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Yale MACMILLAN CENTER
Council on African Studies

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Register at:
african.maccmillan.yale.edu



YALE

AFRICA

FILM

FESTIVAL

YALE AFRICA FILM FESTIVAL

The Council on African Studies is hosting its third annual film festival highlighting experimental, animated, and fashion films from the African continent and its diaspora. The festival brings together films in different mediums, that push the boundaries of what is normative and hegemonic. With captivating cinematography that highlights hybrid cultures and evolving cityscapes, the films reshape internal and external perceptions of Black communities around the world.



EVENT SCHEDULE

Session I - 1:00 - 2:00 PM EST

Me, You & The City: Fashioning Self & The Community

Screening of *A Beautiful Struggle*

Panel Discussion with Dafe Oboro, Tavia Nyong'o, Fradique & Angie Epifano

Session II - 2:15 - 3:45 PM EST

Sites of Intimacy: Community & Care

Screening of *Kiu & uNomalanga* & *The Witch*

Panel Discussion with Njiiri Karago, Palasha Shongwe & Yasmina Price

Session III - 4:00 - 5:00 P.M. EST

Lights, Camera, Activism: Black Creativity & Community Organizing

Screening of *Street 66*

Panel Discussion with Ayo Akingbade, Thomas Allen Harris & Alexandra Thomas

ABOUT THE FILMS



AIR CONDITIONER

Fradique

When the air-conditioners in the city of Luanda mysteriously began to fall, Matacedo and Zezinha embark on a mission to retrieve the boss's AC by the end of the day.

uNOMALANGA & THE WITCH

Palesha Shongwe

In a small South African town, a church-going woman becomes obsessed with her hairdresser neighbor - a rumored murderer.



KIU

Njiiri Karago

The rains haven't fallen for 5 years and as a result water is now the most sought after commodity. Just like everyone else out of the fortified cities Momo's been finding it hard to acquire water. Her journey to a trade post takes an unexpected turn when she encounters a young orphaned girl. She appears to be a survivor of a recent accident. Conflicted, Momo must decide whether to take her along on her quest or to keep to her loner ways.

ABOUT THE FILMS



A BEAUTIFUL STRUGGLE

Dafe Oboro

A Beautiful Struggle is a fashionable portrait following a small-town man's pursuit of stardom against a vibrant, psychedelic backdrop of Lagos city where music is his passion. Written & Directed by Dafe Oboro in collaboration with Vlisco&co. Featuring fashion designs by Papa Oyeyemi and Abiola Olusola.

AYA OF YOP CITY Marguerite Abouet

Based on Marguerite Abouet's popular graphic novel series about her life in 1970s post-colonial Cote d'Ivoire, this animated film chronicles the story of 19-year-old Aya and her friends Adjoua and Bintou, who live in the working-class neighborhood of Abidjan (renamed Yop City). While Aya would like to become a doctor one day, her friends are more interested in nightclubbing at the local maquis and hunting for a husband.



STREET 66

Ayo Akingbade

A Chronicle of the life of Ghanaian housing activist Dora Boatemah and her influence on the regeneration of Angell Town Estate in Brixton, South London.

MEET THE FILMMAKERS

Fradique (Director, *Air Conditioner*)

Fradique is one of the talented and expressive voices in Angolan contemporary cinema. He is one of the founders of the production company Geração 80. Among the films he directed are the short film “Alambamento” (2010) and the documentary “Independence” (2015) which was screened at several international film festivals and won Angola’s National Culture Prize for Cinema. It was recognized as a remarkable step towards recovering Angola’s collective memory. He’s a Berlinale Talent and a Realness Screenwriting Residency alumni. He’s developing his next feature film “The Kingdom of Casuarinas” (2022).

Marguerite Abouet (Author & Co- Director, *Aya of Yop City*)

Marguerite Abouet was born in Abidjan, Ivory Coast and currently lives in a suburb of Paris, where she works as a legal assistant and writes novels. *Aya* is her first comic. It taps into Abouet’s childhood memories of Ivory Coast in the 1970s, a prosperous, promising time in that country’s history, to tell an unpretentious and gently humorous story of an Africa we rarely see—spirited, hopeful, and resilient.

Ayo Akingbade (Director, *Street 66*)

Ayo Akingbade works predominantly with moving image, addressing notions of power, urbanism and stance. Interested in the fluid boundaries between the self and the other, she gathers local and cultural experiences in intimate and playful interpretations.

Njiiri Karago (Director, *Kiu*)

Njiiri Karago is filmmaker from Nairobi, Kenya. After graduating from high school he worked in the Kenyan film industry mostly as a runner while pursuing a Business degree. From that experience he reached the realization that film was his calling. He then enrolled in a film school where he graduated with a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Motion Picture and Film. He majored in Directing and screenwriting. His graduation film, *Resilience* won him best director in his final year. He is currently working on other narrative projects in Kenya

Dafe Oboro (Director, *A Beautiful Struggle*)

Dafe Oboro is a filmmaker, photographer, casting director and producer from Lagos, Nigeria. More of his work is available at dafeoboro.com.

Palesha Shongwe (Director, *uNomalanga & The Witch*)

Palesha Shongwe is an independent filmmaker, scriptwriter and teacher. Her first film, *Atrophy*, won the Jury Award at the Oberhausen Short FF in Germany. Her current film, *uNomalanga and the Witch*, follows newlywed Nomalanga, who moves into a new neighborhood with her husband and finds herself intrigued by a mysterious widow who everyone suspects killed her late husband.

MEET THE PANELISTS

Thomas Allen Harris

Thomas Allen Harris is a filmmaker and artist whose work across film, video, photography, and performance illuminates the human condition and the search for identity, family, and spirituality. Graduate of Harvard College and the Whitney Independent Study Program, member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, and published writer/curator, Harris lectures widely on the use of media as a tool for social change. He lectures and teaches on media arts, visual literacy, and personal archiving at such institutions as Yale, Dartmouth, University of California, and many others.

Tavia Nyong'o

Tavia Nyong'o is Chair and Professor of Theater & Performance Studies, Professor of American Studies, and Professor of African-American Studies at Yale University. He was previously acting Chair and Associate Professor of Performance Studies at New York University. His current research and teaching interests span black queer cultural and performance studies, contemporary art and aesthetic theory, speculative genres, afrofuturism, and black sound studies. Nyong'o's first book, *The Amalgamation Waltz: Race, Performance, and the Ruses of Memory* (2009) won the Errol Hill award for the best book in black theater and performance studies.

Angie Epifano (moderator)

Angie Epifano is a PhD student in the History of Art with a focus on West African art and the art of the Afro-Atlantic, particularly the African Diaspora in Brazil. Her work primarily focuses on material culture produced from the eighteenth to the early-twentieth centuries. She is interested in issues of power, resistance, materiality, and cultural exchange between African actors. Her first article, entitled "The Image of Sékou Touré: Art and the Making of Postcolonial Guinea," was published in 2019 in the edited volume, *Fictions of African Dictatorships*.

Yasmina Price (moderator)

Yasmina Price is a joint PhD student in the Departments of African American Studies and Film/Media Studies. Her work is focused on the African diaspora within the larger schema of anti-colonialist art-making. She is invested in the de-centering and un-settling methods of Black Studies, particularly as they are applied in cinema. She seeks to explore how these enmeshed practices are incarnated as spectacle, bodily fragmentation and cross-medium translation. Yasmina's academic work is anchored in a commitment to anti-imperial and abolitionist organizing.

Alexandra Thomas (moderator)

Alexandra M. Thomas is a Ph.D. student in History of Art and African-American Studies, with a certificate in Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies. Interdisciplinary in nature, her research interests include: global modern and contemporary art, African and African diasporic visual and expressive cultures, feminist and queer theory, and critical museum studies. She is currently a 2019-2020 Graduate Curatorial Assistant in the Department of African Art at the Yale University Art Gallery, where she has also worked as a Wurtele Gallery Teacher.