



## Africa Film Special – “New films from North and South Africa”

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### AFRICAN FEEL TO COLOGNE’S FILMFORUM

Thanks to the efforts and involvement of people from local African communities in Cologne and the surrounding area, the foyer of the Filmforum now resembles a small bazaar during the currently running film event focusing on North and South Africa. To accompany the films from North Africa last weekend, the **German-Egyptian Society** had a stand providing information about their work. **Amnesty International** also used the occasion to exhibit **street art in Cairo**. Amnesty employees also gave out flyers and leaflets with information about the current situation in Egypt.

**Mehdi Allaoui**, who informed guests about the democracy movement in Morocco after the film “My Makhzen and me”, also exhibited some of his own paintings in the Filmforum foyer.

The **Tunicare** society also presented their work on a stand and offered **Tunisian specialities** to the cinema-goers. Tunicare also helped to arrange that Tunisian musicians took to the Filmforum stage on the opening night. The large North African contingent in the audience was evident not only with the many contributions to the film discussions that displayed an in-depth knowledge of the country in question, but also when Tunisian musician **Ben Othman** requested during his performance that the crowd sing along to Arabic songs, with at least a third of the cinema hall taking up the invitation.

This weekend, with **films and guests from South Africa** being presented through until Sunday (22.09), historical posters from the international Apartheid movement will be on display in the cinema. **Togolese specialities** will be served in the foyer. A **Congolese** has a stand with **CDs from all over Africa** for guests to sample or purchase. There is a further stand selling **African films on DVD** and the Buchsalon Ehrenfeld bookshop will be there selling **(South) African literature**. Pupils from Bonn are there to provide information about the **aktion tagwerk** campaign “Your day for Africa”. They support education projects for children and young people in Burundi, Ivory Coast, Rwanda, South Africa and Uganda.

The broad participation of African communities at the film events was also a result of FilmInitiativ’s media partnerships with publications and online portals. These include magazines, such as **LoNam** and **Africa Positive**, as well as **Afroport** and **Afrotak**. FilmInitiativ Köln e.V. wants to continue and expand upon the successful partnerships and working relationships it has developed with the aforementioned initiatives in the future.

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