



**FESTIVAL INFO No. 10 (27.9.2014)
Follow-up Comments by Guests of the First Festival Weekend**

Dani Kouyaté (Burkina Faso, Festival Patron)

"I thank you all for the wonderful attention with which you received me and my family. I will be back for the next festival with my new film **BANJUL**."

Haminiaia Ratovoarivony (Madagascar, director of the opening film):

"I have already been to festivals in Germany twice, but Cologne was the first time my film opened a festival. It was an honour for me and a new experience, especially because the audience was so very warm-hearted. So I am very happy to be here, I say thanks for the invitation, and hope that the festival will continue for a long time, despite the fact that cultural budgets are being slashed more and more. So I cross my fingers for the festival organisers that they can continue showing African films, since at home there are hardly any cinemas left for us. After all, this is an opportunity to pass what moves us on to others, and present our traditions and ideas."

Abdellah Taïa (Morocco, "Queer Africa" festival focus)

"I am very happy to be able to participate in a festival of African cinema in Germany that deals with this theme as it relates to Africa, because I am an African – Morocco is a part of Africa, even if there is also racism against blacks in our country. Indeed, homosexuals in Africa have been having enormous problems for a while now. That's why the "Queer Africa" section of the Cologne festival is important. Ultimately it also shows that there are more and more courageous people. Even if they may be few in number, they still try to change the situation."

Zanele Muholi (South Africa, "Queer Africa" festival focus)

"We need to use any educational platforms that are there in order to educate our societies. And it's a pity that in many African countries you can't have a film festival like this one because those who are in power, who are corrupt and want to use homosexuality as a scapegoat for their own corrupted minds, they won't agree to have such film festivals in those countries where homosexuality is still criminalized. These platforms are important; we get to show our photographs and documentaries abroad in spaces that are friendly. In many African countries you can't even dare thinking showing photographs or documentaries with homosexuals as subjects."

Muhsin Hendricks (South Africa, "Queer Africa" festival focus)

"I think such events are important. I'm hugely grateful that Africa is on the map and that people are saying things like there is a lot we can learn from Africa. So it's nice to see a first-world country learning from third-world countries for a change."