



PRESS RELEASE

25 YEARS OF FILMS FROM AFRICA IN COLOGNE

**The anniversary festival: 30 guests & 80 films from 25 African countries
SEPTEMBER 25 – OCTOBER 1
Anniversary concert: Kasai Allstars (Kinshasa), OCTOBER 3**

AFRIKA FILM FESTIVAL KÖLN has been taking its guests on audiovisual journeys through African cinescapes for 25 years. More than 750 films from 45 African countries have been shown in Cologne since the first festival in 1992. They have showcased some hugely diverse and multi-faceted filmmaking talents from Africa and the global African diaspora.

80 Films and 30 guests

The anniversary festival 2017 will present 80 films from 25 African countries and 30 guests are invited for discussions with the audience. The organizing association, FilmInitiativ Köln e.V., will keep the focus of the festival on contemporary African cinema for the anniversary festival. It is part of Afrika Film Festival Köln tradition to present the current prizewinners from FESPACO and other major film festivals in Africa.

Documentaries and shorts

The documentaries selected for the anniversary programme offer insights into the burning political, social and cultural issues in a range of African countries from Sudan to South Africa and from the Congo to Mozambique.

The anniversary programme's three short film evenings take us on a cinematic journey through Africa, from the Maghreb to Madagascar via West and East Africa.

Theme "Land grabbing and migration"

More than a dozen features, documentaries and short films will be screened and discussed as part of our festival theme LAND GRABBING AND MIGRATION. To expand on the subject, there will also be an exhibition at Cologne Public Library near the Neumarkt, entitled THE LAND THAT WE TAKE – THE TROPICAL RAINFOREST AND FARMLAND GRAB. Filmmakers and activists from Ethiopia, South Africa and Benin, and from the transnational network afrique-europe-interact, have been invited to the opening of the exhibition to tell us about their campaigns in the fight against land grabbing and the destruction of the environment.

Photo exhibition "Angola Cinemas"

FilmInitiativ will also present the photo exhibition ANGOLA CINEMAS – A FICTION OF FREEDOM, a comprehensive look at the hitherto largely unknown avant-garde architecture of Angolan cinemas. The Goethe-Institut designed the concept for the exhibition and also enabled FilmInitiativ to invite Angolan curator Miguel Hurst to the festival.

Four live music acts

Four live music acts will play at the festival to help us celebrate our birthday. These include performances by the Steven Ouma Band at the opening and at the anniversary party in Filmforum (21 September), and one by Togolese singer Donia Touglo and her band at Cologne Public Library (25 September).

The concert by the Kinshasa-based Kasai Allstars at the festival's closing event (on 3 October at Club Bahnhof Ehrenfeld) is sure to be a real treat.

Audience prizes

As in previous years, audience prizes for the best feature films and documentaries will also be awarded in 2017, and various initiatives and communities will provide information about their work, as well as an assortment of books, music, DVDs and specialities from Senegal and the Congo in the Filmforum foyer.

Press Photos: <http://www.filme-aus-afrika.de/DE/presse/bilder/>

Catalogue: http://www.filme-aus-afrika.de/fileadmin/media_faa/pdf/RZ_FI_15_Programm_web_100.pdf

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