BAMcinémathek presents *FilmAfrica*, the cinematic companion to BAM’s 39th annual *DanceAfrica*, May 25—30

The Wall Street Journal is the title sponsor of BAM Rose Cinemas and BAMcinémathek.

Brooklyn, NY/Apr 21, 2016—From Wednesday, May 25 through Monday, May 30, BAMcinémathek presents *FilmAfrica*, the cinematic companion to BAM’s *DanceAfrica* festival.

*FilmAfrica* features the best fiction and documentary films from Ghana, Sudan, Kenya, Nigeria, and beyond, with a special focus on Senegal, the home of this year’s visiting dance company. The 2016 edition includes Senegalese features *Under the Starry Sky* (2013—May 29), Dyana Gaye’s richly-realized exploration of contemporary emigration and Jason Silverman and Samba Gadjigo’s epic biopic on the father of African cinema *Sembene!* (2015—May 28). The screening of *Sembene!* will be followed with a Q&A by the filmmakers. *FilmAfrica* is co-presented by the New York African Film Festival.


Yared Zelek’s “tremendous ethnographic debut” (*The Guardian*), *Lamb* (2015—May 26 & 27) is the heartwarming story of Ephraim, who having been sent to live with distant relatives after his mother’s death, finds a friend in a farm animal. Bazi Gete’s *Red Leaves* (2014—May 27) is the story of a 74-year-old man who struggles to find his place in the world after the passing of his wife. *Cholo* (2014—May 27) introduces two stepbrothers who despite their physical differences share a captivating chemistry as they vie for their parent’s attention. Taking its name from the convergence of the Sudanese Blue and White Niles, *The Longest Kiss* (2013—May 28) follows six young Sudanese searching for a place to call ‘home’ as their country prepares for the south’s secession. Screening with *The Longest Kiss* is Marcia Juzga’s *The Prophecy* (2015), which provides an inside look at photographer Fabrice Monteiro’s project unmasking Senegalese environmental issues. In a similar vein is *Afripedia* (2014—May 27), a collaborative documentary project profiling a new generation of African artists. *Afripedia* and *The Longest Kiss* will be followed with Q&As by the filmmakers.

As part of the BAMkids programming, *FilmAfrica* presents *Kirikou and the Wild Beasts* (2005—May 29). Based on West African folk tales, this Michel Ocelot and Benedicte Galup directed animated feature proves that spirit, not size, is key to overcoming odds. Closing out the series is Dare Fasasi’s *Head Gone* (2014—May 29) and Moussa Touré’s *TGV* (1998—May 29). The comedy *Head Gone* chronicles a group of psychiatric patients mistakenly set lose on a community and the subsequent aftermath. The feature *TGV* exposes the risky bond a bus driver and his passengers share on a dangerous bus trip to the Guinea border.
FilmAfrica Schedule

**Wed, May 25**
7pm: Mbeubeuss, le terreau de l’espoir + Mbeubeuss
9:45pm: The E-Waste Tragedy

**Thu, May 26**
7:30pm: Lamb

**Fri, May 27**
2pm: Lamb
4:30, 9:15pm: Red Leaves + Cholo
7pm: Afripedia

**Sat, May 28**
2, 7pm: Sembene!
4:30pm, 9:30pm: The Longest Kiss + The Prophecy

**Sun, May 29**
2pm: Kinkou and the Wild Beasts
4, 6, 8pm: Under the Starry Sky

**Mon, May 30**
2, 6:30pm: TGV
4, 8:30pm: Head Gone

Film Descriptions

**Afripedia (2014) 84min**
*Directed by Teddy Goitom, Benjamin Taft, and Senay Berhe.*
As Africa changes, and the world’s perception of it changes, the images of Africa and Africans need to change too. *Afripedia* is a collaborative, multi-part project profiling a new generation of artists from across the continent. This program brings together three documentaries from the *Afripedia* series, examining the vibrant and rising artistic communities in Ghana, Kenya, Ivory Coast, and Senegal. Viewers meet outspoken androgynous music star Wiyaala; 3D artist Andrew Kaggia, who unveils his vision of Nairobi; fashion designer Selly Raby Kane, who sculpts the digital image of a future alien city in an old railway station; and many others. *In English and French with English subtitles.*
Fri, May 27 at 7pm / Q&A with Teddy Goitom, Benjamin Taft, Senay Berhe

**Cholo (2014) 21min**
*Directed by Muzna Almusoer.*
Dark-skinned 11-year-old boy Cholo is full of imagination and has a great love for nature and life. When he meets his fair-skinned younger stepbrother Abdullah for the first time, the boys have great chemistry, despite their differences. But jealousy and competition threaten to get in the way as they both embark on a journey of self-discovery. *Screens with Bazi Gete’s Red Leaves.*
Fri, May 27 at 4:30, 9:15pm

**The E-Waste Tragedy (2014) 86min**
*Directed by Cosima Dannoritzer.*
Every year, up to 50 million tons of electronic waste—computers, television sets, mobile phones, household appliances—are discarded in the developed world. Seventy-five percent of this waste disappears from the legal recycling circuits and ends up being dumped illegally in the third world, where it...
destroys landscapes and harms lives. This film takes viewers to Europe, China, Africa, and the US to reveal a toxic global trade fuelled by greed and corruption.

**Wed, May 25 at 9:45pm**

**Head Gone** (2014) 111min  
Directed by Dare Fasasi.  
This allegorical comedy of errors, featuring some of Nigeria's biggest names, chronicles the travails of a bus driver who suffers a road mishap, losing a group of psychiatric patients en route to a federal hospital. To cover up the mistake, he and a nurse pick up some unsuspecting commuters—who must try to prove their sanity in a psychiatric institution, while the escapees try to adjust to a new environment.

**Mon, May 30 at 4, 8:30pm**

**Kirikou and the Wild Beasts** (2005) 75min  
Directed by Michel Ocelot and Benedicte Galup. With Pierre-Ndoffé Sarr, Awa Sene Sarr, Robert Liensol, Marie-Philomène Nga, Emile Abossolo M’bo.  
Lilliputian hero Kirikou must outwit the evil witch Karaba in order to save his village in this follow-up to Michel Ocelot's animation masterpiece *Kirikou and the Sorceress*, produced by Didier Brunier (*The Triplets of Belleville*). Based on West African folk tales, with a soundtrack featuring songs by Youssou N'Dour, Rokia Traore, and others, *Kirikou and the Wild Beasts* proves that spirit, not size, is the key to overcoming all odds.

**Sun, May 29 at 2pm**

**Lamb** (2015) 94min  
Directed by Yared Zeleke. With Rediat Amare, Kidist Siyum, Welela Assefa.  
Yared Zeleke's remarkable debut feature tells the story of Ephraim, a young Ethiopian boy who is sent by his father to live with distant relatives in the countryside after his mother's death. Ephraim uses his cooking skills to carve out a place among his cousins, but when his uncle decides that his beloved sheep must be sacrificed for the next religious feast, he will do anything to save the animal and return home. *In Amharic with English subtitles.*

**Thu, May 26 at 7:30pm & Fri, May 26 at 2pm**

**The Longest Kiss** (2013) 72min  
Directed by Alexandra Sicotte-Levesque.  
Six Sudanese youth travel up and down the Nile, between north and south Sudan, in search of a place to call home. The youth in north Sudan grapple with a stale dictatorship, while their counterparts in south Sudan hope to start over. But at what cost? The Longest Kiss (the title refers to what the Sudanese commonly call the convergence of the Blue and White Nile in Khartoum) gives voice to youth from varying backgrounds and religions, resulting in an intimate portrait of a complex society that bears witness to its inevitable fragmentation. *Screens with Marcia Juzga's The Prophecy.*

**Sat, May 28 at 4:30, 9:30pm / Q&A with Alexandra Sicotte-Levesque**

**Mbeubeuss** (2007) 15min  
Directed by Simona Risi.  
A day with Mame Ngor, a young boy who earns his keep working in the big dump in Dakar. *Screens with Nicolas Cissé’s Mbeubeuss, le terreau de l’espoir.*  
**Wed, May 25 at 7pm / Environmental panel follows screening**

**Mbeubeuss, le terreau de l’espoir** (2014) 95min  
Directed by Nicolas Cissé.  
In this debut feature by a former urban planner, a poet named Ramagélissa crosses the peaks of the Mbeubeuss trash hills, the massive landfill of Dakar, and discovers an abandoned infant in a crate. He adopts the child, educating him about the hostile environment he lives in, but as the child grows, he is thrust into the inhumane work of waste collection. This heartrending story paints a portrait of one of the most fraught ecological environments in the world. *Screens with Simona Risi’s Mbeubeuss.*  
**Wed, May 25 at 7pm / Environmental panel follows screening**
**The Prophecy (2015) 20min**
*Directed by Marcia Juzga.*
Filmmaker Marcia Juzga offers this behind-the-scenes look at photographer Fabrice Monteiro’s project to raise global awareness about environmental issues in Senegal by combining art, culture, fashion, and tradition. In collaboration with designer Jah Gal, Monteiro captured various sites throughout the country characterized by a jinn, a supernatural genie omnipresent in African cultures. *Screens with Alexandra Sicotte-Levesque’s The Longest Kiss.*

**Sat, May 28 at 4:30, 9:30pm / Q&A with Alexandra Sicotte-Levesque**

**Red Leaves (2014) 80min**
*Directed by Bazi Gete.*
Seventy-four-year-old Meseganio Tadela immigrated to Israel from Ethiopia nearly 30 years ago, but has chosen to retain his culture, speaking very little Hebrew. When his wife passes, he sets out on a journey to visit his fully assimilated children, eventually coming to realize that he belongs to a rapidly disappearing class. Ethiopian-Israeli director Bazi Gete’s debut feature is a beautifully acted, movingly rendered portrait of a man struggling with his place in the world. *Screens with Muzna Almusafer’s Cholo.*

**Fri, May 27 at 4:30, 9:15pm**

**Sembene! (2015) 82min**
*Directed by Samba Gadjigo and Jason Silverman.*
In 1952, Ousmane Sembene, a Senegalese dockworker and fifth-grade dropout, began dreaming an impossible dream: to become the storyteller for a new Africa. Sembene! chronicles the self-taught novelist and filmmaker’s 50-year struggle to return African stories to Africans and become the father of African cinema. Sembene’s colleague and biographer Samba Gadjigo uses rare archival footage and more than 100 hours of exclusive materials to tell this remarkable story of an ordinary man who transformed himself into a fearless spokesperson and hero for the marginalized. *DCP. In English and French with English subtitles.*

**Sat, May 28 at 2, 7pm**

**TGV (1998) 88min**
*Directed by Moussa Touré. With Makena Diop, Al Hamdou Traore, Bernard Giraudeau.*
The African TGV is an express bus service, driven by Rambo, between Dakar (Senegal) and Conakry (Guinea). Before setting off, Rambo and his passengers are warned of the danger of a violent revolt on the Guinea border. On hearing the news, only a dozen or so passengers decide to make the risky trip with Rambo and Demba, his assistant. As they make their way through the chaos, each personality comes to the fore and relationships form. *BETASP.*

**Mon, May 30 at 2, 6:30pm**

**Under the Starry Sky (2013) 87min**
*Directed by Dyana Gaye. With Ralph Amoussou, Marème Demba Ly, Souleymane Seye Ndiaye.*
Between Turin, Dakar, and New York, three destinies cross paths and echo one another, forming a constellation of exile. Twenty-four-year-old Sophie leaves Dakar to join her husband, Abdoulaye, in Turin. Meanwhile, Abdoulaye has already left for New York through a smuggler’s network and 19-year-old Thierno is traveling in Africa for the first time. Under the Starry Sky takes us on a journey through three distinct, diverse cities, underscoring the realities, hopes, and dreams of contemporary emigration.

**Sun, May 29 at 4, 6, 8pm**

**About BAMcinématek**
The four-screen BAM Rose Cinemas (BRC) opened in 1998 to offer Brooklyn audiences alternative and independent films that might not play in the borough otherwise, making BAM the only performing arts center in the country with two mainstage theaters and a multiplex cinema. In July 1999, beginning with a series celebrating the work of Spike Lee, BAMcinématek was born as Brooklyn’s only daily, year-round repertory film program. BAMcinématek presents 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. BAMcinématek has not only presented major retrospectives by major filmmakers such as Michelangelo Antonioni, Manoel de Oliveira, Shohei Imamura, Vincente Minnelli (winning a National Film Critics’ Circle Award prize for the retrospective), Kaneto Shindo, Luchino Visconti, and William Friedkin, but it has also introduced New York audiences to contemporary artists such as Pedro Costa.
and Apichatpong Weerasethakul. In addition, BAMcinémathek programmed the first US retrospectives of directors Arnaud Desplechin, Nicolas Winding Refn, Hong Sang-soo, and Andrzej Zulawski. From 2006 to 2008, BAMcinémathek partnered with the Sundance Institute and in June 2009 launched BAMcinemaFest, a 16-day festival of new independent films and repertory favorites with 15 NY feature film premieres; the eighth annual BAMcinemaFest runs from June 15—26, 2016.

Credits

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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, is the newest addition to the BAM campus and houses the Judith and Alan Fishman Space and Rita K. Hillman Studio. BAM Rose Cinemas is Brooklyn’s only movie house dedicated to first-run independent and foreign film and repertory programming. BAMcafé, operated by Great Performances, offers a bar menu and dinner entrees prior to BAM Howard Gilman Opera House evening performances. BAMcafé also features an eclectic mix of spoken word and live music for BAMcafé Live on Friday and Saturday nights with a bar menu available starting at 6pm.

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
Car: Commercial parking lots are located adjacent to BAM

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