

press release

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Film Africa 2012 welcomes 30 filmmakers to the festival

London's only annual African film festival, Film Africa 2012, taking place during November 1 – 11, will be welcoming 30 filmmakers whose work features in the festival. The festival, organised by the [Royal African Society](#) and [SOAS](#), University of London, and co-directed by Lindiwe Dovey and Namvula Rennie, will screen 70 films over 10 days, coupled with lively Q&As, panel discussions, professional and educational workshops, family activities and Film Africa *LIVE!* music nights. The Hackney Picturehouse and The Ritzy will host the festival in collaboration with Rich Mix, Screen on the Green, BFI Southbank and the South London Gallery, ensuring access to the brilliance of African cinema in every corner of London.

Some of the filmmakers attending the festival will be:

- Kivu Ruhorahoza (Rwanda) whose film [Grey Matter](#) won a 'special jury mention' and a 'best actor prize' at the Tribeca Film Festival
- David "Tosh" Gitonga (Kenya) who made [Nairobi Half Life](#) which has just been [nominated for 'best foreign film'](#) by Kenya for inclusion at this year's Oscars. Branwen Okpako (Nigeria/Wales) who made [The Education of Auma Obama](#), a look at US President Barack Obama's Kenyan half-sister who introduced him to his African roots
- Jarreth Merz (Ghana/Switzerland), who made [An African Election](#) and also spoke at [TED talks](#), is taking time out from a promotional tour to give a talk after the screening at Film Africa 2012 and also talk about the upcoming Ghanaian elections
- Kunle Afolayan (Nigeria), who the [New York Times recently dubbed](#) the 'Scorsese of Lagos' with the international premiere of his much-awaited film [Phone Swap](#), a comedy about two very different Nigerians who accidentally switch phones
- Alain Gomis (Senegal), whose stunning film [Tey](#) has taken the international film festival circuit, from Berlin to Cannes, by storm this year
- Hawa Essuman (Kenya), whose film [Soul Boy](#) won the audience award at the Rotterdam International Film Festival

Film Africa not only uses the festival to highlight the great work coming out of the continent but also to invest in African filmmakers. Through the [Silver Baobab Award](#) for best short African film to the [Film Africa Distribution Forum](#) and Distribution Fund which help African films get mainstream distribution. Last year's winner of the Film Africa Silver Baobab award, Rungano Nyoni, went on to become a [BAFTA nominee](#) and the Ethiopian film [The Athlete](#) got a mainstream distribution in the UK thanks to Film Africa's Distribution Fund.

Co-directors Lindiwe Dovey and Namvula Rennie commented:

'The overwhelmingly positive feedback from our visiting African filmmakers after Film Africa 2011 has made us even more excited about this year's festival. Many of the filmmakers said that Film Africa was the best and most useful festival they'd ever been to and we're proud that our festival does more than just show films – it helps them to go further. Supporting the work of African filmmakers is absolutely central to our ethos and one we continue to build upon year on year.'

Film Africa is an annual, 10-day celebration of the best African films across countries and genres, showcasing 70 fiction, documentary, short, and experimental films in venues across London.

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For more information, please contact:

Simone Bresi-Ando

Bresi-Ando consults

Tel: +44 (0)7960 067 883

Email: pr@filmafrica.org.uk

Notes to editors:

- A full list of visiting filmmakers can be found [here](#)
- Downloadable film stills can be found [here](#)
- Film Africa, in its second year running, is a festival organised by the Royal African Society and SOAS, University of London, and is also holding a dynamic programme of director Q&As, panel discussions, professional workshops, family activities, and educational screenings, live music, and art.

- The criteria for inclusion in the Film Africa festival is that the films need to be made by African and/or African diaspora film makers, or by non-Africans who tell alternative stories about Africa to the negative, stereotyped fare that is usually shown in the mainstream UK media
- The Royal African Society is Britain's prime Africa organisation, more than 100 years old, which provides in-depth, long-term research of the continent and its peoples. The society fosters a better understanding of Africa in the UK and throughout the world, as well as disseminating knowledge and insight to make a positive difference to Africa's development, while celebrating the diversity and depth of African culture.
- SOAS, University of London, is the world's leading centre for the study of a highly diverse range of subjects concerned with Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.
- Miles Morland started Blakeney Management in 1990 and is an independent London based firm, dedicated to investment in inefficient stock markets. Now its current Chairman, Miles Morland has been the pioneer investor in many of the stock markets of Africa and the Arab world and are today the only international firm which focuses exclusively on that area. They are the largest and sometimes only, foreign portfolio investor in many of the markets of sub-Saharan Africa and the Arab world and invest in both listed and private companies. They are an active investor and have played a role as a catalyst in the development of the telecommunications and banking industries in our region.
- Online:
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 - Twitter - [@FilmAfrica](https://twitter.com/FilmAfrica) (hashtag - [#FilmAfrica2012](https://twitter.com/hashtag/FilmAfrica2012))
 - Facebook: [Film Africa](https://www.facebook.com/FilmAfrica)
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- Sponsors:
 - The University of London's [Centre of African Studies](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/centres/centrefortheafricanstudies/) is the largest centre of expertise on Africa outside Africa. Founded in 1965 at the School of Oriental and African Studies, where its administration is still based, since 1991 the Centre has assumed formal responsibility for coordinating, stimulating and promoting interdisciplinary study, research and discussion on Africa within the University; and promoting a wider awareness of African issues.

- [IC publications](#) has over 50 years' experience in publishing magazines, newsletters, country supplements, industry reports and market intelligence on Africa. Among our bestselling magazines are New African, African Business, African Banker, New African Woman, Le Magazine de l'Afrique and Femme Africaine. Reaching over 2.6 million readers in more than 100 countries, our eight magazines are the region's undisputed market leaders.
 - [Ophir Energy plc.](#) is an international oil and gas exploration company with an extensive portfolio of interests spread across the continent of Africa. Since its foundation in 2004, the Company has acquired an extensive portfolio of exploration interests consisting of 17 projects in nine jurisdictions in Africa. The majority of these interests lie offshore in water depths greater than 250m and are thus classified as "deepwater".
 - [Renaissance Group](#) is a leading investment banking firm that operates in high-opportunity emerging markets. It is a top-ranked investment bank for M&A, equity and debt capital markets, as well as securities sales and trading. Renaissance Capital focuses exclusively on emerging markets, including Russia, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), and the frontier markets of MENA and sub-Saharan Africa. The company was founded in 1995 by a group of founding partners, including Stephen Jennings, who is today CEO of Renaissance Group, as well as Boris Jordan, and Leonid Rozhetskin.
- Film Africa 2012 venues are:
 - **HACKNEY PICTUREHOUSE**, 270 Mare Street, London E8 1HE. Box Office: 0871 902 5734 (9:30am – 8:30pm daily), book [online](#)
 - **THE RITZY**, Brixton Oval, Coldharbour Lane, London SW2 1JG. Box Office: 0871 902 5739 (9:30am – 8:30pm daily), book [online](#)
 - **RICH MIX**, 35-37 Bethnal Green Road, London E1 6LA. Box Office: 020 7613 7498, (Mon-Fri 8:30am-10pm, Sat-Sun 10am-10pm), book [online](#)
 - **SCREEN ON THE GREEN**, 83 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 ONP. Box Office: 0871 906 9060 (9am-9pm daily), book [online](#)
 - **BFI SOUTHBANK**, Belvedere Road, The South Bank Centre, London SE1 8XT. Box Office: 020 7928 3232, book [online](#)
 - **SOUTH LONDON GALLERY**, 67 Peckham Road London SE5 8UH. Box office 020 7703 6120, book [online](#)
 - The 2011 winner of the Film Africa Silver Baobab award was Rungano Nyoni for short film '[Mwansa the Great](#)'

Bresi-Ando consults is a global, boutique PR consultancy specialising in growing awareness and connecting brands and projects with talent for a variety of clients in the luxury, arts, consumer tech, entertainment and music industries. One arm of the consultancy' is to promote brands that have their roots in Africa or an African focus. Past clients such as [Helen Jennings](#) (editor of *Arise* and author of *New African Fashion*), [Mo Saïque Shoes](#), [Joansu jewellery](#), [Christie Brown](#), [Villa Monticello](#), Ghana and the Southbank Centre's month-long festival; [Africa Utopia](#), have all benefitted from the insight, expertise and connections of the consultancy. www.bresi-ando.com.