

Festival del Cinema Africano, d'Asia e America Latina Milano 16-21 March 2010

“WINDOWS ON THE WORLD” FEATURE FILM Competition

A careful selection of the latest fiction films from Africa, Asia and Latin America: films which contribute to promote cinematic and cultural diversity in Italy and Europe.

Competition for the BEST AFRICAN FILM

An extensive and significant choice of feature films from recent African production. Attention ranges from young filmmakers to established directors whose films have been presented at the major festivals.

“WINDOWS ON THE WORLD” DOCUMENTARY Competition>

A selection of feature-length documentaries by directors from Africa, Asia and Latin America. Preference is given to creative documentaries, i.e. by documentary-makers who use a non-traditional and subjective language far removed from the usual patterns of TV formats.

AFRICAN SHORT FILM Competition

This section includes a careful selection of short fiction films and documentaries made by directors from all over Africa and the Diaspora. The aim of the section is to promote young African filmmakers taking their first steps in the cinema.

The **NON-COMPETITIVE** section showcases a selection of films and documentaries on the three continents made by Western filmmakers.

EXTR'A, the non-competitive section for Italian filmmakers, presents films on the three continents featured in the Festival or on issues related to immigration in Italy.

Thematic section: AFRICA ON THE BALL: CINEMA AND FOOTBALL IN THE RUN-UP TO THE WORLD CUP

For the first time ever, in 2010 an African country, South Africa, will be the host for the World Cup. Always attentive to the hottest issues from the African continent and above all to the images that this continent produces, the Festival has decided to dedicate a section to the films and videos which in recent years have dealt with the most impassioned and contradictory aspects of the phenomenon of football in Africa. We will be presenting the reportage by journalist Corrado Zunino, *Il Mercato della Coppa d'Africa*, filmed in Accra during the Africa Cup of Nations, a journey through the pitches (the fields of red earth, pitches of sun-baked earth, yards, arenas and landfills) where the hopes of young African footballers are “played” out; the classic film of African cinema *Le ballon d'or* (The Golden Football) by Guinea's Cheick Doukouré which tells the story of Bandian. This young boy lives in an African village and follows football matches on the radio, dreaming of one day being able to imitate his idols, the great African champions. This film, which since 1994 has gone right round the world, is perhaps the only fiction feature film made by an African wholly on football, despite the enormous importance of this sport in the continent. Football in Africa also means redemption, regaining dignity, salvation from social deterioration and overcoming religious prejudice. This is shown by two very recent South African films we have

selected: Streetball by Demetrius Wren and More Than Just a Game by Junaid Ahmed. The first one tells the story of seven street kids who are selected to play in the Homeless World Cup 2008 in Australia. The other film, by alternating interviews, archive footage and fiction, tells the true story of five political activists who were held in the infamous prison of Robben Island by the apartheid regime, who were able to resist long years of imprisonment by forming a football team to vent their passion and channel their energy. The Cameroon director Florence Ayisi, with her Zanzibar Soccer Queens then offers us a fine portrait of the Women Fighters, the most important team of women's football in Tanzania, which has to cope with the prejudices laid down by Islam. Football is interwoven with politics in Entre la coupe et l'élection by Monique Phoba Mbeka and Guy Kabeya Muya, which follows the research by two young Congolese who decide to make a documentary for a lasting memory of the stars of the national team who had taken part in the 1974 World Cup. But we know that the football phenomenon is even more complex. We are also presenting films in this section which have tried to investigate the dark side of the business of football which obviously affects Africa as well. Highly critical, Fahrenheit 2010 by Craig Tanner is a South African/Australian co-production: if TV audiences all over the world are looking forward to the World Cup and in South Africa the excitement is increasing and the decisive moment is approaching, there are many questions that arise behind the scenes and what this major media event means in a country that is still thwarted by far-reaching contradictions.

Special section: FORGET AFRICA

In collaboration with the Rotterdam International Film Festival, this year the Festival is presenting the national première of the section Forget Africa. It is the first time that an international festival of the calibre of Rotterdam has dedicated such a rich and innovative focus to Africa and we are delighted to be able to bring it to Italy. It was the idea of Gertjan Zuilhof (the historic programmer of Rotterdam) who said: "There was no other reason to have had this section now except that we should have done it before". The brand new series with the provocative title Forget Africa is made up of films commissioned by the Rotterdam Festival and shot by Asian and Western filmmakers in the continent in collaboration with local directors. The result of these films, created on the basis of their first impressions, is surprising. Against every stereotyped image of the continent, the exchange of points of view with the local filmmakers gives us an image of Africa seized in its everyday life, in the streets and in all its forms of vital artistic expression. The Forget Africa special focus includes films by the Filipino filmmaker Khavn De la Cruz (Cameroon), the Malaysian director Tan Chui Mui (South Africa), the American directors Kimi Takesue (Uganda) and Deborah Stratman (Malawi), the Indian-American filmmaker Pia Sawhney (Rwanda), the German filmmaker Uli Schuppel and the Singapore artist Sherman Ong (Tanzania), the Beijing-based Filipino filmmaker Joanna Vasquez Arong and the Thai artist/director Jakarawal Nilthamrong (Zambia), the Indonesian filmmaker Edwin (Kenya), the American Kevin Jerome Everson (Angola) and the Austrian artist Ella Raidel (Mozambique).

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FESTIVAL

To celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the Festival, we will be presenting some films which have received awards in previous years and which have marked the history of the cinema in Africa and the Diaspora.

Catalogue

Every year the Festival publishes a detailed catalogue on the films selected in the different sections together with complementary information and essays. This year, special attention is given to the Africa on the Ball thematic section and the the Special Forget Africa section.

Opening evening

Monday 15th March, 8.30 p.m. – Auditorium San Fedele

A short performance by the Compagnia Alma Rosé, from their new production, *Il Canto per la città*, a tribute to those who in Milan are not resigned to living an anonymous and secluded life. With Elena Lolli, Manuel Ferreira (Milano per il Teatro award 2009). Presentation of the festival and première of the film *Precious* by the African American director Lee Daniels and nominated for 6 Oscars.

Meeting the directors and press conferences

11.00 a.m. – Spazio Oberdan

Every morning the directors at the Festival meet the press and the public.

Awards ceremony

Saturday 20th March, 8.30 p.m. – Auditorium San Fedele

Awards ceremony and screening of the short film and feature film, awarded the 1st Prize by the Official Jury.

Spazio Oberdan

Screening of the feature film voted best film by the public

Round table

Thursday 18th March, 5.00 p.m. - Spazio Oberdan

2010 the first World Cup in Africa: football stories.

An opportunity to get to know African football better in the company of Filippo Maria Ricci (journalist with Gazzetta dello sport and author of the book on African football “Scusate il ritardo”), South African director Junaid Ahmed (More Than Just a Game), the American producer Michael Smith (Streetball), Emanuela Citterio (journalist with Afronline).

Coordinated by Dario Viganò (President of the Board of Entertainment).

Festival Center

West toll-house, Porta Venezia (Casa del pane). Open from Tuesday 16th to Sunday 21st March from the morning to 8.30 p.m.

A meeting place/café for the guests of the Festival and the public. It will be the venue for a number of initiatives: exhibitions and multidisciplinary activities inspired by the cultures of the three continents.

All the activities for the public will be free of charge.

Tuesday 16th March – 6.30 p.m.

Inauguration of the Festival Center and of the Photo exhibition **Africa on the ball** by the magazine Africa.

Once it was the football of the poor, naive and extravagant. Today it is a goldmine that turns out champions and sports fairy tales but also delusions and ruthless failures. On the eve of the World Cup in South Africa, the first to be held in Africa, twenty photographs go into action to reveal the dreams and illusions of a continent that is playing out its future. A collage of photos taken in crowded stadiums and isolated pitches on the continent, where football is not only fun but, above all, a different perspective from which to see, or imagine, one's future.

Cocktail and musical performance offered by the Consulate of South Africa in Milan.

The events this year include:

Common places, small migrants' stories. The directors speak: thoughts, emotions and experiences of being here and elsewhere. Videobox by Lettera 27 and Kenzi Productions.

The enchanted forest: trees and magic animals, stories and music from the world. A workshop for children where they can listen to stories, make musical instruments and toys from the three continents, organized by the Animondo Association.

Embroider the world. Workshop and installations of ethical fashion by Francesca Grazzini, Naba.

Filmercrossing & bookcrossing for fans of rarities from the three continents; exchanges of books, images and travel experiences.

Mandala (Rangoli). A workshop inspired by the popular art of the mandalas of India to create coloured designs on the ground using natural materials in the Festival Center

And also DJ sets from Africa, workshops on Bollywood Dance and many other new features.

Every day at 5.00 p.m. **Teatime:** the festival looks forward to having you to talk with the guests over tea from the different cultures.

From 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. **Happy Hour** with tastings of world food.

Official Prizes

Windows on the World Feature Film competition

eni Prize euro 15,000

Competition for the Best African Film at the Festival

Credito Artigiano Prize euro 7,500

Windows on the World Documentary competition

Regione Lombardia Prize euro 6,000

Competition for the Best African Short Film

eni Prize euro 7,500

Special Prizes

“Città di Milano” prize awarded by Milan City Council

for the feature film receiving the most votes from the public euro 5,000

CEM-Mondialità Prize for the Best Short Film

The prize will be awarded by a Jury made up of Italian and foreign pupils attending secondary schools in Milan. The prize consists of the acquisition of the home video distribution rights in Italy.

SIGNIS (OCIC and UNDA) Prize

CINIT Prize

The prize consists of the acquisition of the home video distribution rights in Italy for an African short film.

ISMU Prize

The Ismu (Iniziative e studi sulla Multiethnicità) Foundation jury, made up of secondary school teachers awards a prize to the best short film at the festival with an educational value. The prize consists of the acquisition of the home video distribution rights in Italy.

Cumse Prize

The prize consists of the acquisition of the home video distribution rights in Italy for an African short film or African documentary.

Razzismo Brutta Storia Prize

Feltrinelli makes a special award to the best film in the section on the topics of racism and integration.

RAZZISMO BRUTTA STORIA

The Festival takes part in the campaign launched by

Feltrinelli (publisher and bookstores) with a section of films inspired by an increasingly topical and urgent subject: racism. This new collaboration has given rise to the “**Il Razzismo è una brutta storia**” Prize, which will be awarded to the best film dealing with the topic of racism.

On **19th March at 6.30 p.m.**, at **la Feltrinelli Libri e Musica, piazza Piemonte 2**, three directors meet the public. With the participation of Simonetta Agnello Hornby.

The same meeting, with the same participants, will be “previewed” **for schools at 10.00 on 19th March**, at Feltrinelli Libri e Musica, Piazza Piemonte 2, with the collaboration of ARCI.

SCHOOLS SECTION

To contribute to forming and consolidating an open attitude towards interculture, discussion and exchange, the Festival offers special morning screenings for teachers and pupils.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS FOR SCHOOLS

Auditorium San Fedele – time: 10.00 a.m. -1.00 p.m.

Ticket: euro 4

17th March for the fifth year of primary schools and first year of middle schools

18th March for the second and third years of middle schools

19th March for secondary schools

There will be a Q and A session with the directors and Festival guests before and after the screening

info and reservations: coescuola@coeweb.org tel. 02/66 96 258

Pupils' jury: 9th year

In a crescendo of interest and creative participation by the pupils of secondary schools in Milan, the Pupils' Jury of the Festival has been established, with the task of awarding the CEM Mondialità Prize – of the monthly magazine on intercultural education of the same name – to the Best African short film in competition. This initiative, which for the fourth year running, is organized with the Fondazione L'Aliante of Milan, brings together boys and girls of different origins in a courts on African cinema and film analysis, generating a positive and significant porcess of socialization and active participation. On the conclusion of the event, the pupils receive a certification valid for training credits.

University section

The Festival guests meet the students of Milan's main universities (Università Cattolica, Università Statale di Milano, Università Milano Bicocca, Università degli Studi di Bergamo, IULM). Lectures, special screenings, open lessons and workshops will be a privileged opportunity for dialogue and knowledge of the cultural scenes in the three continents, through an articulated and original educational experience.

VIAGGI SOLIDALI COMPETITION WIN A TRIP TO SENEGAL

The purchase of the Festival Pass entitles you to take part in the draw of a prize-trip for 2 people:
Senegal: the paradise, north of Dakar

This splendid **trip focusing on eco-tourism and responsible tourism** visits two of the most beautiful and interesting protected areas in Senegal: the pink flamingos of the **Ornithological Park of Djoudj**, one of the most important bird reserves in the world and **Langue de Barbarie**, the strip of land between river and sea. There will also be time to admire the delightful **Toubab Dialao beach**, to meet the associations of **Louga** and **Fesfop** with its outstanding artistic and cultural activity, to have a walk through the dunes on the shores of the extraordinary **Pink Lake** and visit **Dakar** and the **Island of Gorée**.

In each place we will be accompanied by the local "custodians of nature" and cultural mediators, to see and share in places and moments of family and community life.

All the details are at: www.viaggisolidali.it – info@viaggisolidali.it

DOPOFESTIVAL in Italy

In the months following the event in Milan, seasons called "Dopofestival" are scheduled in other Italian cities including Catania, Trieste, Reggio Emilia, Forlì, Lecco, Rome, Ancona, Fano, Oristano and Cagliari.

AUDITORIUM SAN FEDELE

Via Hoepli, 3/b
tel. 02 8635.2220
MM Duomo

SPAZIO OBERDAN

Viale Vittorio Veneto, 2
tel. 02 7740.6300
MM Porta Venezia

CINEMA GNOMO

Via Lanzone, 30/a
tel. 02 8846.2460/9
MM Sant' Ambrogio

CINEMA ROSETUM

Via Pisanello, 1
tel. 02.4870.7203
MM Gambara

**CENTRE CULTUREL
FRANÇAIS DE MILAN**

Corso Magenta, 63
tel. 02 485.9191
MM Cadorna

LIBRERIA FELTRINELLI

Feltrinelli Libri e Musica
Piazza Piemonte 2
MM Wagner

FESTIVAL CENTER

Casa del pane - Casello Ovest
MM Porta Venezia

The films have electronic subtitles in Italian.
The films in the
Forget Africa section are subtitled in English or in Italian.

FESTIVAL OFFICE

COE – Centro Orientamento Educativo
Festival Office, Via Lazzaroni, 8 – 20124 MILANO
tel. 02 6696.258 – fax 02 6671.4338
festival@coeweb.org – www.festivalcinemaafricano.org

TICKETS

Ticket for one film show: euro 5

Pass for all the screenings: 25 euro
(euro 15 for students, for the over 65s and for holders of the
Carta Più – Feltrinelli; euro 20 for Alma Rosé members).

Screenings for the schools at the Auditorium San Fedele: euro 4

The Passes are on sale at the Festival Office and in the cinemas

Entry free for the round table and the Festival Center

The programme of the event and screenings will be distributed at the COE office, the cinemas, the
Festival Center, the APT (Via Marconi, 1) and Feltrinelli bookstores in Milan.

**The updated programme online can be consulted on the site
www.festivalcinemaafricano.org**

PRESS OFFICE

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