



**presse-info nr. 2 | 8. september 2015**

## **Refugees welcome!**

FilmInitiativ invites refugees and their companions from in and around Cologne to attend, free of cost, all films and events of the **AFRICAN DIASPORA CINEMA** series. An invitation and a trilingual programme have been sent to Cologne-area refugee and welcome initiatives. FilmInitiativ requests only that groups or individuals register in advance, so that we may appropriately plan and organise seating.

*Register with FilmInitiativ by phone at: 0221 – 46 96 243  
or via e-mail at: [mail@filminitiativ](mailto:mail@filminitiativ)*

The **AFRICAN DIASPORA CINEMA** film series is slated to open on Thursday, 17 September, at 18:30 in the Filmforum im Museum Ludwig, in the presence of international guests, with a line-up that includes short feature films and live music from Sierra Leone-born, Cologne-raised singer **Mariama**. From 17 until 27 September, 42 films by directors of African heritage from five continents will be shown, and 28 guests have been invited to discuss them with the public.

Many of the films deal with themes of migration, fleeing from conflict, and the trials and tribulations of establishing a new life in the various countries of immigration. Refugees living in Cologne are invited to contribute as much to the discussions as they choose, drawing from their own personal experiences.

Another focus highlights the role of black Germans in today's media and in German society as a whole, reflecting the experiences of many immigrants across the country. Alongside presenting seven filmmakers and their films at school and evening screenings, the **Black is the Ocean** exhibit, on the history of (forced) migration and refugee flight, is on display (which will open with live music from Eritrea by Samson Kidane & friends on Monday, 21 September, at 19:00 in the Zentralbibliothek am Neumarkt).

A panel discussion will be held on that subject, featuring five black German filmmakers and writers (Friday, 25 September, at 19:30 in the Filmforum im Museum Ludwig) and a reading by the Cologne writer and cabaret performer Marius Jung (Sunday, 27 September, at 16:00 in the King Georg).

**PROLOGUE ON 9 SEPTEMBER:** Please keep in mind that the film series starts already this week with a film history prologue, during which early diaspora films by Paulin Vieyra (Benin) and Ousmane Sembène (Senegal) will be shown (Wednesday, 9 September, 20:00, Institut français). Refugees and their companions are likewise very welcome to attend.

*Complete programme info is available at: [www.filme-aus-afrika.de](http://www.filme-aus-afrika.de)*

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