



Press info no 2 (29 July 2016)

### **SISTERS IN AFRICAN CINEMA**

**Female filmmakers, women's movement and feminism in African cinema**  
**A successful nationwide programme by FilmInitiativ Köln e.V.**  
**with 120 screenings in 17 cities (2016/2017)**

Women are becoming increasingly more important in African cinema, both on-screen and behind the camera. Their films take a cinematic look at the daily role of women and the problems they face, at women who fight against patriarchal structures, injustice, violence and an abuse of their human rights, and at women in politics and culture.

With the theme SISTERS IN AFRICAN CINEMA, FilmInitiativ Köln wants to present the current filmmaking exploits of African women and to pit Eurocentric perceptions of women in Africa against the reality seen through the eyes of African women.

Five consultants from different countries advised FilmInitiativ on the selection of current films made by female African directors for its SISTERS theme:

- \* **Beti Ellerson**, USA (creator of the "African Women in Cinema" blog)
- \* **Nadia El Fani**, Tunisia (feature film and documentary director)
- \* **Judy Nini Kibinge**, Kenya (feature film and documentary director)
- \* **Dyana Gaye**, France (feature film director from the Senegalese diaspora in France)
- \* **Nancy Mac Granaky-Quaye**, Germany (writer, director and editor)

Thanks to the suggestions from our consultants and additional discoveries at international African film festivals (in Ouagadougou, Tunis, Durban, Leuven, Tarifa, etc.), we compiled a list comprising 80 film suggestions. From that list, 33 features, documentaries, shorts and experimental films from 13 African countries and the diaspora were selected. The films are representative of the current spectrum of films being made by women of African origin, both in terms of their content and aesthetics.

Following up from previews of selected films at the African Festival in Osnabrück and the Afro-Ruhr-Festival in Dortmund in May, the extensive SISTERS series will be **premiered at FilmInitiativ Köln's 14<sup>th</sup> African Film Festival in September 2016**. Encore screenings of the SISTERS films will take place in Bayreuth, Berlin, Bonn, Bremen, Brühl, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Freiburg, Hamburg, Munich, Münster, Nuremberg, Oldenburg, Saarbrücken and Wuppertal right through until March 2017.

(For information on partners and nationwide dates, see the SISTERS programme:  
[http://www.filme-aus-afrika.de/fileadmin/media\\_faa/pdf/2016/SistersFinalScreen.pdf](http://www.filme-aus-afrika.de/fileadmin/media_faa/pdf/2016/SistersFinalScreen.pdf))

FilmInitiativ received funding from the German Federal Cultural Foundation for the very first time for the SISTERS theme of the Cologne African Film Festival. This financial support not only allowed for many films to be subtitled in German, but it was also possible to invite many directors to the festival in Cologne and distribute films to the above mentioned cities. (Bookings are possible until March 2017.) The project's success illustrates the huge interest in African filmmaking and the national importance of the Cologne African Film Festival, which is now the largest of its kind in Germany and one of the biggest in Europe.