



Film

BAM presents *FilmAfrica*, May 23—27, a celebration of contemporary African cinema

April 26, 2019/Brooklyn, NY—From Thursday, May 23 through Monday, May 27, BAM presents *FilmAfrica*, a cinematic companion to BAM's DanceAfrica Festival that showcases the best new narrative, documentary, and short films across Africa and the diaspora. This year, the series will specifically focus on films from and about Rwanda, marking the 25th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide. DanceAfrica Festival 2019—which includes dance, music, film, visual art, a bazaar, and workshops—runs May 18 through 27. This year *FilmAfrica*, presented by BAM in partnership with African Film Festival, Inc., kicks off the citywide New York African Film Festival, with dates at BAM, The Film Society of Lincoln Center and Maysles Cinema through June 9.

The series begins with *Sew the Winter to My Skin* (2018), Jahmil X.T. Qubeka's sensually rich epic based on the life and legend of John Kepe, a Robin Hood-esque who achieved folk hero status by robbing and outwitting colonizers in 1950s South Africa. Other films include *Finding Hillywood* (Warshawski & Towey, 2013), a documentary chronicling the birth of Rwanda's burgeoning film industry, screening with *Imfura* (Ishimwe, 2018), a 2018 Berlinale Silver Bear-winning short film about the legacy of the Rwandan genocide; Rwandan filmmaker Anisia Uzeyman's iPhone-shot debut feature, *Dreamstates* (2016), an otherworldly vision of America through the eyes of an outsider; *Intore* (Kabera, 2014), an inspiring documentary about overcoming Rwanda's tragic history by reclaiming music, dance, and resilience, screening with *A Place for Myself* (Dusabejambo, 2016), a portrait of a young Rwandan girl with albinism; and *Sometimes in April* (2005), Raoul Peck's shattering account of the Rwandan genocide, starring Idris Elba.

The series continues with *Ouaga Girls* (Dahlberg, 2017), a documentary following a group of young women studying to be mechanics in a rapidly changing Burkina Faso; *The Fruitless Tree* (2016), Aïcha Macky's bravely personal documentary on taboos around childlessness in Nigeria; and *Mossane* (1996), a portrait of rural Senegalese life and a teenage girl's crisis of tradition and self-determination from pioneering Senegalese director Safi Faye. Other screenings include *Borders* (Traoré, 2017), a portrait of traveling alone while female and a tribute to the bravery of West African women; *Supa Modo* (Wainaina, 2018), the story of a terminally ill Kenyan girl who dreams of being a superhero; *Wallay* (2016), Swiss-Burkinabe director Berni Goldblat's debut feature, a naturalistic coming-of-age story of a French teenager sent to live with his uncle in Burkina Faso for a summer; and a program of contemporary short films.

For further press information, please contact:
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*FilmAfrica*Schedule:

Thu, May 23

7pm: *Sew the Winter to My Skin*

Fri, May 24

4:30pm: *Finding Hillywood* + *Imfura*

7pm: *Intore* + *A Place for Myself*

9:30pm: *Ouaga Girls*

Sat, May 25

1:30pm: *Finding Hillywood* + *Imfura*

4pm: *Sometimes in April* 7pm: *Dreamstates*

9:15pm: *The Fruitless Tree*

Sun, May 26

2pm: *Supa Modo*



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4pm: *Mossane*
7pm: *Borders*
9:15pm: Shorts Program

Mon, May 27

2pm: *The Fruitless Tree*
3:30pm: *Wallay*
5:45pm: Shorts Program
7:30pm: *Borders*

About BAM Film

Since 1998 BAM Rose Cinemas has been Brooklyn's home for alternative, documentary, art-house, and independent films. Combining new releases with year-round repertory program, the four-screen venue hosts new and rarely seen contemporary films, classics, work by local artists, and festivals of films from around the world, often with special appearances by directors, actors, and other guests. BAM has hosted major retrospectives of filmmakers like Spike Lee, Chantal Akerman, John Carpenter, Manoel de Oliveira, Luis Buñuel, King Hu, and Vincente Minnelli (winning a National Film Critics' Circle Award prize for the retrospective), and hosted the first US retrospectives of directors Arnaud Desplechin, Hong Sang-soo, Andrzej Zulawski, and Jiang Wen. Since 2009 the program has also produced BAMcinemaFest, New York's home for American independent film, and has championed the work of filmmakers like Janicza Bravo, Andrew Dosunmu, Lena Dunham, and Alex Ross Perry. The 12-day festival of New York premieres, now in its 11th year, runs from June 12—23, 2019.

About African Film Festival, Inc.

For 29 years, African Film Festival, Inc. (AFF) has bridged the divide between post-colonial Africa and the American public through the powerful medium of film and video. AFF's unique place in the international arts community is distinguished not only by leadership in festival management, but also by a comprehensive approach to the advocacy of African film and culture. AFF established the New York African Film Festival (NYAFF) in 1993 with Film Society of Lincoln Center. The New York African Film Festival is presented annually by the African Film Festival, Inc. and Film Society of Lincoln Center, in association with Brooklyn Academy of Music. AFF also produces a series of local, national and international programs throughout the year. More information about AFF can be found on the Web at www.africanfilmny.org.

Credits:

Leadership support for BAM Film and Community programs provided by The Thompson Family Foundation

Con Edison is the Major Sponsor of BAM Community Programs.

Support for A Year of Resistance, amplifying marginalized voices in cinema, provided by The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences

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Delta Air Lines is the Official Airline of BAM

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Special thanks to: Mahen Bonetti, Dara Ojugbele, the New York African Film Festival Team.

General Information

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, BAM Rose Cinemas, and BAMcafé are located in the Peter Jay Sharp building at 30 Lafayette Avenue (between St Felix Street and Ashland Place) in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn. BAM Harvey Theater is located two blocks from the main building at 651 Fulton Street (between Ashland and Rockwell Places). Both locations house Greenlight Bookstore at BAM kiosks. BAM Fisher, located at 321 Ashland Place (between Lafayette Ave and Hanson Place), houses the Judith and Alan Fishman Space and Rita K. Hillman Studio. BAM Rose Cinemas features first-run independent and foreign film and repertory programming.

Subway: 2, 3, 4, 5, Q, B to Atlantic Avenue – Barclays Center (2, 3, 4, 5 to Nevins St for Harvey Theater) D,

N, R to Pacific Street; G to Fulton Street; C to Lafayette Avenue

Train: Long Island Railroad to Atlantic Terminal – Barclays Center

Bus: B25, B26, B41, B45, B52, B63, B67 all stop within three blocks of BAM

For ticket information, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100, or visit BAM.org.