul Dale (writer/editor) and David Archibald (lecturer in Film Studies at the University of Glasgow), and will be announced immediately after the screenings. Audiences in both Glasgow and Edinburgh will also have the opportunity to vote for their favourite films with the Audience Award winners announced at the closing screenings of the festival, where both the jury winning film and the audience's favourite will be screened again.

Our thanks go to The Africa Channel and Buni TV for sponsoring the prize money for the Short Film Competition.

African Films for Children

1h3m · Various languages with English subtitles and narration · PG

Designed especially for our younger audience members and their families, AiM's Children's Day is full of exciting films and animations and inspiring stories from all over the continent. The day starts with our African Films for Children screenings (with subtitles narrated for younger viewers), followed by an African storytelling session.

The films in our children's programme include: **Vanessa's Dream - UK Premiere**

Adede Hawi Nyodero/Daki Mohamed · Kenya 2011 · 2m · Documentary

African Storytelling

Kenyan/Scottish storyteller Mara Menzies from Toto Tales is back! A fine and fantastical afternoon for children and their families of brand new stories and songs from across the African continent exploring the transition from old to new. With plenty of opportunity for audience participation, this promises to be

storytelling at its best.

Secondary School Screening: Inside Story - UK Premiere

Rolie Nikiwe · Kenya/South Africa 2011 · 1h38m · Digibeta · English and Swahili with English subtitles · 15

Kalu is a young talented football player from Kenya who dreams of playing in the professional leagues. His life dramatically changes when he gets an offer to play football in South Africa and at the same time is unknowingly infected with the HIV virus. The battles Kalu has to fight on and off the field are the backdrop for his remarkable journey to understanding the HIV virus and its impact on his future. Together, we race past skin, bone, and muscle to reveal the battle going on inside his body. Kalu eventually confronts the challenges of HIV, and ultimately realises that knowledge is power.

Produced by the Discovery Channel and filmed in Kenya and South Africa, this engaging film uses football, one of the most popular sports in the African continent, to encourage discussions about HIV. The screening will be followed by a discussion led by an expert on issues surrounding HIV/AIDS in Africa.

This screening was developed in partnership with the Filmhouse Cinema Knowledge & Learning Department.

The full programme is available at:

Africa in Motion (AiM) Film Festival - www.africa-in-motion.org.uk

Filmhouse Cinema - www.filmhousecinema.com

Glasgow Film Theatre - www.gft.org.uk

For further information, interview requests and publicity images, please contact: Miles Fielder

Press Officer; Email: press@africa-in-motion.org.uk; Mobile: 0044 (0)7760 284 177

Website: www.africa-in-motion.org.uk