



PRESS RELEASE

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 10AM
MONDAY 31 OCTOBER 2022**

THE 17th AFRICA IN MOTION ANNOUNCES FULL 2022 PROGRAMME 11th – 20th November 2022

A vibrant programme of over 40 films from Africa and the Black diaspora, including 13 premieres:

- 1 World premiere
- 9 UK premieres
- 3 Scottish premieres
- Opening with the Scottish premiere of Amil Shivji's TUG OF WAR
- Closing with Omar El-Zohairy's Scottish premiere of FEATHERS

Glasgow, embargoed until Monday 31 October, 10:00am. Africa in Motion (AiM) will present the 17th festival edition in a hybrid format (11 - 20 Nov 2022) to increase the festival's accessibility and broaden its UK audience. Africa in Motion is Scotland's major annual celebration of African cinema, bringing a wide variety of creative stories from across the African continent. This year's edition will include over 40 films, as well as events, filmmaker Q&As and workshops. **Liz Chege, Africa in Motion Festival Director, says:** *"We are deeply humbled to be in a position where we can support emerging filmmakers from the Black diaspora once more, and for the first time since 2019, offer an in-person edition. With the cultural sector in Scotland experiencing such a precarious time, we feel more than ever that our collective future rests on supporting each other to flourish. A heartfelt thank you to our audience who continue to champion African voices so passionately and to our committed, diligent team."*

The festival's 2022 competition jury comprises Sundance Momentum Fellow and BAFTA Breakthrough **Ekwa Msangi**, whose award-winning and critically acclaimed feature film *Farewell Amor* (2020), premiered in competition at the Sundance Film Festival, Angolan filmmaker **Fradique**, whose first feature film *Air Conditioner* (2020) participated in more than forty film festivals garnering ten international awards, is also a co-founder of filmmaking collective Geração 80. Libyan-South African director **Khalid Shamis** has a long career as a promo director in the satellite television realm, with made-for-TV content from the West into the Arab world. Having worked in the film industries of the UK, Middle East and Southern Africa, Shamis now runs Tubafilms, his own production company, from Cape Town.

OPENING & CLOSING FILMS

This year's Opening Film will be the Scottish Premiere of **Amil Shivji's** TUG OF WAR (Tanzania, 2021), an epic period drama based on **Adam Shafi's** Swahili novel "Vuta N'Kuvute". The film is set in colonial-era Zanzibar, and follows the story of a young freedom fighter and a runaway bride whose romance blossoms against the backdrop of a political uprising in the final years of British colonial rule. It is Tanzania's first official entry to the Academy Awards in 21 years, and the country's first period-drama feature film. The Festival closes with the Scottish premiere of **Omar El-Zohairy's** FEATHERS (Egypt, 2021), an absurdist dark comedy about a wife and mother who, faced with financial ruin, embarks on an arduous but liberating journey taking on the role of the family breadwinner. The film scooped the top prize at Cannes Critics' Week and also won the FIPRESCI prize.

SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

To inspire exploration and discovery, the festival has programmed strands to assist the audience with navigating the festival and encourage new audiences.

Frequency Adjustment is a strand celebrating the influence that African and Black diaspora artists have had on the Punk and Metal music scenes. The strand title is inspired by a collective feeling within the Black community to find both psychological release, and new ground, following the traumatic events in the lead-up to the Black Lives Matter movement and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The programme presents the beginning of the festival's



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longer-term inquiry into fostering collective well-being within the Black community, both in the UK and the diaspora. The festival is delighted to celebrate the 20th anniversary of **James Spooner's** *Afro-Punk* (USA, 2013), an award-winning documentary exploring the roles of African Americans within what was, then, an overwhelmingly white punk scene across the United States of America. This year presents the 10th anniversary of **Jeremy Xido's** award-winning *Death Metal Angola* (Angola/Portugal, 2012) which tracks a couple's dream to stage Angola's first-ever national rock concert - a raucous and righteous film. July 2022 would have been the lead singer of X-Ray Spex, **Marianne Joan Elliott-Said's** (aka Poly Styrene), 65th birthday. Poly Styrene was the first woman of colour in the UK to front a successful rock band. We're thrilled to bring her daughter **Celeste Bell** and co-director **Paul Sng's** *Poly Styrene: I Am a Cliché* (UK, 2021) back to the cinema. Featuring unseen archive material and rare diary entries narrated by Oscar-nominee **Ruth Negga**, this documentary follows Celeste as she examines her mother's unopened artistic archive and traverses three continents to better understand Poly the icon and Poly the mother. Elliot-Said introduced the world to a new sound of rebellion, using her unconventional voice to sing about identity, consumerism, postmodernism, and everything she saw unfolding in late 1970s Britain, with a rare prescience. As the frontwoman of X-Ray Spex, the Anglo-Somali punk musician was also a key inspiration for the riot grrrl and Afropunk movements. Rounding off the strand is *Neptune Frost* (Rwanda/USA, 2021) by multidisciplinary artists **Saul Williams** and **Anisia Uzeyman** bringing their unique dynamism to the Afrofuturist vision of their co-directed debut feature film. It is a sci-fi-punk-musical that's a visually wondrous amalgamation of themes, ideas, and songs that they have been exploring in their work, including on Williams' 2016 album *MartyrLoserKing*.

Restored and Rediscovered is a special programme presented as part of Cinema Rediscovered on Tour, a Watershed project in collaboration with Black Cinema Project, Ajabu Ajabu and Hyde Park Picturehouse with support from BFI awarding funds from The National Lottery and MUBI. Africa in Motion is screening two films; **Sarah Maldoror's** classic *Sambizanga* (Angola, 1972) for its 50th anniversary. The film was restored by **Martin Scorsese's** World Cinema Project through his Film Foundation and Cineteca di Bologna, with supervision from Maldoror's daughter **Annouchka De Andrade**; and **Martin Mhando** and **Ron Mulvihill's** *Maangamizi, The Ancient One* (2001), Tanzania's first entry to the Academy Awards, a film that was executive produced by **Jonathan Demme**.

Yung Nollywood is a special programme curated by Theodora Imaan Beauvais founder of the fast-growing platform Yung Nollywood. It's no mystery the influence that Nigeria's film industry has had on the world's cinematic experience. This guest-curated programme showcases the diversity of female directors within Nigeria, and in the Diaspora. The programme touches on themes that transcend several generations of the female perspective; the implicit value of gender, friendship and the relationship we have with ourselves. Films include BAFTA Pigott 2020 Scholar and Alex Sichel Fellow **Olive Nwosu's** *Egúngún* (Nigeria/UK, 2021), the world premiere of **Nosazemen Agbontaen** and **Nengi Nelson's** *Ixora: A Love Story* (Nigeria, 2022), **Ifeoma Chukwuogo's** *Bariga Sugar* (Nigeria, 2017), **Renua Giwa-Amu's** animation *The Stick* (Nigeria, 2017) and Beauvais' own film *Bag Lady* (Nigeria, 2020).

The **Queer Africa** strand is a spotlight on the shifting landscape of African queerness. These short films weave through themes of immigration, activism, escape, family, love, and race. The programme encourages intimate meditations on the intersectionality between these themes, and the disruption of hegemonic landscapes. Whether you plan on joining the festival online or in person, Queer Africa is a space to champion stories and filmmakers from the LGBTQIA+ community. Films include BAFTA Breakthrough talent and BIFA Breakthrough Producer **Joy Gharoro-Akpojotor's** *For Love* (UK, 2021), multidisciplinary artist **Justice Jamal Jones' How to Raise a Black Boy** (USA, 2020), **Maissa Lihedheb's** *Hundefreund* (Germany, 2021), **Barbara Anastacio's** *Tourmaline* (UK, 2021), **Whitney Skauge's** *The Beauty President* (USA, 2021) and **Max'ed Deeq's** *The Meaning of Daisey* (UK, 2020).

Coconut & Cane is a special year-round programme designed to strengthen ties within the Black diaspora using film, poetry, music and food. A double-bill will be presented at this event, comprising films that look at familial relationships and how they are impacted by financial repercussions. **Ousmane Sembène's** classic *Mandabi* (1968) is a tragi-comedy and the first feature ever made in an African language. It will be paired with **Nana Mensah's** debut



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feature film *Queen of Glory* (USA, 2021) which garnered Tribeca Film Festivals' Best New Narrative Director prize and Special Jury Prize for Artistic Expression.

SHORT FILM COMPETITION

The selected films for Africa in Motion's 15th Short Film Competition are; *Baba* by **Mbithi Masya** (Kenya, 2022), *From Here to There* by **Remy Ryumugabe** (Rwanda, 2022), *Grace* by **Johanna Makabi** (France, 2022), *Immovable Objects* by **Manu Kurewa** (Scotland, 2022), *In These Trying Times* by **Mohamed Sherif** (Egypt, 2022), *Jeddi* by **Hamza Atifi** (Morocco, 2022), *Jua Kali* by **Joash Calvin Omondi** (Kenya, 2021), *Letters to the Man I Love* by **Brandon Clarke** (South Africa, 2021), *Manhã de Domingo* by **Bruno Ribeiro** (Brazil, 2022), *The Precious Stone* by **Babacar Hanne Dia** (Senegal, 2022) and *The Star* by **Kevin Mavakala** (Democratic Republic of Congo, 2021). Africa in Motion will host panel discussions with directors featured in the short film competition.

OTHER FILMS

The festival will also be presenting a preview of **Nikyatu Jusu's** Sundance-winning *Nanny* (USA, 2022) a psychological thriller produced by Blumhouse about a Senegalese woman haunted by supernatural forces and a special screening of **Leyla Bouzid's** *A Tale Of Love and Desire* (Tunisia/France, 2021) in partnership with Bird's Eye View and T A P E Collective as part of their [Found in Translation](#) project.

Media Contact

For further information, screeners, press tickets, hi-res images and interviews please contact:

Press team: press@africa-in-motion.org.uk / View the festival programme from **Monday 31 October** here: www.africa-in-motion.org.uk

AiM Festival Director, Liz Chege: liz@africa-in-motion.org.uk

Social Media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) #AiMFilmFest

Notes to Editors

- Africa in Motion is an audience-based festival, founded in 2006. The main aims of the festival have been, since its inception, to introduce Scottish audiences to the brilliance of African cinema and to overcome the underrepresentation and marginalisation of African film in British film-going culture.
- **Principal funder:** The National Lottery through Screen Scotland (Creative Scotland)
- **Other funders:** Film Hub Scotland, University of Stirling, Scottish Documentary Institute and the University of Edinburgh
- **Press images, logos and downloads:**
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1vrFUF94PFcPpUazB5nYd96GlsyVXr7uf?usp=sharing>

About Reclaim The Frame x International

[Reclaim the Frame](#) x International, aims to support culturally diverse women & non-binary filmmakers from 5+ countries through the circulation of works, collaboration and a professional development programme. With the shared mission to increase gender diversity and inclusion in cinema, Birds Eye View (UK) and Regards de femmes: festival international de film de femmes (Tunisia) are part of a network that advocates and builds audiences for films by women & non-binary creatives. This project is funded by the British Council's International Collaboration Grants, which are designed to support UK and overseas organisations to collaborate on international arts projects.

About Found In Translation

[T A P E](#) presents a season of special screenings and events celebrating the incredible work of Isabel Sandoval, US-based Filipina filmmaker and actress, and Tunisian screenwriter-director Leyla Bouzid. We will be screening two of their recent films: *Lingua Franca* and *A Tale of Love and Desire* as part of 12 special events that will be presented in partnership with writers and poetry collectives in venues across the UK.