



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.

South Africa features prominently in this year's programme with five features and six short films, all but three of which are receiving their UK premieres. South African filmmakers Ndaba ka Ngwane (*Uhlanga*) and Sara Blecher (*Otelo Burning*) will be in attendance at the festival, where Ngwane and his cinematographer, Khulekani Zondi, will also be presenting a masterclass.

South Africa

The films in the programme are:

Opening Screening

***Uhlanga (The Mark)* - UK Premiere**

Ndaba ka Ngwane · South Africa 2012 · 1h30m · MiniDV · Zulu with English subtitles · 15

Beautiful and thought-provoking debut feature film from South African filmmaker, author and playwright Ndaba ka Ngwane. A family from rural KwaZulu-Natal struggle daily with poverty, abuse and prejudice. Their determination to escape violence, starvation, fear and a generational curse takes them on the journey of a lifetime.

With stunning cinematography by first-time director of photography and film editor Khulekani Zondi, *Uhlanga* features a cast of young amateur actors, stirring poetry by lead protagonist and poet Sbonelo Mbutho (Sbo Da Poet) and an original and engaging soundtrack of South African music.

We are excited to host the UK premiere of *Uhlanga* and delighted to have the director Ndaba ka Ngwane and cinematographer Khulekani Zondi in attendance. The film arrives in Scotland after a successful debut run on the African continent, scooping five awards at the Zanzibar International Film Festival - including the Golden Dhow Award for best feature, and a screening in its hometown festival, the Durban International Film Festival. Ndaba ka Ngwane and Khulekani Zondi are presenting a masterclass at Edinburgh College of Art. Their attendance was made possible with the generous support of Film Africa in London.

Director's Masterclass

Ndaba ka Ngwane is an award winning author and playwright. His written work includes the award-winning Zulu novel *Mhlaba Sengiyakwazi* (1996). Film credits include the short film *Sindisiwe* (2007), which, like *Uhlanga*, he wrote, produced and directed. Ka Ngwane has staged various theatre productions and also works as a radio presenter for a community radio station.

Khulekani Zondi is a music producer and a musician in his own right. He is also the Founder of Emamba Music and Entertainment. Zondi started his career filming and documenting rural life and African music - including Maskandi music; after graduating from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. *Uhlanga* is the first feature film as a director of photography and film editor.

In this masterclass, both Ndaba and Khulekani will share their filmmaking experiences and their journey to make this feature-length film.

The masterclass is co-hosted by the Scottish Documentary Institute.

Sweetheart - UK Premiere

Michael Matthews · South Africa 2012 · 26m

The late 1950s, at the height of the Cold War tension: When her husband and stepsons don't return from a routine trip into town, a young housewife finds herself alone in their remote South African farmhouse. As time passes it becomes clear that they aren't coming back, and with hints of strange events just over the horizon, she must force herself out of an aimless cycle, setting out to find them. What she finds instead is a seemingly derelict world empty of all but a few dazed "survivors". Unsure who, if anyone, to trust, she must navigate a series of strange encounters to find shocking answers in a world that will reveal itself to be a marked alternative to what we remember.

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.

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:

Dog - UK Premiere

Jaco Minnaar · South Africa 2012 · 12m

Dog is a subtle story about a chance meeting between two South African women. One is a curious city dweller with a voyeuristic streak while the other is a recluse living close to the beach on the far outskirts of the small coastal town where the story is set. Drawn by her curiosity, the city dweller discovers scars and

clues that hint at the other woman's past as a victim of violence.

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.

Africa Shafted: Under One Roof - UK Premiere

Ingrid Martens · South Africa 2011 · 50m · Documentary

Africa Shafted: Under One Roof captures the views and opinions of people from every corner of the African continent who are now residing in South Africa. These immigrants and refugees, who have been seen as scary, undeserving or criminal by so many others in post-apartheid South Africa, are actually diverse, ordinary people, each with a dream of a better life and wisdom to share. Sadly the film also exposes the very prejudice that led to the violent xenophobic attacks that are still today an ongoing chapter in South Africa's recent history.

Afrikaaps - UK Premiere

Dyllan Valley · South Africa 2010 · 52m · English and Afrikaans with English subtitles · Documentary

The documentary follows a group of local artists creating the hip-hop opera *Afrikaaps*, as they trace the true roots of Afrikaans to slaves in the Cape. This is the untold story of Afrikaans, liberated from its reputation as the language of the oppressor and taking it back to the people who own it. It features the musical greats, Jitsvinger, Kyle Shepherd, Emile (Black Noise), Shane Cooper, Moenier Adams, Blaq Pearl, the powerhouse b-boy, Bliksemstraal, and the poetic genius of Jethro Louw.

Dear Mandela

Dara Kell/Christopher Nizza · South Africa/USA 2011 · 1h33m · HD Cam · English and Zulu with English subtitles · 15 · Documentary

Destroyed homes, threats at gunpoint and high-court action; this battle by three young people to stand up for their rights is a testimony to people power. When the South African government promises to 'eradicate the slums' and begins to evict shack dwellers far outside the city, three friends who live in Durban's vast shantytowns refuse to be moved. *Dear Mandela* follows their journey from their shacks to the highest court in the land as they invoke Nelson Mandela's example and become leaders in a growing social movement.

By turns inspiring, devastating and funny, the film offers a new perspective on the role that young people can play in political change and is a fascinating portrait of South Africa coming of age.

Otelo Burning

Sara Blecher · South Africa 2011 · 1h12m · DCP · English and Zulu with English subtitles · 15

Shot in Durban and set in 1989, in the final years of the crumbling apartheid system, *Otelo Burning* tells the story of a group of township kids who discover the joy of surfing. When 16-year-old Otelo Buthelezi takes to the water for the first time, it is clear that he was born to surf. But then tragedy strikes. On the day that Nelson Mandela is released from prison, Otelo is forced to choose between surfing and justice. This beautiful, insightful and entertaining film captures a turbulent time in South Africa's history.

Mama Goema: The Cape Town Beat in 5 Movements - UK Premiere

Ángela Ramirez/Sara Gouveia/Calum MacNaughton · South Africa 2011 · 55m · English, Afrikaans and Xhosa with English subtitles

If you take a pinch of Khoisan lament, a dash of Malay spice, a measure of European orchestral, a splash of Xhosa spiritual, the clash of marching bands, the pizzazz of the Klopse, a driving primal beat and lots of humour and musical virtuosity, what do you get? Goema, Goema, Goema!

A journey to the heart of the Mother City and a beat called Goema. With indigenous roots, colonial influences and shaped by Cape Town's slave history, Goema's blueprint lies in the city's carnival culture. It is from these traditional festivities that contemporary variations have emerged in the form of defiant rock, marking the collapse of apartheid and healing jazz in the wake of South Africa's democratic rebirth. *Mama Goema* charts the evolution of Goema through composer Mac McKenzie, multi-instrumentalist Hilton Schilder and a cast of Cape Town's diverse musicians and sees the city's most representative sound take a bold step into the future.

Stocktown X South Africa

Teddy Goitom · Sweden/South Africa 2011 · 29m · Digibeta · 15

Beyond the stereotypical daily reporting on violence, AIDS and safari tours, Swedish directors Teddy Goitom and Benjamin Taft set out to capture the creative street vibes of South Africa. On their trip to Cape Town and Johannesburg, they meet up with the heavy metal band Ree-burth, the Soweto style-setters Smarteez with their colorful street savvy fashion, video gamers label 2bop, and limpop music genre innovator Gazelle.

This alternative road movie presents another perspective from the young creative forces at work in South Africa's cities.

Cry of Love - UK Premiere

Faith Isiakpere · South Africa 2012 · 2h · HD Cam · 15

Cry of Love follows the lives of young and talented teens who explore their musical gifts in Johannesburg's African Performing Arts Centre school. Set against the city's vibrant cosmopolitan backdrop, this film brings together characters from across Africa. Despite their differences, each character finds solace in 'The Sanctuary', a place of common ground where people are united through music and the celebration of Ubuntu - the African expression for "I am what I am because of who we all are."

In *Cry of Love*, Nigerian-born director Faith Isiakpere delivers an uplifting *Fame*-style musical starring legendary South African songbird Yvonne Chaka Chaka. This 'faction' (fact and fiction) film distinguishes itself by combining a compelling narrative with music and contemporary human right issues.

This film is screened in collaboration with the University of Edinburgh's Centre for Theology and Public Issues (CTPI) project on 'Peace-building through Media Arts'. The screening will be followed by a discussion on issues of peace-making and reconciliation in film.

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

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