

# Films from African filmmakers at World Cinema Amsterdam 2021

RIALTO PRESENTS

## World Cinema Amsterdam

World Cinema Amsterdam celebrates its 11th edition from Thursday 19 to Saturday 28 August in Rialto, De Balie and Rialto VU. The festival showcases the best independently produced films from Asia, Africa and Latin America. This year the festival has selected various exceptional films from Africa in the programme Actual Africa. These are films made by filmmakers from the African continent and Dutch and Flemish filmmakers of the diaspora. African cinema has a surprisingly great

diversity and themes. No matter how different all the films from the festival are, a number of themes recur remarkably often. Urgent themes that reflect the current state of affairs in the world. In this infosheet, you can find all films of the [Actual Africa focus programme](#). All films at the festival will be screened with English subtitles.

### WCA & Cinedans present: Baloji shorts

#### PEAU DE CHAGRIN / BLEU DE NUIT

*Baloji | Congo, Belgium | 2018 | 10' | French, Lingala spoken | English subtitles*



A spirited music video by Baloji presenting traditional wedding rituals of Congolese pygmies. "I see music in colours," Baloji says. "I have synaesthesia and I perceive music on a sensory level." *In collaboration with Cinedans*

**This short film will be screened before the main film *Aloe Vera*.**

**More information [here](#)**

**RIALTO:** SAT 21 AUG – 21.45h (*with Q&A director*) | SAT 28 AUG – 19.00h

**RIALTO VU:** THU 26 AUG – 20.30h

#### ZOMBIES

*Baloji | Congo, Belgium | 2019 | 15' | French, Lingala spoken | English subtitles*

Baloji takes us on a journey between hope and dystopia through a hallucinated Kinshasa. From a nightclub to the culture of the hair salon, and from a dictator's campaigning parade to a modern western – a tale of mobile technology and connectivity. *In collaboration with Cinedans*

**This short film will be screened before the main film *Burkinabe*. More information [here](#)**

**RIALTO:** SUN 22 AUG – 19.45h | SAT 28 AUG – 21.30h

**DE BALIE:** WED 25 AUG – 21.30h

**OSCAM\*:** FRI 20 AUG – 21.00h (*with Q&A director*)



\*At Bijlmerplein 110 in Amsterdam Zuidoost you will find OSCAM, the Open Space Contemporary Art Museum. On Friday night, 20 August, a special WCA event with film and Q&A will take place here.



**Baloji** (1978) is a Belgian-Congolese rapper, songwriter and a film and music video director. In the 1990s he had his breakthrough as MC Balo with the band Starflam. He has been performing as a solo artist since 2004. "Baloji" means "man of science" in Swahili. Baloji will be present at WCA 2021.

## Feature films

**EYIFOME** – Part of WCA competition programme

*Arie Esiri, Chuko Esiri | Nigeria | 2020 | 116' | English spoken | English subtitles*

Hardworking handyman Mofe wants to get out of Lagos: he dreams of living in Spain. A death in the family puts him in financial trouble. Rosa lives in a different part of the city – a hairdresser by day, a bar worker at night. She and her younger sister Grace too dream of a life elsewhere, in their case in Italy, and time is somewhat pressing as Grace is pregnant. Where to find the money though, or the right papers? Rosa gets involved with the wrong people.

In their feature debut, twins Arie and Chuko Esiri present a true picture of everyday life in

Lagos, a city where the road to a better life is fraught with many obstacles. A comparison with the work of the Dardenne brothers is obvious – and rightly so.



**More information** [here](#)

**RIALTO:** SAT 21 AUG – 19.00h\* | MON 23 AUG 21.10h

**DE BALIE:** WED 25 AUG – 19.00h

**RIALTO VU:** FRI 27 AUG – 20.30h

*\*Africadelic at WCA: Introduction by Nancy Asaah (curator Actual Africa), Emiel Martens (founder Africadelic) and scriptwriter Christopher Tijan Smith.*

## **BAAMUM NAFI**

*Mamadou Dia | Senegal | 2019 | 110' | Pulaar spoken | English subtitles*



In a small town somewhere in north-eastern Senegal, the brothers Tierno and Ousane find themselves embroiled into a conflict when their children express their intent to get married. Old-school Islamic cleric Tierno combines his faith with ancient local customs. Though also a devout Muslim, candidate mayor Ousane has ties to a fundamentalist faction. When Ousane tells his brother about his son's wedding plans, Tierno will have nothing of it. The ensuing fraternal struggle is less about their children's happiness and more an ideological battle between the two men, originating in their own childhood.

Director Mamadou Dia also wrote the screenplay for his feature debut, a nuanced and humorously told drama. The film won two Golden Leopards at the Locarno film festival.

**More information** [here](#)

**RIALTO:** SUN 22 AUG – 14.10h | TUE 24 AUG – 21.30h

## **THE MERCY OF THE JUNGLE**

*Joel Karekezi | Belgium, France | 2018 | 91' | French, Swahili spoken | English subtitles*



The Rwandan genocide of 1994, with Hutus killing Tutsis, had a long lingering effect, resulting for one in the Second Congo War of 1998. It is against this background that Rwandan director Joël Karekezi situates the events of this war drama. Though that war cost almost 5 million lives, he does not show

any gory violence, but he tells a story of two men getting to know each other under extremely harsh circumstances. It is essentially a story of brotherhood. Awarded at the Ouagadougou film festival and more.

**More information** [here](#)

**RIALTO:** SUN 22 AUG – 17.50h | TUE 24 AUG – 19.10h

### **BURKINABE**

*Nthato Mokgata, Carla Fonseca | South Africa, Burkina Faso | 2019 | 75' | English, French, Diola spoken | English subtitles | Dutch premiere*

A young woman, Mariam, is ill and returns to Burkina Faso, where she was born. Having been sent away as a young child for adoption to South Africa, she hardly knows anything about her native country. Now she is planning to spend her last days in her village in the south west of Burkina Faso. She only does not know how to get there, does not speak the language, and is unfamiliar with the local customs. In the capital Ouagadougou, she befriends a charismatic bike messenger/taxi driver, Moussa, who claims to know the exact place of her village and offers to take her there. Together, they embark on the journey south.



**More information** [here](#)

**RIALTO:** SUN 22 AUG – 19.45h | SAT 28 AUG – 21.30h

**DE BALIE:** WED 25 AUG – 21.30h

### **BAHASHA**

*Jordan Riber | Tanzania | 2018 | 85' | Swahili spoken | English subtitles | European premiere*



Ex-footballer Kitasa (Ayoub Bombwe) has big plans for his family and the community where he grew up. He manages to secure a position in local government. One day, Kampira, one of his political rivals, approaches him with a shady issue, asking Kitasa to look the other way when he starts illegal development on public land. Of course there is a nice reward in it for Kitasa. Kitasa agrees. The consequences are huge: Kitasa becomes entangled in a web of lies and,

what's worse, he loses the respect of his community and family.

In this gripping drama, Zimbabwe-born Tanzanian director Jordan Riber shows the consequences of corruption on a personal level. He does so, remarkably, through the eyes of the corrupt politician Kitasa himself.

**More information** [here](#)

**RIALTO:** SUN 22 AUG – 21.20h

WED 25 AUG – 21.20h



## GHANA FOR YOU

*Adams Mensah | Ghana, Belgium | 2018 | 80' | Dutch, English spoken | English subtitles | Dutch premiere | documentary*

Why do so many young Ghanaians want to emigrate and go to Europe? What is missing in their own country? And do they really know what to expect once they arrive in Europe? Starting from his personal experiences, Mensah travels through the country with Belgian and Ghanaian friends looking for possible answers. At 14, filmmaker and actor Adams Mensah moved from Accra to Brussels, his father's place of residency for many years already. It's easy for him to talk, many tell him, after all he has already achieved their ideal. In this documentary Mensah questions his own position.



More information [here](#)

**RIALTO:** SAT 21 AUG – 16.45h (*with Q&A director*)

**RIALTO VU:** THU 26 AUG – 15.30h

**OSCAM\*:** FRI 20 AUG – 21.00h (*with Q&A director*)

\*At Bijlmerplein 110 in Amsterdam Zuidoost you will find OSCAM, the Open Space Contemporary Art Museum. On Friday night, 20 August, a special WCA event with film and Q&A will take place here.

## ALOE VERA

*Peter Sedufia | Ghana | 2020 | 107' | English spoken | English subtitles | European premiere*



Which came first: the chicken or the egg? In a once peaceful community, this discussion got so out of hand that the people decided to establish a permanent border in their village, with all belonging to "team chicken" living on the blue side and the "egg believers" on the yellow side. No one is allowed to cross the line. Meanwhile, Aloewin and Veralin fall in love. There is just one problem: he lives on the blue side, she on the yellow. Their longing to be together is so great, however, that they meet

secretly outside the village's borders. When their parents, also the leaders of both camps, discover what is going on, the fat is in the fire.

In this romantic film, Ghanaian director Peter Sedufia, who also wrote the screenplay, adds an original twist to the old story of *Romeo and Juliet*. His message is as simple as it is universal: love doesn't recognize borders.

More information [here](#)

**RIALTO:** SAT 21 AUG – 21.45h | SAT 28 AUG – 19.00h

**RIALTO VU:** THU 26 AUG – 20.30h

## NTARABANA

*François L. Woukoache / Rwanda, Cameroun / 2017 / 90' / Kinyarwanda, French spoken / English subtitles / documentary*

"Trauma is somewhat alleviated when the tragedy is collective," says Anastasie Murekaze. The tragedy she speaks of took place between the 6th of April and the 4th of July 1994, when incited Hutus started killing in Rwanda. They were after their compatriots, Tutsis and moderate Hutus, of whom more than one million eventually died.

At the risk of their own lives, Rugwiza Froduald and Mukankundiye Anne-Marie tried to protect Tutsis during the genocide by offering them a hiding place in Ntarabana in northern Rwanda.

In this documentary, Belgian-Cameroonian director François L. Woukoache primarily wants to listen to the stories and try to understand something of the horror that held the country in its grip at the time. He gives viewers pauses to breathe showing surreal landscape stills, accompanied by whispered consolation chants, bird songs and the blowing of the wind. Difficult as it may be, Murekaze has forgiven the perpetrators.

*Made possible thanks to the Institut français Paris and the Institut français des Pays-Bas.*



**More information [here](#)**

**RIALTO:** SUN 22 AUG – 15.30h | THU 26 AUG – 17.00h

## US IN BETWEEN

*Shirley Frimpong-Manso / Ghana / 2020 / 90' / Ga, Twi, English spoken / English subtitles / Dutch premiere*



Inevitably, more and more people are infected with coronavirus worldwide in 2020. Though things are still relatively calm in Ghana and the capital Accra, young nurse Emelia urges the laconic hospital management to finally make some real preparations. Meanwhile, she has also become involved in a new romantic affair that will test her faith in love. When the first infection is established, everything goes terribly wrong; politicians are not taking the pandemic very seriously either.

"We had to tell the story. It's almost like a calling," says Ghanaian director Shirley Frimpong-Manso, showing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in her country in her latest film. It was not easy, as she was forced to film some scenes during lockdown – with all the associated risks. She dedicated the film to all the people who were the first to start fighting the outbreak.

More information [here](#)

**RIALTO:** SUN 22 AUG – 21.40h | WED 25 AUG – 19.20h

**RIALTO VU:** THU 26 AUG – 18.00h

## World Cinema Classic

At the first edition of the Festival panafricain du cinéma et de la télévision de Ouagadougou, held in Burkina Faso in 1969, *La femme au couteau* by Ivorian director/actor/writer **Timité Bassori** made its world premiere. In it, Bassori links Freudian motifs to a traditional African narrative structure. He plays the lead role himself. The classic film has recently been fully restored and can be seen during WCA 2021.



### LA FEMME AU COUTEAU

*Timité Bassori | Côte d'Ivoire | 1969 | 90' | French spoken | English subtitles*

After a long stay in Europe, a young Ivorian intellectual returns to Ivory Coast. Back home, he not only has difficulty readjusting, but also struggles with serious sexual inhibition, stemming from his very strict upbringing. He is haunted by recurring visions of a woman brandishing a huge knife. Paralyzed with fear, he is unable to enter into a relationship with a woman. He tries everything to get rid of the visions, but nothing helps.

More information [here](#)

**RIALTO:** SAT 21 AUG – 14.30h

**RIALTO VU:** SAT 28 AUG – 15.00h

## African Shorts by Female Directors

A selection of shorts made by various female directors. Those will be screened as one programme in Rialto De Pijp at Tuesday 24 of August and Thursday 26 of August.

### AFRICAN WOMEN IN TIME OF COVID-19

*Various directors / Various countries / 2020 / 14' – each short 2' / Various languages / English subtitles / Dutch premiere*

The Ladima Foundation, a Pan-African organization supporting women in creative industries, asked seven African women to visualize the impact of COVID-19 on their lives – seven personal gems about uncertainty, domestic violence, but also about perseverance and hope.

1. Love, Zawadi by Wambui Gathee (**Kenya**)
2. Face Mask for Sale by Neha Manoj Shah (**Kenya**)
3. The Tempest by Skinnor Davillah Agello (**Kenya**)
4. Worlds Apart by Yehoda Hammond (**Ghana**)
5. My Sunshine by Chioma Devine Favour Mathias (**Nigeria**)
6. Blunder by Fezeka Tholakele (**South Africa**)
7. Being by Malak El Araby (**Egypt**)

### UNE PLACE DANS L'AVION

*Khadidiatou Sow / Senegal / 2016 / 18' / Wolof spoken / English subtitles*

Remarkable news on the radio: a special aircraft to the US is at the disposal of anyone who wishes to emigrate hassle-free. Having always dreamt of leaving, Moussa decides to set off . One problem though: there are a limited number of seats available...



### LA FEMME – LIONNE

*Lobé Ndiaye / Senegal / 2018 / 26' / Wolof spoken / English subtitles*



Madame Andrée Marie Diagne Bonané, nicknamed Woman-Lioness, is a writer, but first and foremost a teacher. She has been fighting for the position of girls in education for forty years. She is convinced that girls with a good education can succeed and become the leaders of their nations.

More information [here](#)

**RIALTO:** TUE 24 AUG – 19.40h  
THU 26 AUG – 17.20h

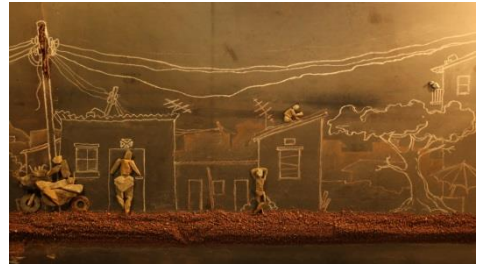


## Actual Africa Shorts

### MACHINI

*Tétshim, Frank Mukunday | Congo, Belgium | 2019 | 10' | French spoken | English subtitles*

Congo is rich in raw materials, which are in high demand worldwide. There are mining sites all over the country. How does this impact the city, nature? This is what Congolese artists Tétshim and Frank Mukunday show in their stop-motion film.



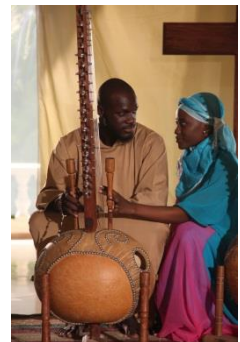
**This short film will be screened before the main film *Ntarabana*. More information [here](#)**

**RIALTO:** SUN 22 AUG – 15.30h  
THU 26 AUG – 17.00h

### UN AIR DE KORA

*Angèle Diabang | Senegal | 2019 | 24' | Wolof, French spoken | English subtitles | Dutch premiere*

Salma, a Muslim girl, dreams of being a kora player, but in her tradition, a woman is not allowed to play this beautiful string instrument. By chance the opportunity presents itself to her to receive lessons from a true kora maestro: a monk.



**This short film will be screened before the main film *Baamum Nafi*. More information [here](#)**

**RIALTO:** SUN 22 AUG – 14.10h  
TUE 24 AUG – 21.30h

### I AM LIVING IN GHANA GET ME OUT OF HERE

*Comfort Arthur | Ghana | 2019 | 8' | English spoken | Dutch premiere*

What can someone moving from London to Ghana expect? Filmmaker and animator Comfort Arthur, born in Ghana, raised in the UK, shows it in this funny animated video. The character Comfort faces many challenges.



**This short film will be screened before the main film *Ghana for You*. More information [here](#)**

**RIALTO:** SAT 21 AUG – 16.45h  
**RIALTO VU:** THU 26 AUG – 15.30h

## Saturday 21 AUG: Africadelic@WCA – Opening Actual Africa

The Africadelic Festival is an annual event around International Africa Day. Through concerts, films and talks, the festival offers a reflection on the state of Africa and a celebration of the cultural creativity of the continent and the diaspora. Together with Africadelic, the focus programme Actual Africa will be opened on Saturday, 21 August with two films plus preceding short films.

### RIALTO | SAT 21 AUG 19:00h:

*Introduction by Nancy Asaah (curator Actual Africa), Emiel Martens (founder Africadelic) and scriptwriter Christopher Tijan Smith, Gambian actor and screenwriter of **Help!**. The evening will be presented by Nigerian filmmaker Kayode Gomes (Africadelic), who has been granted asylum in the Netherlands based on his LGBTQ+ activism.*

#### Main feature:

**EYIMOFÉ** (Arie & Chuko Esiri | Nigeria)

#### Preceding short films (with Q&A director Christopher Tijan Smith):

##### HELP!

*Christopher Tijan Smith | Gambia | 2020 | 1' | No dialogue | Dutch premiere*

Ultra-short film about domestic violence and sexual abuse of young girls in The Gambia. Gambian screenwriter Christopher Tijan Smith wrote the story during his stay at the centre for asylum seekers in Assen.

##### NDANKA NDANKA

*Dandana | Gambia, Netherlands | 2020 | 6' | English spoken | English subtitles | Dutch premiere*

Music video of the Gambian/Senegalese/Dutch music collective Dandana. In Wolof, "Ndanka Ndanka" means "easy easy": take your time day by day, just as Gambians do.

More information [here](#)

### RIALTO | SAT 21 AUG 21:15h:

*Introduction by Nancy Asaah and Emiel Martens.*

#### Main feature:

**ALOE VERA** (Peter Sedufia | Ghana)

#### Preceding short film (with Q&A rapper and director Baloji):

**PEAU DE CHAGRIN / BLEU DE NUIT** (Baloji | Congo, Belgium)

More information [here](#)

Earlier that same day, at 16:45h, Nancy Asaah will also introduce the film [Ghana for You](#), together with Belgian-Ghanaian director **Adams Mensah**.

### **Rialto VU: a brand new festival venue**

Like every year, World Cinema Amsterdam will take place at different venues throughout Amsterdam. Besides Rialto De Pijp and De Balie, there is a brand new venue: Rialto VU. Rialto VU is a new theater, located in a new building on the campus of VU Amsterdam at De Boelelaan 1111 with four state-of-the-art screening rooms.

Rialto VU will officially open its doors in November 2021. However, for World Cinema Amsterdam, Rialto VU will open its doors for a few days already in August. From August 25 to 28, a select number of films can already be seen. Check the [website](#) for the complete programme.

### **Additional information about the festival:**

The 11th edition of World Cinema Amsterdam will be officially opened on Thursday 19 August at Rialto with [Souad](#), the new film by Egyptian director Ayten Amin. In total 8 films will be competing for the World Cinema Jury Award this year. More information about the titles of the Official Competition is available [online](#).

Don't forget to follow us on [Facebook](#).

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### **TICKETS & VENUES**

From the beginning of August, tickets will be available online via [worldcinemaamsterdam.nl](https://worldcinemaamsterdam.nl) and also at the box offices of Rialto and De Balie.

**PRICES:** Regular: € 11,50 | With discount: € 8,50 | Early bird: € 10,50

**RIALTO:** Ceintuurbaan 338 (Amsterdam) | [rialtofilm.nl](https://rialtofilm.nl)

**DE BALIE:** Klein Gartmanplantsoen 10 (Amsterdam) | [debalie.nl](https://debalie.nl)

**RIALTO VU:** De Boelelaan 1111 (Amsterdam) | [rialtofilm.nl](https://rialtofilm.nl)