



## MEDIA RELEASE

# AFRICA IN MOTION (AiM) FILM FESTIVAL 2012

Thursday 25 October – Friday 2 November

This year's festival, built around the very timely theme of 'Modern Africa', is structured in five sections: African Science Fiction, Arab Spring Documentaries, Nollywood, Modern African Identities and African Popular Arts.

### African Science Fiction

If *District 9* taught the world one thing it's that African sci-fi is where it's at. Sci-fi as a genre, metaphor or catalyst is increasingly being explored by African artists, writers and filmmakers. Adopting and reinterpreting the genre has allowed these artists to create counter-narratives and tackle persistent stereotypes of Africa. Long overdue its own season, we've put together a great selection of African sci-fi shorts and features. The screenings will be followed by a discussion with Cameroonian director Jean-Pierre Bekolo, whose feature film *Les Saignantes*, hailed as one of the first African sci-fi films, will be screened later the same evening.

The films in this programme are:

#### **The Last Angel of History**

John Akomfrah · Ghana/UK · 1995 · 45m

As an introduction to our focus on African sci-fi, this innovative documentary by Ghanaian-born, London-based filmmaker John Akomfrah (one of the founders of the Black Audio Film Collective and director of 1987 documentary masterpiece *Handsworth Songs*) is an engaging and searing examination of the hitherto unexplored relationships between Pan-African culture, science fiction, intergalactic travel, and rapidly progressing computer technology. *The Last Angel of History* is one of the most influential video-essays of the 1990s, inspiring filmmakers, conferences, novels and exhibitions. The film's exploration of the creative possibilities of digital video is embedded within a mythology of the future that creates connections between black "unpopular" culture, outer space and the limits of the human condition.

*The Last Angel of History* has been curated by *Mother Tongue*. For further information see:

[www.movertongue.se](http://www.movertongue.se)

PLUS

#### **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.

PLUS

**Kichwateli (TV-Head) - UK Premiere**

Bobb Muchiri · 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.

*Kichwateli* is also part of the Africa in Motion Short Film Competition, and will be screened with the rest of the finalists on Mon 29 Oct in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

PLUS

**Hasaki Ya Suda (Swords)**

Cédric Ido · Burkina Faso 2010 · 24m · Lingala with English subtitles

A dystopian, futuristic, "Afro-samurai" short set in the year 2100. Global warming has caused drought, conflict and famine. The first victims of global warming are the Southern populations, forced to leave their lands to immigrate to the North. A massive exodus turns the face of the world upside down. From now on, the earth is reduced to a gigantic no man's land. Lost and distraught, the few survivors turn to the past and revive some ancestral rituals. All over the world, clans emerge and fight for the last fertile lands they find. Three men, Wurubemba, Shandaru and Kapkaru confront one another with the only weapon they have: swords.

**Les Saignantes (The Bloodettes)**

Fri 26 Oct at 8.30pm

Filmhouse Cinema 2

Jean-Pierre Bekolo · France/Cameroon 2005 · 1h37m · Digibeta · French with English subtitles · 15

Two femme fatales Majolie (Adele Ado) and Chouchou (Dorylia Calmel), use their beauty to win favour from powerful men in Cameroon. When one of these men dies, it sets in motion a plot involving a severed head, a secret society of women and the fate of a struggling nation. Set in the Cameroonian capital of Yaounde in 2025, *Les Saignantes* is Jean-Pierre Bekolo's tool to make a very poignant and provocative comment on the relationships between money, power, desire, alienation and the body, on the continent.

Since its release in 2005, *Les Saignantes* has been hailed as one the first science fiction films to come out of Africa. An experimental sci-fi/action/horror hybrid, the film aims to expose the deep social crisis that, according to the filmmaker, Cameroon in particular and Africa in general, suffer from. The avant-garde feel of the film, its stylised aesthetic and superb acting earned the film

second prize for Feature Film and Best Female Actresses awards at FESPACO 2007.

We are delighted to have Jean-Pierre Bekolo in attendance to talk to the audience during a Q&A session following the screening. Bekolo is an award-winning filmmaker, scriptwriter, author and scholar. His first film *Quartier Mozart* (screened on Sun 28 Oct) was awarded the Prix Afrique en Création at the Cannes Film Festival (1992). Amongst the multidisciplinary body of work he has produced are *Les Saignantes*, a video installation entitled *An African Woman in Space* (2008), and the book *Africa for the Future* (2009). Learn more about his work at [www.jeanpierrebekolo.com](http://www.jeanpierrebekolo.com). Bekolo's visit is generously funded by the School of Arts and Humanities at the University of Stirling

The full programme is available at: [www.africa-in-motion.org.uk](http://www.africa-in-motion.org.uk)

For further information, interview requests and publicity images, please contact: Miles Fielder Press Officer; Email: [press@africa-in-motion.org.uk](mailto:press@africa-in-motion.org.uk); Mobile: 0044 (0)7760 284 177