



**PRESS RELEASE**

**October 18, 2022**

## **Afrikamera 2022 at the Humboldt Forum: Urban Africa, Urban Movies – Migration & Diaspora**

**Under the artistic direction of Alex Moussa Sawadogo, the film festival AFRIKAMERA – CURRENT CINEMA FROM AFRICA presents for the second time a program in the Humboldt Forum. Running from November 10th to 13th, 2022, the program focuses on productions that cinematically reflect urban Africa and its cultural identity. In addition to German premieres, the Humboldt Forum Foundation presents comedic formats in the Berlin Palace, such as the short film reel AFRICAN SHORTS – LAUGH IS POSSIBLE, the AFRICA RIDING youth program, a theater performance, VR productions and a panel on *The Art of Collaboration*. In cooperation with SUNSHINE CINEMA (South Africa), CINEMA SPACES NETWORK shows a selection of short films in the foyer. Numerous filmmakers will be on site for discussions.**

Be it festivals or regular film screenings as part of larger focus areas: since opening, the Humboldt Forum has developed into a place for film lovers. It gives special prominence to international film, most notably with the AFRIKAMERA film festival, as well as the CINEMA SPACES NETWORK and the newly launched BOX OFFICE AROUND THE WORLD series. In its 15th edition, AFRIKAMERA presents for the second time a program in the Humboldt Forum that has been commissioned by the Humboldt Forum Foundation in the Berlin Palace. The program is curated by Alex Moussa Sawadogo who is also director of the FESPACO film festival in Burkina Faso, one of the most prestigious film festivals on the African continent.

The AFRIKAMERA program opens with a theater production by Burkinabe actress Roukiata Ouédraogo. In her solo, **JE DEMANDE LA ROUTE**, she shares with the audience her adventurous journey of initiation from the suburbs of Ouagadougou to the Château-Rouge district of Paris. With a great deal of humor and self-irony, she describes life in the French diaspora, going from odd jobs as a cashier and hairdresser to the stage of the Théâtre de l'Œuvre.

The drama **FATHER'S DAY** by Kivu Ruhorahoza from Rwanda tells three interwoven stories that take place in this East African country against the backdrop of the genocide, but without explicitly referring to it. A mother struggles to cope with the loss of her only son; a young woman cares for her bedridden father and prepares for an organ donation; a young boy wanders the city with his father, a petty criminal with poor impulse control.

In current cinema from Africa, comedic works have, so far, received little attention. As a cultural technique, humor and mockery in particular, also of folk origin, demonstrate identity-forming power, strengthen social cohesion, and become the subject of artistic production. The short film reel, **AFRICAN SHORTS – LAUGH IS POSSIBLE**, is a compilation of four comedic shorts from Nigeria, Kenya, Egypt, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In Keni Ogunlola's **LODGERS** (Nigeria / UK 2016 / 23 min. / Sub Eng.), two Nigerian professionals decide to move to England. They are ambitious but a bit arrogant, and believe that their domestic diplomas will open up a great professional future for them in their new place of residence. The reality, however, turns out to be a bit more complicated.... Director Keni Ogunlola will be on hand for a Q&A.

In **NIGHT SHIFT** (Egypt 2020 / 14 min. / Sub Eng.), a short film by Egyptian director, Karim Shabaan, a late-night caller completely upsets twenty-year-old call center employee, Zain.

Marcus Onalundula's latest short film is about erotic entanglements. In **ABOULA NGANDO** (DR Congo / France 2021 / 20 min. / Sub Eng.), the eponymous protagonist cheats on his wife with another woman. When he finally returns home, he experiences a big surprise....

In **SUNGURA** (Kenya 2019 / 20 min. / Sub Eng.) by Lydia Matata, a young wheelchair user faces the prejudice of not being able to have sex because of her disability. When she wants to buy a vibrator from a sexologist at a bridal shower, turbulence ensues.... The director will be present at the screening.

AFRIKAMERA presents a classic of the genre with the polygamy comedy, **BAL POUSSIÈRE** (Ivory Coast / France 1988, 88 min. / Sub Eng.) by Henri Duparc. Demi-dieu (demigod) is a wealthy farmer and village chief with five wives. When he decides to marry a sixth wife, young Binta, in order to have a spouse for every day of the week (except Sunday, the day of rest), his five other wives become upset. However, Binta, a modern, self-confident woman, does not want to be subordinated. With humor and slapstick, Ivorian director, Henri Duparc, invites the audience to reflect on ingrained habits and social change, and to practice a reflection in self-criticism.

Henriette Duparc, film producer and member of the Fondation Henri Duparc, will be present for the screening. In the public discourse format "**THE ART OF COLLABORATION - Migration & Diaspora**" on Saturday, African and European filmmakers and multipliers will address questions around (Afro)-diasporic filmmaking in various discussions, a roundtable, and a keynote. Questions about identities, narratives, backgrounds and the mutual influence of diasporic communities and social majorities on the language of film will be asked. The event will highlight cooperation and networks for transnational filmmaking. Related to this are discussions of what stories diasporic filmmakers want to or are able to tell in their films. Production and financing opportunities and the current challenges related to co-productions in transnational cinema will be discussed at the roundtable. The festival Saturday will close with Adolf El Assal's tragicomedy **SAWAH** (Egypt / Belgium / Luxembourg 2019 / 83 min. / Sub Eng.). SAWAH tells the odyssey of young Egyptian DJ, Samir, whose plane is suddenly diverted to Luxembourg due to a strike while traveling from Cairo to Brussels for a DJ festival. There, the string of bad luck continues: after losing his luggage and papers, Samir is stuck in the airport and mistaken for a refugee, while a revolution breaks out in his home country....

**AFRICA RIDING** (France 2018) marks the second time AFRIKAMERA presents a youth program with guests. The documentary series by Liz Gomis and Aurélien Biette, from which a selection of five episodes will be shown, follows different communities of riders—skateboarders\*, roller skaters\*, bikers\*—in Accra (Ghana), Kigali (Rwanda), Dakar (Senegal) and Kampala (Uganda).

Curated by Florian Wachinger (AFRIKAMERA), a **virtual reality lounge** with current 360-degree productions on this year's thematic focus, Urban Africa, Urban Movies: "Migration & Diaspora", will be set up daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the large foyer during the opening hours of the Humboldt Forum to accompany the festival program. Admission is free!

In cooperation with AFRIKAMERA, moreover, the SUNSHINE CINEMA initiative (South Africa) presents, as part of the CINEMA SPACES NETWORK, two SUN BOXES in the Mechanical Arena in the large foyer; on them, a selection of short films will be screened and the work of the cinema Spaces Networks will be introduced daily from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for the duration of the festival. SUPER SOLAR POWERED ACTIONS! is curated by Manyatta Screenings (Kenya) and accompanied by live interactions of the SUNSHINE AMBASSADORS, who will talk about their cinematic work in South Africa (free admission).  
**Complete program:** [humboldtforum.org/afrikamera](http://humboldtforum.org/afrikamera)

One building, four partners: This diversity is founded on the collaboration of our partner institutions. The Humboldt Forum is a collaboration between the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss; the Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz for collections from the Ethnologisches Museum and the Museum für Asiatische Kunst of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin; the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin for the Humboldt Lab; and Kulturprojekte Berlin with the Stadtmuseum Berlin for the BERLIN GLOBAL exhibition.

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