



PRESS INFORMATION

AFRIKAMERA 2022:

Urban Africa, Urban Movies – Migration & Diaspora

08–13 November 2022

Kino Arsenal, Humboldt Forum, BrotfabrikKino, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung / Berlin, Germany

Since 2020, the thematic focus URBAN AFRICA, URBAN MOVIES has placed urban Africa and its cinematic reflection in contemporary African cinema at the centre of a four-year program. In 2022, the focus will be on productions that deal with questions of migration and life in the (African) diaspora.

Escape and migration are among the dominant topics of the present. The political and artistic discourse is dominated by European perspectives, while African perspectives are largely ignored.

The question of "cultural identity", the debate about the relationship between the "own" and the "foreign" is no longer dealt with in the current cinema from Africa only from the perspective of the immigrants, but also from the perspective of those returning to Africa from the diaspora, and is thus rebalanced.

In its 15th edition, the program of AFRIKAMERA - AKTUELLES KINO FROM AFRICA will for the first time cover four venues: While in the Arsenal, in addition to the opening and closing events, the majority of the film formats on the thematic focus "Migration & Diaspora" will be shown, in the Humboldt Forum we will present special formats such as a theatre performance and current virtual reality films from the African continent alongside selected films. A special event on the topic of "Flight and Migration" will be held on the premises of the long-standing festival partner Heinrich Böll Foundation. A new venue is the BrotfabrikKino, where a selection of highlights from the program will be repeated.

This year, the festival is hosting three public discourse formats in the presence of numerous guests. "Narratives of Escape" and "The Art of Collaboration" (two-part) deal with escape, migration and diaspora, in particular the unequal treatment of refugees, the significance of documentary films for the movements and the work and networking of filmmakers in the diaspora.

A small selection of films will also be streamed online at www.indiekino.de/club/ as part of AFRIKAMERA.

This year's festival edition opens with Adolf El Assal's tragicomedy **SAWAH** (Egypt/ Luxembourg/ Belgium 2020 / 8.11., rep. 12.11.) The movie portrays the odyssey of the young Egyptian DJ Samir, whose plane on the journey to a DJ festival from Cairo to Brussels lands in Luxembourg due to a strike. As if that weren't enough, his luggage is lost along with his passport and music recordings, and he is mistaken for a refugee... Afterwards, a film discussion with the director will follow.

José Miguel Ribeiro's mythical animated film **NAYOLA** (Portugal/ Belgium/ France/ Netherlands 2022 / 9.11., 10.11.) tells the story of the Angolan civil war in the form of a three-generation portrait: in the stories of Lena (grandmother), Nayola (daughter) and Yara (granddaughter), the past and the present intertwine. While Nayola goes in search of her missing husband at the height of the war and never returns, Yara, now a rebellious teenager, rebels against the still repressive state with subversive rap music, while Lena tries to protect herself from police persecution.

In cooperation with the Heinrich Böll Foundation, AFRIKAMERA presents the documentary **FATI'S CHOICE** (Ghana/ South Africa 2021 / 9.11.) by Ghanaian filmmaker Fatimah Dadzie. Pregnant Fatima fled across the Mediterranean sea to Italy, but then decides to return to her family and her four children after six months of disillusionment - a decision that is met with great incomprehension in Fatima's hometown... The screening will be followed by a discussion with the director. Admission to the event on the premises of the Heinrich Böll Foundation is free.

The AFRIKAMERA program at the Humboldt Forum opens with a theater performance by the Burkinabe actress Roukiata Ouédraogo. In her solo **JE DEMANDE LA ROUTE** (10.11.) she lets the audience participate in her adventurous journey from the suburbs of Ouagadougou to the Château-Rouge district in Paris and tells with much humor and self-irony about her life in the French diaspora, which led her from odd jobs as a cashier and hairdresser to the stage of the Théâtre de l'Œuvre. Followed by a talk with Roukiata Ouédraogo.

In **LE MALI 70** (Germany 2021 / 10.11., 11.11.), director and editor Markus CM Schmidt accompanies the Berlin-based big band project Omniversal Earkestra on a musical research trip to Mali to meet - in the footsteps of the vibrant Malian big band scene of the 1960s and 70s - legendary musical veterans such as Cheick Tidiane Seck, Sory Bamba, Abdoulaye Diabaté and Salif Keita. Director Markus CM Schmidt will be present for the screening.

A car accident brings ex-rocker Larsen and sex worker Rajae together. Besides experienced traumas, they share their love for rock'n'roll. Driven by sadistic policemen, a shotgun-wielding gangster and poisonous snakes, only one chance remains to save their amour fou: Escape from Casablanca's underworld - and their shared passion for music.

Ismael El Iraqi's movie **ZANKA CONTACT (BURNING CASABLANCA)** (Morocco/ France/ Belgium 2020 / 10.11.) is a wild homage to Casablanca's 1970s rock 'n' roll scene and the Italian Western.

FATHER'S DAY (Rwanda 2022 / 10.11.) by Kivu Ruhorahoza tells three interwoven stories set in the East African country against the backdrop of genocide, but without naming it. A mother tries to cope with the loss of her only son, who died in an accident, and becomes estranged from her husband. A young woman cares for her bedridden father, a former military man she never really loved, yet prepares for an organ donation that could save his

life. A young boy wanders the city with his father, a petty criminal with poor impulse control, who teaches him how to collect metal parts from cars or steal pets to sell on the street. This intimate drama, Ruhorahoza's third feature, is on the one hand a bitter indictment of patriarchal power, and on the other a document of hope, sustained by its strong female characters. In the presence of co-producer Innocent Munyeshuri.

In the program **AFRIKAMERA SHORTS - MIGRATION & DIASPORA** (Algeria/ Rwanda/ Senegal et al. 2019-2021 / 11.11.) will focus on current short formats that address this year's thematic focus on "Migration & Diaspora," including **ETHEREALITY** (Rwanda/ Switzerland 2020), by Kantarama Gahigiri, a poetic reflection on migration and the sense of belonging, and **EXILÉES (EXILED)** by Ager Oueslati (Algeria 2019), which, in the character of young Priska, traces the fate of women who have made their way from sub-Saharan countries to Europe, only to become stranded in the desert city of Agadez in Niger. Directors Kantarama Gahigiri and Ager Oueslati will be present for the screening.

In current cinema from the African Continent, comedic works have so far received little attention. As a cultural technique, humor and mockery in particular - also of folkloric origin - unfold their identity-forming power, strengthen social cohesion and become the object of artistic production.

The short film reel **AFRICAN SHORTS - LAUGH IS POSSIBLE** (Nigeria/ Egypt/ DR Congo/ Kenya among others from 2016-2021/ 11.11) is a compilation of four comedic formats from Nigeria, Kenya, Egypt and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In Keni Ogunlola's **LODGERS** (Nigeria/ UK 2016 / 23 min), two Nigerian professionals decide to move to England. Being ambitious and a bit arrogant, they believe that their domestic diplomas will open up a great professional future for them in their new place of residence. However, the reality turns out to be a bit more complicated... In **SUNGURA** (Kenya 2019 / 20 min) by Lydia Matata, a young wheelchair user faces the prejudice of not being able to have sex because of her disability. When she wants to buy a vibrator from a sexologist at a bridal shower, turbulence ensues. The directors Keni Ogunlola and Karim Shabaan will be on site for a film discussion at the Humboldt Forum.

The Caritas-run House of Migrants near the Malian city of Gao offers refuge to weary and stranded travelers on their way north, for whom there is no return to their homes. Ousmane Samassékou's documentary **LE DERNIER REFUGE (THE LAST SHELTER)** (Mali/ South Africa/ France 2021 / 11.11.) sensitively accompanies the everyday life of the people and thus allows moving insights into their spiritual lives. In the presence of the director.

People from the African continent have been second-class refugees throughout Europe during the large refugee movements since 2012. In Berlin, they had no access to state support and integration services and drew attention to these grievances, for example, with the occupation of Oranienplatz in Kreuzberg. Unfortunately since then, little has changed; only with the help of volunteer initiatives and NGOs necessary measures for residence and care had been organized. Now in 2022 we see a similar picture: African students who flee from the war in Ukraine to other European countries fall through all grids in Germany. Already discriminated against as they flee Ukraine and at the borders, they do not have equal access to the government's comprehensive assistance services and must be supported by volunteer organizations

In the panel **NARRATIVES OF ESCAPE** (11.11.), the aspects of this unequal treatment and the reception of the images, which are now part of everyday life in Europe, will be discussed with Berlin activists. The question of what influence documentary films can have on socio-political developments will also be examined. Participating panelists: Ousmane Samassékou (Mali), Fatimah Dadzie (Ghana), Ager Oueslati (Algeria/Tunisia/France), representatives of Tubman Network Berlin and Nyima Jadama from "Nyimas Bantaba" (Alex Berlin). Admission is free.

With the polygamy comedy **BAL POUSSIERE** (Ivory Coast/ France 1988, 11.11., 12.11.) by Henri Duparc, AFRIKAMERA presents a classic of the genre at the Humboldt Forum. Demi-dieu (demigod) is a wealthy farmer and village chief with five wives. When he decides to marry a sixth wife, young Binta, in order to have a spouse for every day of the week (except Sunday, the day of rest), his five other wives become dissatisfied. However, Binta, a modern, self-confident woman, does not want to be subordinated. Henriette Duparc, film producer and member of the Fondation Henri Duparc, will be present for the screening.

SOULA (Algeria 2021 / 11.11.) is the feature debut of Algerian director Salah Issaad. Soula, a young single mother, is disowned by her family in the name of honor. She doesn't know where to go when her father throws her out of the house and asks friends and relatives for help. To save her young daughter, she embarks on a 14-hour dystopian road trip from Batna to Annaba in eastern Algeria, heading toward her inevitable fate. Lead actress Soula Bahri not only co-wrote the film script, but also embodies herself in this semi-autobiographical story. AFRIKAMERA shows the independent production as a German premiere.

In the public discourse format **THE ART OF COLLABORATION - MIGRATION & DIASPORA**, African and European filmmakers and multipliers will engage in various discussion rounds and a roundtable on the festival Saturday (November 12). Questions about identities, narratives and backgrounds and the mutual influence of the diasporic community and the majority society on the film language will be raised and the cooperation and networks for transnational filmmaking will be illuminated. Related to this are discussions of what stories diasporic filmmakers want to or are able to tell in their films. Production and financing opportunities and the current challenges related to co-productions in transnational cinema will be discussed at the roundtable.

In the documentary **SUR LES TRACES D'UN MIGRANT (FOOTSTEPS OF A MIGRANT)** (Burkina Faso/ South Africa 2021 / 12.11.) by Burkinabe director Delphine Yerbanga, twin sisters Adama and Awa embark on a journey with their uncle through Senegal, Guinea-Bissau and Burkina Faso to find their father, who abandoned the family when the children were eight years old. On their search, they not only meet their father's family, but are also confronted with the Mossi culture for the first time. The director will be present for the screening.

With his documentary debut **NO U-TURN** (Nigeria/ South Africa/ France/ Germany 2022 / 12.11.), Nigerian director Ike Nnaebue embarks on a journey into his own past. More than 20 years ago, he made his way from Nigeria to Europe, but then decided to turn back in Morocco, eventually studying film in Lagos. In his impressive essayistic as well as self-reflexive cinematic travelogue, Nnaebue tries to fathom what motivates young people in West Africa today to embark on the dangerous path to an uncertain future.

In **NEPTUNE FROST** (USA/ Rwanda 2021 / 12.11., 13.11.), a group of escaped coltan miners and hackers form an anti-colonialist collective in an inhospitable mountainous region in Central Africa to overthrow the authoritarian-dictatorial regime that exploits the region's natural resources - and its people. With hypnotic imagery staged as a queer Afrofuturist fantasy, Neptune Frost oscillates between musical, science-fiction parable, and ecofeminist hacker manifesto. The joint directorial effort of US spoken word artist and musician Saul Williams and Rwandan filmmaker and actress Anisia Uzeyman has caused an international sensation since its premiere at the 2021 Cannes Film Festival and has been nominated for numerous awards.

The program **AFRIKAMERA SHORTS - AFRODIASPORIC PERSPECTIVES** (Guinea/ Kenya/ Germany 2018-21 / 13.11.) presents one short film and two mid-length current formats by Afro-diasporic filmmakers, including **IN DEUTSCHLAND** (Guinea/ Germany 2020) by Rwandan-German director Christoph Mushayija Rath.

In the subsequent panel at Kino Arsenal on **THE ART OF COLLABORATION (PT. 2)** (13.11.), filmmakers will talk about identities, belonging, transit and (im)mobility, their personal migration experience and life in the diaspora. How can these questions be reflected and articulated in cinema? How is the film language shaped by personal migration experiences? For example, Filmmaker Ike Nnaebue wants his films to educate, even discourage people from fleeing. Can films be an essential medium to influence migration? With Ike Nnaebue (Nigeria), Ousmane Samassékou (Mali), Delphine Yerbanga (Burkina Faso), Ager Oueslati (Algeria/Tunisia/France). The Admission is free.

With **AFRICA RIDING** (France 2018 / 13.11.) AFRIKAMERA presents for the second time a youth program with guests at the Humboldt Forum. The documentary series by Liz Gomis and Aurélien Biette - from which a selection of five episodes will be shown - follows different communities of riders - skateboarders, roller skaters, bikers - in Accra (Ghana), Kigali (Rwanda), Dakar (Senegal) and Kampala (Uganda). Liz Gomis and other guests will be present.

The documentary **MAKONGO (CATERPILLARS)** (Central African Republic/ Argentina/ Italy 2020 / 13.11.) by director Elvis Sabin Ngaibino, who comes from the Central African Republic, follows Andre and Albert, two young Aka-Pygmies who insist on their right to education and protest against the ongoing discrimination against their people. Their goal: to enable other children to learn to read and write as well. To finance this with the sale of caterpillars (Makongo), they set out for the capital Bangui...

The festival closes with **SALOUM** (Senegal 2021), the latest feature film by Congolese director Jean Luc Herbulot, a work that oscillates between action, mystery thriller and Italo-Western, defies any genre attributions: The "Bangui Hyenas," a notorious trio of mercenaries together with a Mexican drug trafficker, flee Guinea-Bissau, that is rocked by a coup d'état. But their plane crashes on the way to Dakar, and the group fights their way out, eventually landing at a run-down resort in the middle of the Saloum Delta in Senegal. There they meet creepy guests who seem to know more about the "Bangui Hyenas" than they would like...

Accompanying the festival program, a Virtual Reality Lounge with current 360° productions on the theme of "MIGRATION & DIASPORA" can once again be experienced in the foyer of the Humboldt Forum from November 10-13 with free admission.

In cooperation with AFRIKAMERA, the SUNSHINE CINEMA initiative (South Africa), as part of the Cinema Spaces Network (<https://cinemaspacesnetwork.net>), will present two SUN BOXES in the Mechanical Arena in the large foyer during the festival period, featuring a selection of short films and showcasing the work of the Cinema Spaces Network.

Further information:

<https://www.humboldtforum.org/en/programm/termin/discourse/cinema-spaces-network-presents-super-solar-powered-actions-56627/>

AFRIKAMERA - CURRENT CINEMA FROM AFRICA

The festival AFRIKAMERA - CURRENT CINEMA FROM AFRICA is an initiative of the association toucouleur e.V., an association of German and African cultural workers, which promotes intercultural dialogue between Africa and Germany.

AFRIKAMERA has been taking place in Berlin since 2008 with an annually changing thematic focus and sees itself as a platform for current African cinema in the capital. In order to present African cinema in all its diversity, AFRIKAMERA cooperates with the major African film festivals from Marrakech to Durban.

ALEX MOUSSA SAWADOGO (Festival Director)

Sawadogo has been artistic director of the AFRIKAMERA film festival in Berlin since 2007 and of the Ouaga Film Lab in Burkina Faso since 2016. He is also the fund manager of the Jeune Création Francophone fund, founded in 2018, a member of the commission of the World Cinema Fund, advisor to the Open Doors programme for Africa at the Locarno International Film Festival and the programme for Africa at the Hamburg Film Festival.

In 2020, he took over as director of the Pan-African Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou (FESPACO).

AFRIKAMERA - Current Cinema from Africa is under the patronage of Dr Uschi Eid.

AFRIKAMERA 2022: URBAN AFRICA, URBAN MOVIES - MIGRATION & DIASPORA is supported by: Open Sector Funding for Festivals and Series (four-year) from the Senate Department for Culture and Europe. In partnership with the Heinrich Böll Foundation, the Humboldt Forum and the BrotfabrikKino.

Festival venues and tickets:

Arsenal Kino

Potsdamer Str. 2

10785 Berlin

Adults: 8,50 €, Arsenal members: 5 €, children: 3 €, Berlinpass: 3 €

Tickets online:

<https://kinotickets.express/arsenal-berlin/>

www.arsenal-berlin.de

Humboldt Forum

Schloßplatz

10178 Berlin

Films: 5 € / reduced 2,50 €

Theatre performance: 16 € / reduced 9 €

VR Lounge, AFRICA RIDING, Panel (12.11.): Admission free

Tickets online:

www.humboldtforum.org/afrikamera

Visitor service:

humboldtforum.org/contact

Tel. 030 99 211 89 89

BrotfabrikKino Berlin

Caligariplatz 1, 13086 Berlin

Normal: 8 €, Reduced: 6 €

Tickets: 030 4714001 (Mon-Fri 9-16)

karten@brotfabrik-berlin.de

www.brotfabrik-berlin.de

Heinrich Böll Foundation -

Federal Foundation Berlin

Schumannstr. 8

10117 Berlin

www.boell.de

Free admission

Special events: Free admission

(9.11., 20.00h, FATI'S CHOICE (Heinrich Böll Foundation),

Panel: 11.11., 20.00h, (Arsenal), 12.11., 20.00h (Humboldt Forum), 13.11., 16.30h (Arsenal)

Further program information and trailer: www.afrikamera.de/en

Press photos for download: www.afrikamera.de/presse

For information on the (possibly) currently applicable Corona protection measures, please visit the respective websites.

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