



PRESS RELEASE

AFRIKAMERA 2024: BELIEVE

12–17 November 2024

Arsenal Kino, BrotfabrikKino, City Kino Wedding, fsk, Sinema Transtopia

The AFRIKAMERA – CONTEMPORARY CINEMA FROM AFRICA film festival is turning the spotlight on diverse, inspiring, pioneering and sometimes contradictory perspectives on central social and political issues of the present and future of the African continent from 2024 to 2027 with the four main topics BELIEVE * CHANGE * REFLECT and CREATE.

At the centre of this year's BELIEVE focus are films that deal with questions of faith, spirituality and self-empowerment. These shape private life and social relationships in many ways, are not infrequently a trigger for political conflicts – and a frequent topic among the younger generation of filmmakers as well. In addition, highlights of contemporary African cinema will be shown that premiered and won awards at major international festivals.

This year there are three short film programmes, including **AFRIKAMERA SHORTS: Believe** in this year's focus and **AFRIKAMERA SHORTS: Brotfabrik Selection** with exclusive German premieres.

As part of a long series night, AFRIKAMERA presents four episodes of the Ivorian street gang series **INVISIBLES**, which is being screened in Sinema Transtopia in cooperation with the TU Berlin/ Collaborative Research Centre 1265 'Re-Figuration of Spaces' and the Film University Potsdam Babelsberg (15.11).

This will be followed by the AFRIKAMERA festival party with DJ Tmnit, admission free.

Also at Sinema Transtopia, following the screening of **VUTA N'KUVUTE (TUG OF WAR)** (Tanzania/ South Africa/ Qatar/ Germany 2021, 17.11.), there will be a panel discussion on the topic of **FILM AND/AS [TRANSLATED] LITERATURE**, curated by Nadja Ofuatey-Alazard.

For the first time in several years, AFRIKAMERA will also be the stage for a **CINE-CONCERT**: the French ensemble **ORIKI**, together with the Senegalese singer Woz Kaly (Touré Kunda, Youssou N'Dour), will present Djibril Diop Mambéty's **LE FRANC** (1994) live on stage at the City Kino Wedding (16.11.).

The special programme **BLACK JEWS** (16 + 17 November) deals with the history of the Falasha, an ethnic-religious group from Ethiopia, the majority of whom have emigrated to Israel since the 1970s, and their complex relationship with the country. In addition to the screening of various short and feature-length films on the subject, there will be a **PANEL DISCUSSION: BLACK JEWS – FILMMAKING IN A COMPLEX MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY**, with, among others, the directors *Aalam-Warqe Davidian (FIG TREE)* and *Bazi Gete (OASIS)*. Admission is free.

From the film programme:

AFRIKAMERA will open with **THE VILLAGE NEXT TO PARADISE** (Somalia/ Austria/ France/ Germany 2024), the feature film debut by Somali director Mo Harawe. The atmospheric family drama was the first Somali film to ever celebrate its international premiere in the 'Un Certain Regard' section at this year's Cannes Film Festival.

In Mohamed Ben Attia's supernatural drama **BEHIND THE MOUNTAINS** (Tunisia/ Belgium/ France/ Saudi Arabia/ Qatar 2023), young father Rafik returns from a four-year prison sentence to take his young son Yassine to the mountains against his mother's wishes to show him that he can fly. During their flight, father and son grow closer. The film, which caused a sensation at this year's Venice Film Festival, celebrates the human spirit and its ability to overcome social boundaries.

DEMBA, by Mamadou Dia (Senegal/Germany 2024), experiences a mental breakdown after losing his wife Awa and being forced into early retirement. While his son Bajjo doesn't know how to deal with him, Demba Awa's ghost appears... Mamadou Dia's moving film about grief, mental health and life in the small town of Matam on the Senegal River celebrated its international premiere in the Encounters section at this year's Berlin International Film Festival. The director will be in attendance.

The coming-of-age film **YOU'RE MY FAVOURITE PLACE** (South Africa 2022) by Jahmil X.T. Qubeka is about a young girl from East London who goes on a road trip with three friends after graduating from high school. They steal a taxi and drive to the Hole in the Wall landmark on the Wild Coast, where, according to Xhosa legend, you can talk to the dead. Along the way, they experience a mystical journey that reveals their deepest fears. Jahmil X.T. Qubeka's fifth film pays homage to American teen movies of the 80s.

In the German premiere of **THE BURDEN** (Central African Republic/ France/ DR Congo/ Italy/ Germany 2023) by Elvis Sabin Ngaïbino, Rodrigue and Reine live with their three children in modest circumstances in Bangui, the capital of the Central African Republic. They are active in the local church, where the battle between God and Satan is central and belief in evil spirits and witchcraft is widespread. But Rodrigue and Reine are keeping a secret: both have AIDS, while the pastor proclaims the disease to be divine punishment.

Sana Na N'Hada's third feature film, **NOME** (France/ Portugal/ Angola 2023), focuses on young Nome, who flees to the guerrillas after his cousin becomes pregnant against her will. After the war, he becomes a civil servant in Bissau, becomes estranged from his roots and finally returns to his village. **NOME** oscillates between past, present and future, interweaving

documentary 16mm archive material with dream-like film images. The film was honoured in the ACID selection at Cannes for its outstanding visual language.

Director Sana Na N'Hada, (born 1950), was accepted into Amílcar Cabral's Marxist guerrilla at the age of 16. Since he was unfit for combat, he was sent to Cuba with other young Guineans to be trained as a filmmaker. When he returned to Guinea-Bissau in 1972, he tirelessly documented the struggle of his comrades and the first years of independence until 1977.

In its 17th edition, AFRIKAMERA – CURRENT CINEMA FROM AFRICA is screening at Arsenal Kino, BrotfabrikKino, fsk and Sinema Transtopia, as well as at City Kino Wedding for the first time, thus once again expanding its reach to various neighbourhoods in Berlin.

AFRIKAMERA – CURRENT CINEMA FROM AFRICA

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

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

AFRIKAMERA – Contemporary Cinema from Africa is under the patronage of Dr. Uschi Eid. Festival directors: Alex Moussa Sawadogo and Uta Rügner

AFRIKAMERA 2024: BELIEVE is funded by: Cross-genre funding for festivals and series (four-yearly) from the Senate Department for Culture and Europe. The special programme BLACK JEWS – BETA ISRAEL is realised with funds from the 'Action Fund against Anti-Semitism' of the Senate Department for Culture and Europe'. In partnership with the Heinrich Böll Foundation, Deutsche Afrika Stiftung e.V., Kino Arsenal, fsk, Sinema Transtopia, BrotfabrikKino and City Kino Wedding.

Festival venues and tickets:

Arsenal, Potsdamer Str. 2, 10785 Berlin

Tickets: adults: €9 / Arsenal members: €6 / children: €3 / Berlin Pass: €3 www.arsenal-berlin.de

Programme 'BLACK JEWS' (16.+17.11.): Free admission

BrotfabrikKino, Caligariplatz 1, 13086 Berlin

Tickets: regular: €8, reduced: €7

www.brotfabrik-berlin.de

City Kino Wedding, Müllerstr. 74, 13349 Berlin

Tickets: €8, concessions: €6 plus fees

Ciné Concert (16 November): €12, concessions: €8

citykinowedding.de

fsk, Segitzdamm 2, 10969 Berlin
Tickets: €9, reduced: €8, Berlin Pass: €6.50
www.fsk-kino.de

SINEMA TRANSTOPIA, Lindower Str. 20/22, Haus C, 13347 Berlin
Tickets: €7
<https://sinematranstopia.com>
Afrikamera Festival Party (15 November) +
Panel VUTA N'KUVUTE (TUG OF WAR) (17 November): Free admission

Programme information, trailers and much more: <https://www.afrikamera.de/en/>
Film stills for download: <https://www.afrikamera.de/en/presse/>

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