African Movie Night

CAMERA D'AFFRIQUE
TIMBUKTU
DEM DEMI!
PEPE LE MOKO
LA PETITE VENDEUSE DE SOLEIL
MAKI'LA
AYA DE YOPOUGON
PAPICHA
WALLAY
CAMILLE

Please scan the QR code for screening dates and registration.

Co-organised by
University Museum and Art Gallery
The University of Hong Kong

Supported by
Alliance Française
Hong Kong

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS
The University Museum and Art Gallery of the University of Hong Kong is pleased to collaborate with Alliance Française de Hong Kong and with the support of Institute Français on presenting this cinematic outreach programme to complement the exhibition *Colours of Congo: Patterns, Symbols and Narratives in 20th-Century Congolese Paintings*.

Highlighting the contemporary struggles of individuals across the continent, this series of African films presents a broad array of people working to achieve their beliefs and dreams while searching for their own distinct identities. Throughout these works, the vibrant lens of African cinema shatters the colonialist perspectives that have long masked Africa’s inherent beauty.
Africa has long been an exoticised land viewed through colonial eyes. With this selection of classic and contemporary films, Africans take back control of the camera and cutting room floor to provide a vibrant reworking of lives across the continent. A range of styles from straight documentary to magical realism come together to create a range of stunning modern cinemascapes.

Timbuktu explores life in Mali under occupation by Islamist extremists. The story centres around the cattle herder Kidane who lives a quiet life outside the city with his wife and daughter. When his cow accidentally damages the fisherman Amadou’s nets, the fisherman kills his cow. Kidane then accidentally shoots Amadou during an argument. Based on Sharia Law, Kidane will be sentenced to death if he cannot earn the forgiveness of Amadou’s family and also pay them 40 cattle as compensation.
What if you were given the chance to leave the place you call home and travel far away to an unknown destination? This is the choice faced by the Senegalese fisherman Matar. One day while fishing, Matar comes upon a Belgian passport washed ashore in Dakar. Torn between staying with his love Nafi and venturing to a new world, he ultimately chooses to leave the security of home in search of his identity.

The screening will be followed by a guided tour (English) of the exhibition ‘Colours of Congo: Patterns, Symbols and Narratives in 20th-Century Congolese Paintings’ at 1:30 PM. Please register separately: https://bit.ly/3soy4Y4.

The charismatic Parisian gangster Pépé le Moko is a wanted man on the run in Algiers. While ruling the Casbah like a king, he is pursued by local police and the cunning detective Slimane. Caught up in a game of cat-and-mouse, Pépé le Moko longs for his old life back in Paris, and when he comes across a visiting Parisian beauty, Pépé falls head over heels. Will he leave the safety of his criminal haven for love, or remain in the Casbah’s familiar alleys?

A guided tour (English) of the exhibition ‘Colours of Congo: Patterns, Symbols and Narratives in 20th-Century Congolese Paintings’ will be offered before the screening at 6 PM. Please register separately: https://bit.ly/3r9Vctv.
The Little Girl Who Sold the Sun
(La Petite Vendeuse de soleil)
7 April 2021
1 PM
45 MINS
Dramatic comedy
Senegal
1998
In French and Wolof with English subtitles
Directed by Djibril Diop Mambéty

The second work in a trilogy by famed Senegalese director Djibril Diop Mambéty (1945–1998), this film tells the story of Sili, a young disabled girl living on the streets of Dakar. Sili begins hawking the government daily The Sun in order to help her blind grandmother. She must be brave and clever to survive the ruthless world of hawking, which is dominated by gangs of boys. Like the sun, Sili is a ray of hope in a desperate world.

Register here

Maki’la
14 April 2021
6:30 PM
78 MINS
Drama
Democratic Republic of the Congo
2018
In French with English subtitles
Directed by Machérie Ekwa Bahango

19-year-old Maki’la has been living on the streets since she was 13. After marrying the gang boss Jonathan Mbingazor, she learns to survive by selling drugs and herself. Unsatisfied with her life, Maki’la is convinced by a new friend, Acha, to leave the gang. The two girls set off and encounter numerous challenges along the way. Just as things are beginning to look up, Jonathan arrives to take back his possession.

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Register here
In the Yopougo neighbourhood of the Ivory Coast, the dream of every working-class girl is to marry a rich man and start a family. But nineteen-year-old Aya has more ambitious plans. She wants to be a doctor, despite her father’s opposition and the challenges facing women in West African townships in the 1970s. In the story, we follow Anya and her friends Bintou and Adjoua as they navigate life under the warm sun of Yopougon, each struggling to make their dreams a reality.

In the 1990s, Nedjma dreams of becoming a fashion designer in the midst of the Algerian Civil War. The tightening of control by the fundamentalists—from forcing women to wear hijabs to banning them from gathering on Friday—ultimately puts a halt to a planned fashion show in response to the restrictions. Despite the worsening situation, Nedjma decides to stay in Algeria with her friends to fight for Algerian women.
Ady is an obnoxious and entitled teen living in the south of France. After his single father reaches a breaking point, he sends Ady to his uncle for the summer in rural Burkina Faso. Awaiting him is a journey of growth as he learns to work hard for a life he once took for granted.

Camille is based on the life of the 26-year-old French photojournalist Camille Lepage, who was killed while reporting on the civil war in the Central African Republic. Camille befriends a group of rebels willing to share their stories, who then do their best to protect the reporter. Unlike the other journalists who are documenting the events from a distance, Camille is drawn into the conflict along with a group of rebels who are trying to drive out the Muslim fighters (Séléka).
Venue: 1/F T.T. Tsui Building, 90 Bonham Road, University Museum and Art Gallery, HKU (Please enter the museum via the Fung Ping Shan Building.)

Audience: Age 18 or above for screenings | No age limit for guided tours

Limit: 32 for screenings | 15 for guided tours

Free admission. Registration required. No walk-ins are allowed.

Enquiry: musnews@hku.hk / 2241 5500

Colours of Congo: Patterns, Symbols and Narratives in 20th-Century Congolese Paintings displays a selection of Congolese work created from the 1920s to 1960.

Thanks to unprecedented access to extensive archives and art collections, the exhibition’s narrative presents a generous overview of paintings that were instigated when a single artist from Belgium began a painting workshop so as to collaborate with the indigenous population of Elisabethville (modern-day Lubumbashi). This first studio was followed by other workshops that assisted in developing a hybrid artform that remains a celebrated phenomenon.

Alliance Française de Hong Kong (AFHK) is a Hong Kong not-for-profit association dedicated to the promotion of the French language and culture. It is the official and largest language institution for French in Hong Kong and Asia, with the mission to encourage and promote active connections between people in Hong Kong and French language and culture. It provides the means by which people can learn the French language and engage in many different aspects of French culture.

The University Museum and Art Gallery of the University of Hong Kong Kong was founded in 1953 as the Fung Ping Shan Museum. It is the oldest continuously operated museum in Hong Kong, and over the past sixty years has built up a diverse collection of ceramics and bronzes dating from the Neolithic period to the Qing dynasty, as well as traditional and modern paintings and works on paper from the Ming to the twenty-first century. In addition to these permanent collections, UMAG regularly hosts exhibitions of contemporary and ancient Chinese and Western art, and on early Hong Kong history.

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