



ROMAFRICA **FILM** FESTIVAL

From Wednesday 13 to Saturday 16 July, 2016

Rome - Casa del Cinema - Villa Borghese - information: 060608

Free entrance subject to availability of seats

www.romafilmfest.com



ROMAFRICA FILM FESTIVAL, the Festival of African cinema, is back in the Capital for its second edition, to be held at the Casa del Cinema of Villa Borghese 13 to 16 July.

Its success in terms of film critics, media but especially of the public, has convinced the organizers to extend the event, which this year will last four days, and the Casa del Cinema shall expand the capacity of its outer space for an audience of hundreds of people to be able to attend the evening screenings, scheduled in the outdoor theatre as of 21:0(9 pm). The afternoon screenings, however, will be held from 15:00 to approximately 20:30 in the indoor rooms at the Casa del Cinema.

The idea of the event starts from an intuition that has found fertile ground in a group of people for one reason or another related to Africa, with the passion for cinema as the common denominator. The film, in fact, is the ideal tool to demonstrate, beyond clichés, the multi-faceted and vibrant culture of this fascinating continent, so close and yet so far, under this respect still known little in Italy. Cinema is the mirror through which a changing Africa can be



recounted: a dynamic continent, under complex pressures but in continuous evolution and with enormous potential, ready to enrich our culture.

On the other hand, there is Rome, which has since ancient times undergone influences and contaminations, and represents the ideal gateway from Europe to Africa and, for many Africans, certainly also a cultural magnet.

The event, under the artistic direction of Antonio Flamini, will premiere recently produced films or present unpublished films in Italy, and takes place with the important support of the Embassies of African countries, the Festival Panafricain du Cinéma et de Télévision de Ouagadougou-Burkina Faso (FESPACO), the Luxor African Film Festival-Egypt (LAFF), with the presence of the female Director, Azza Elhosseinydel, and the African Film Festival in New York.

The event has also obtained the patronage of the Italian Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Italy-Africa Initiative of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Lazio Region, Assafrica and Mediterranean.

The Festival is a member of Spazio Indie Circuito Festival promoted by CNA Rome in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce of Rome. The event's media partners are: Agi, Giornalettismo, Africa e Affari, African Medias, InfoAfrica, Inside Art.

The feature and short films will be screened in their original language with subtitles in Italian, while some documentaries will be in Italian. The screenings will be held in the indoor rooms at Casa del Cinema in the afternoon, in the evening instead they will be held in outdoor spaces as real special events. All entrances will be free.

The festival will include 11 feature films, 10 short films, 11 documentaries and 8 video clips, 3 of which in the G2 space, dedicated to second generation Africans in Rome, for a total of about 35 hours of film with the participation of 20 African countries in addition to Italy and the United States.

The event program will also be enriched by the presence of special guests, film directors, actors, actresses, producers and African diplomats.

Main sponsor of the event is the Piccini Group, an international company that has been active on the African continent for a number of years.

The event, which will begin on Wednesday, 13 July in the afternoon and , will have 4 special evening events in the outdoor theatre, beginning at 21:00, inaugurated by the South African film Ayanda,, directed by Sara Blecher, the film opened the Durban International Film Festival 2015 (DIFF), the most important showcase of independent African cinema, and has won the Jury Prize at the Los Angeles Film Festival 2015. The film, full of style and talent, is set in the city of Johannesburg and offers a contemporary colourful and exciting vision of the country, celebrating its diversity and multiculturalism with migrants from across the continent and tries to capture the "Afropolitan" nature and energy of people.

The second South African film, "Tell Me Sweet Something", a delightful romantic comedy directed by Akin Omotoso, awarded at the Africa Movie Academy Awards (the African



Oscars) for Best non-protagonist Actress, will be screened in the afternoon, at 19:00, in the Deluxe room.

Both films will be preceded by two animated shorts, "There's No Place Like Home" and "Burgeon", works created by the students of the famous Animation School in Cape Town, winners of numerous awards in festivals around the world.



The second day, Thursday 14, will focus on Eritrea, with the special event at 21:00 dedicated to the film "Solomon", by the Asmara-born Director, Efrem Andebrhan, who, along with the Ambassador of the African country, will introduce the screening; the film is mainly focused on social issues and deals with the challenges of marriage faced by young couples. The film will be preceded by the short "UNITED LIES" and a documentary on the beauties of the country in East Africa, while the drama "La Colomba di Noè (Noah's Dove)", by director D.R. SweetJ, will be screened in the Deluxe room, at 16:30.

Angola will be the protagonist of the third evening event, Friday 15 at 21:00, with the screening of the historical /epic film "Njinga-Rainha De Angola", directed by Sérgio Graciano and set in 17th century Angola, where the queen Njinga, after seeing her own child killed by the Portuguese colonialists, leads her kingdom into a struggle of 40 years for freedom and independence. A real story of unparalleled determination, Njinga stands today as a symbol of resistance, with the motto: "those who fight, fight to win". The film will be preceded by the Angolan short "Momentos De Gloria" with subsequent screenings of dance and music from 15:00 in the Deluxe room.

The final evening and the winding up the Romafrica Film Festival 2016 will be dedicated to the diaspora with the screening of the African American film "In The Morning", the debut work



of Director, Nefertite Nguvu, which will introduce the screening along with the protagonists of the film, Hoji Fortuna and Kim Hill. A film about love and its inevitable changes, it describes the emotional life plot, love, infidelity and friendship of a group of African-American New Yorkers in the course of a day. A realistic story and sophisticated drama with humor and intensity that could remind us the first works of Spike Lee and Woody Allen.

The film will be preceded by the short film "Dark Days" of the young Rwandan filmmaker, Kayambi Musafiri.

Other films and documentaries of the festival will begin on Wednesday 13 at 17:00, with "Rapt À Bamako", by the Malian Director, Cheick Oumar Sissoko, former Minister of Culture and Education of his country. Against the background of African democratization attempts, the film deals with uncomfortable issues like corruption of the elites, the sacrificial killings of albino children and generational conflicts, but also with a message of hope for young people. A young hero, helped by a grandmother "guardian of memory and traditions" will take the future into his hands against the council of elders, who only care about their personal interests. The film will be preceded by the screening of the short film "Gas Station".

Also on Wednesday 13 at 15:00 in the Deluxe room, the documentary section is opened by "SLUM TV" by the Director, Angelo Loy, that tells epic stories on the road, denouncing injustices and singing the joy of existence. As a follow-up, the Egyptian short film "Amen" by the young author, Sameh Gamal shall be screened.



The documentary section will continue on Thursday 14, at 15:00, still in the Deluxe room, with "Killa Dizez-Vita e Morte al Tempo di Ebola" (Life And Death At Time Of Ebola), directed by



Nico Piro, RAI TG 3 journalist and foreign envoy. The film tells the outbreak of this deadly virus through the stories of operators who are fighting the disease, patients, survivors and the people of Sierra Leone.

The short film "Contained" by Mamadou Dia, still on Ebola, will be screened after the documentary.

The Tunisian film "A Peine J'ouvre Les Yeux (When I open my Eye-Song For Tomorrow)" by the director Leyla Bouzid, on the relationship between a daughter and a mother as a metaphor of the struggle for freedom of an entire country, will be screened Thursday 14 at 19:00, in the Deluxe room. The film deals with a young girl who with her boyfriend and a small group of friends sets up a band to sing the problems of her country, the youth's dreams and injustices. The Egyptian short "Expired" by Kamal Islam will precede the film

The documentary on immigration "Redemption Song", by Director Cristina Mantis, will be screened Friday 15 at 18:30, in the Deluxe room. This screening will be capped by a performance of the musician, Ismaila Mbaye, one of the greatest drummers in Italy.

The screening of Rwanda "IMBABAZI" directed by Joel Karekezi, winner of the Nile Grand Prize and the Golden Tutankhamen in Egypt's prestigious African film festival, will follow at 20:00, in the Deluxe room, in collaboration with the Luxor African Film Festival (LAFF). 21 years after the genocide in Rwanda, the film tells a story through the eyes of Rwandans and Africans focused on the efforts to find a solution and forgiveness, in the director's words "exploring not only the past but also the future of Rwanda". The film will be introduced by the Director of the Luxor African Film Festival ,Azza Elhosseiny.

Saturday 16, 15:00, in the Deluxe room, the Director, Guia Zapponi, will present his work "Journey To Mauritania", a documentary on climate change, but also a travel story of this big sub-Saharan country.

As a follow up at 16:30, the film "L'OEIL DU CYCLONE" by Burkina Faso Director, Sékou Traoré will be screened in the Deluxe room, in collaboration with the Festival Panafricain du Cinéma et de Télévision de Ouagadougou Burkina-Faso (Fespaco). The film tells the story of Emma, a successful lawyer who accepts a lost cause, the defence of a former child soldier, by now an adult, guilty of horrible crimes.

Also in the Deluxe room at 19:00, there will be the Ivory Coast movie "Et Si Dieu N'existait Pas?", by Director, Alain Guikou, still in collaboration with Fespaco. It is a dramatic film about the history of a professional killer in search of his biological parents with the help of a nun, who will play a major role in his future life.

Saturday 16, at 15:30 in Kodak hall, the short film "Macchi Dies Twice" by Raymond Bérou and the documentary "Fragments Of Freedom" by Alessandro Marinelli and Simona Messina will be screened. The documentary focuses on a particular football team, made up of



immigrants, students and former detainees, as a tool to encourage socialization and integration.

Finally, also on Saturday 16 at 19:30, three documentaries will be screened in the Kodak room: "Sudan Faces", launched in March at the Sudan Independent Film Festival; "A piedi nudi" (Barefooted) by Christian Carmosino, on the October revolution in Burkina Faso and the subsequent transition; "Devil Comes To Koko" by the Nigerian Director, Alfie Nze, which tells two stories: the bloody English invasion of Benin City in 1897 and the scandal of toxic waste in Koko in 1987

PROJECT G2 - "SECOND GENERATION"

The video project is motivated by the need to give visibility to the second generation of African origin, to show a reality scantily covered by the media.

The second generation consist of nearly 3.6 million people who now feel under-represented and undervalued.

"Neri Italiani - Black Italians" is a group of boys and girls of African, Italian or South American descent that cooperate for the African community to be more actively involved in the life of our country. The name "Blacks Italian" refers to the definition that American society attributed to the Italian immigrants during the first emigration waves from Italy to the United States: Black Europeans, the blacks of Europe. So as Italian-Americans, once resolved their social problems, have contributed to the creation of modern and multicultural America, so the second generation want to contribute to the cultural development of our country.

For the second edition of the RAFF - ROMAFRICA FILM FESTIVAL 5 video clips of various singers and musicians of the second generation were selected and will be screened in the Kodak room on Saturday 16 at 17:15:

- Amir Isaa: "Stare bene" (Feeling good) shot in Torpignattara involving the neighborhood.
- Mista Tolu: "Come sono finito qui" (How did I get here) (preview)
- Cecile: "AfroFunky" (music for Africa)
- Derek: "Get a move now" (preview)
- OMG - "The impossible Ft. Otis"

Also three short films will be screened: "DEL PROSSIMO ORIZZONTE" (the next Horizon) by Tomaso Mannoni, A SPECIAL DAY by Gaston Biwolè and Kassim Yassin and "CHI FA OTHELLO? (Who plays Othello?) by David Fratini.

PANEL DISCUSSION

Finally, as a side event on Friday 15, from 10:30 to 12:30 in the Kodak room, there will be a panel discussion 'AFRICA'S MEGATREND', from regional to continental markets, passing through culture. This is the theme that will be thrashed out from a first given fact: at the end of the century, Africa's population will be seven times that of the European Union. The middle class is growing and African governments are focusing on the diversification of their economies.

New needs and increasingly strong demand for welfare pave the way for the growth of industry and intra-African trade and larger regional markets. The new African directors are the best observers of this reality and, through their films, help to erase old stereotypes that, as



also is the case of Italy, still too often turn away the public and especially the economic actors from this large construction site that is Africa.

Free admission subject to availability of seats

Rome - Casa del Cinema - Villa Borghese - information: 060608

RomAfrica Film Festival

Cleophas Adrien Dioma, President - cleobibisab@yahoo.com

Antonio Flamini, Artistic Director - flamini_antonio@tin.it

Domenico Petrolo, General Director - d.petrolo@gmail.com

Gianfranco Belgrano and Massimo Zaurrini, Editorial Direction - info@internationalia.org

Claudia Quadrucchio, Coordination - info@romafircafilmfest.com

Press office

Maurizio Quattrini: maurizioquattrini@yahoo.it tel. +39 338.8485333

Guido Gaito: info@gaito.it tel. +39 329.0704981