

## WELCOME TO THE 34th ANNUAL CASCADE FESTIVAL OF AFRICAN FILMS

Dear Esteemed Guests, Filmmakers, and Lovers of African Cinema,

It is with immense excitement that we extend our warmest welcome to each one of you to the 34th year of the Cascade Festival of African Films! Embracing the rich and diverse tapestry of African storytelling, we are thrilled to present over 20 exceptional films that encapsulate the vibrant spirit, cultural depth, and artistic brilliance of the African continent.

As we gather for this cinematic celebration, we embark on a journey through narratives that transcend borders, offering a kaleidoscope of experiences, emotions, and perspectives. From gripping dramas to captivating documentaries, from lighthearted comedies to cutting-edge contemporary pieces, this festival promises to immerse you in the captivating world of African cinema.

Throughout history, storytelling has been at the heart of African culture, weaving tales that echo the heritage, resilience, and sheer dynamism of its people. This year's films stand as testaments to the human experience of navigating multifaceted identities that each of us carry. We are called to celebrate African voices that resonate powerfully across the globe, showing us Africa through African Lenses.

Our festival is a tribute to the filmmakers whose dedication and creativity have brought these extraordinary stories to life. It is also an ode to the audience whose appreciation and support fuel the continued growth and evolution of African cinema. Engage in thought-provoking after-film discussions, immerse yourself in the beauty of storytelling, and embrace the magic woven by these incredible films that not only entertain but also enlighten and inspire.

Thank you for being part of this remarkable journey with us, the longest-running African film festival in the United States. Together, let us revel in the brilliance of African cinema and create unforgettable moments that will linger in our hearts and minds from one Black History Month to the next.

See you at the movies!

Aviva McClure, Eugenie Jolivett Fontana, and the entire CFAF Committee

We are pleased to present a variety of feature and documentary films from Africa and the Diaspora. All the films were made by African and Pan-African filmmakers.

Although it is impossible to represent a whole continent with only a selection of films, it is our hope that through this annual film series we encourage festival-goers and filmophiles to become interested in African cultures and to study them further.

### YOUR SUPPORT KEEPS US GOING STRONG!

Become a Friend of CFAF

by signing up for a monthly contribution of \$10, or an annual contribution of \$80 or more. Every donation is tax deductible.

Sign up at [www.africanfilmfestival.org/donate](http://www.africanfilmfestival.org/donate)

## FESTIVAL SPONSORS

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# THANK YOU

**POSTER DESIGN:** Jacob Mauk, PCC design student

**3-D FESTIVAL ANIMATION:** Felipe Mirez, www.fmirez.com

**CFAF COUNTRY NOTES:** Dr. Candice Goucher, coordinator, editor, writer

**WEB DESIGN TEAM:** Ali Gray, Luis Menchu, Gabriel Nagmay of PCC and Anatole Schaff of Workday

**WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE CONTINUING SUPPORT OF PORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE.**

**WE ESPECIALLY WANT TO THANK:**

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34th Cascade Festival of African Films is a largely volunteer run program.



## CFAF STAFF

Festival Co-Director: Eugenie Jolivett Fontana

Festival Co-Director: Aviva McClure



## THE CASCADE FESTIVAL OF AFRICAN FILMS COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

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Tatyana Dembrow	Mike Johnson	Anatole Schaff	

## 34th Cascade Festival of African Films HIGHLIGHTS

**FEBRUARY 2 – MARCH 2**

- **Opening Night Ceremony at Hollywood Theatre:** Friday, February 2nd at 6:30pm (doors 6:00) with Keynote by PCC President Dr. Adrien L. Bennings
- **PCC Sylvania Performing Arts Center:** Friday, February 9th at 7:00 pm
- **Tomorrow Theater with Portland Art Museum:** Sunday, February 11th at 6:00 pm (doors at 5pm)
- **Centerpiece Film & Performance at Hollywood Theatre:** Friday, February 16th at 6:30pm (doors 6:00)
- **Family Fest with North Portland Library at PCC Cascade:** Saturday, February 24th at 2pm with student-led activities
- **Closing Night at PCC Cascade:** Saturday, March 2nd at 7pm followed by DJ
- **Talkbacks after every evening feature film** at 9pm throughout the festival

**All Events are FREE and Open to the Public**

[www.africanfilmfestival.org](http://www.africanfilmfestival.org)

## Festival at a Glance

	DATE / TIME	TITLE	LOCATION
Week 1	Feb 2, 6:30 pm	GOODBYE JULIA	Hollywood Theatre
	Feb 3, 2:00 pm	CATCHING FEELINGS	PCC Moriarty
Week 2	Feb 3, 7:00 pm	FOUR DAUGHTERS	PCC Moriarty
	Feb 8, 7:00 pm	THE LAST SHELTER	PCC Moriarty
	Feb 9, 7:00 pm	ELESIN OBA, KING'S HORSEMAN	PCC Sylvania PAC
Week 3	Feb 10, 2:00 pm	MARRIED TO WORK	PCC Moriarty
	Feb 10, 7:00 pm	OMEN	PCC Moriarty
	Feb 11, 6:00 pm	MAMBAR PIERRETTE	Tomorrow Theater
	Feb 15, 7:00 pm	TAAMADEN	PCC Moriarty
Week 4	Feb 16, 6:30 pm	SIRA	Hollywood Theatre
	Feb 17, 2:00 pm	Short Film Series	PCC Moriarty
	Feb 17, 7:00 pm	MWABI/ CAN THEY SEE US?	PCC Moriarty
Week 5	Feb 22, 7:00 pm	SISTERHOOD	PCC Moriarty
	Feb 23, 7:00 pm	OUR LADY OF THE CHINESE SHOP	PCC Moriarty
	Feb 24, 2:00 pm	HAWA	PCC Moriarty
	Feb 24, 7:00 pm	ALL THE COLORS OF THE WORLD ARE BETWEEN BLACK AND WHITE	PCC Moriarty
Women Filmmakers Week	Feb 29, 7:00 pm	TRANSACTIONS	PCC Moriarty
	Mar 1, 7:00 pm	MOTHER OF ALL LIES	PCC Moriarty
	Mar 2, 2:00 pm	LIONHEART	PCC Moriarty
	Mar 2, 7:00 pm	BANEL & ADAMA	PCC Moriarty

## 34th Cascade Festival of African Films

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Online films are available through Multnomah County Library. See page 7 with details.

PCC Cascade events will be held at Moriarty Arts and Humanities Building.

Doors open 30 minutes prior to screening.

### Feature Films

**Opening Night! Friday, February 2nd, 6:30 pm, Hollywood Theatre**  
*directed by Mohamed Kordofani (Sudan, 2023, 118 min.)*

#### GOODBYE JULIA

Ethnic divisions have existed between Arab Muslim Northerners and Christian Southern Sudanese people since the British colonial era to the present day. This complex storyline brings together Mona, a Northerner, and Julia, a Southerner. Although their relationship is based on guilt and deception, they get to know each other and become friends. Each woman experiences growth towards their personal independence at the same time that South Sudan is on the cusp of achieving its independence from Sudan.

*In Arabic with English subtitles.*

**Saturday Matinee, February 3rd, 2:00 pm, PCC Cascade**  
*directed by Kagiso Lediga (South Africa, 2017, 124 min.)*

#### CATCHING FEELINGS

The multi-talented South African director Kagiso Lediga wrote, directed, and acts in this hilariously irreverent romantic comedy. The story follows an urban young academic and his beautiful wife. Their lives get turned upside down when a celebrated and scandalous older writer moves into their Johannesburg home with them. *In English with English subtitles.*

**Saturday, February 3rd, 7:00 pm, PCC Cascade**  
*directed by Kaouther Ben Hania (Tunisia, 2023, 110 min.)*

#### FOUR DAUGHTERS

Part-feature and part-documentary, this unique film is about a Tunisian woman named Olfa and her four daughters, two of whom are drawn to Syria. The efforts to find her daughters is retold by Olfa and her two younger daughters, Eya and Tayssin, along with the reenactment of scenes with actors playing the roles of the two older daughters and sometimes of Olfa herself. An intimate journey of hope, rebellion, violence, transmission, and sisterhood that will question the very foundations of our societies. *In Arabic with English subtitles.*

**Friday, February 9th, 7:00 pm, PCC Sylvania PAC**  
*directed by Biyi Bandele (Nigeria, 2022, 96 min.)*

#### ELESIN OBA, THE KING'S HORSEMAN

This theatrical cinematic adaption of Wole Soyinka's acclaimed anti-colonial stage play, *Death and the King's Horseman*, was inspired by true life events in the Oyo Empire in the 1940s. Elesin Oba, the king's chief horseman, prepares to die in order to fulfill his lifelong debt of ritual suicide to accompany the dead Alaafin to the realm of the ancestors. Beloved director Biyi Bandele (1967-2022) puts ancient customs on trial in this film about the ever increasingly post-modern and Western world. *In Yoruba with English subtitles.*

## VIRTUAL SCREENINGS HOSTED by MULTNOMAH COUNTY LIBRARY!

Free and available to anyone with a library card and access to a streaming device.

Please scan the image below with your phone to access free streaming films through Multnomah County Library



Multnomah County  
**Library**





GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS  
 Cascade Festival of African Films, from Multcolib

Staff-created list **Films available online through Kanopy**

ARAB BLUES (Tunisia, 2019)	PHONE SWAP (Nigeria, 2015)
HIGH FANTASY (South Africa, 2016)	DREAMS OF DUST (Niger, 2016)
THE BEAST (South Africa, 2016)	HORSES OF GOD (Morocco, 2014)
KEN BUGUL: NOBODY WANTS HER (Senegal, 2014)	KEITA (Mali, 2014)
GLORIOUS EXIT (Nigeria, 2014)	BAMAKO (Mali, 2006)
GRIGRIS (Chad, 2017)	A SCREAMING MAN (Congo, 2016)

## 2024 VISITING DIRECTOR

**WELCOME Mmakgosi Anita Tau**  
 director of the short film **FOR THEM THAT PREY**



Mmakgosi Anita Tau is a co-founder of Sekei Girls, a mentorship program that promotes literacy and nurtures creative talents in young scholars. She holds a bachelors degree in Motion Picture Medium, and is currently pursuing a Master of Fine Arts in Film at Syracuse University. Mmakgosi is visiting CFAF from Feb 11th to Feb 17th. Come say hello!

## Documentary Series

### THE LAST SHELTER

Thursday, February 8th, 7:00 pm, PCC Cascade  
*directed by Ousmane Samassekou (Mali, 2021, 83 min.)*

The House of Migrants lies in the peaceful city of Gao—a quiet way station for passersby with their eyes set on Europe in hopes of finding opportunity and safety. As a result of counseling, many ultimately decide not to emigrate. Those who are still determined to leave are given maps of the route and other helpful, life-saving advice. The Last Shelter is an emotional portrait of this town and the generous people who live in it.

*In French, Bambara, Moore with English subtitles.*

### TAAMADEN

Thursday, February 15th, 7:00 pm, PCC Cascade  
*directed by Seydou Cissé (Mali, Cameroon, South Africa, France, Belgium, 2021, 84 min.)*

Taamadén ("Traveler") shows us two worlds: that of a number of West African immigrants who are making a living in Spain, and that of Bakary in Mali, who is preparing for a new attempt. These young men have one thing in common: they have regular contact with a mystical and religious clairvoyant. Switching smoothly between Africa and Europe, Cissé shows how African occultism finds a place in Europe via the smartphone, and how faith and hope can be as strong as harsh reality.

*In French, Bambara, Wolof, and Spanish with English subtitles.*

### SISTERHOOD

Thursday, February 22nd, 7:00 pm, PCC Cascade  
*directed by Mohamed Sessy Kamara (Sierra Leone, 2022, 72 min.)*

Films from Sierra Leone by Sierra Leonean directors are rare, and his one by Sesy M. Kamara is cause for celebration. Husinatu and Hassanatu are twin sisters who decide to move to the Middle East to find better lives for themselves, their children, and their parents. The film is about immigration, family relations, the search for independence and a better future in opposition to family traditions. The film is part of Generation Africa, a documentary project centering on youth and migration.

*In Krio and Fulah with English subtitles.*

### TRANSACTIONS

Women Filmmakers Week! Thursday, February 29th, 7:00 pm, PCC Cascade  
*directed by Rumbi Katedza (Zimbabwe, 2022, 53 min.)*

"Transactions" tells a story of Zimbabwean migration through a family divided by the circumstances of a failed economy. Three siblings, Frank, Miles and Portia, sustain their family through remittances while longing for the country and family they left behind. Their mother, MaMlilo, is a conduit of all the family's challenges in a hyper-inflated economy. Everyone who needs money comes to her in the hopes that she can help them financially. With each monetary transaction, expectations are raised on both sides.

*In Ndebele and English with English subtitles.*

### MARRIED TO WORK

Saturday Matinee, February 10th, 2:00 pm, PCC Cascade  
*directed by Philippe Bresson (Kenya, 2023, 76 min.)*

Set in Zanzibar, this rom-com is a refreshing showcase of inter-African high commerce and intercultural cosmopolitan dynamics. To save their real estate agency, an ambitious businesswoman and her entitled boss must convince an investor that they are married...despite hating each other. This quintessential East African comedy highlights well-known tropes about Swahili vs Kiswahili and the differences among cultures.

*In English and Swahili with English subtitles.*

### OMEN

Saturday, February 10th, 7:00 pm, PCC Cascade  
*directed by Baloji (Belgium/ DRC, 2023, 90 min.)*

Multidisciplinary artist Baloji's feature film debut weaves a mesmerizing tale of cultural exploration, resilience, and the blurred lines between reality and fantasy. *Augure* (Omen) is an ensemble film about four people accused of being witches and sorcerers. Despite their misfortune, they find the way to guide each other away from their socially imposed destinies and into the phantasmagoria of Africa.

*In French, Swahili, Lingala, English with English subtitles.*

### MAMBAR PIERRETTE

Sunday, February 11th, 6:00 pm, Tomorrow Theater PAM  
*directed by Rosine Mbakam (Cameroon, 2023, 93 min.)*

A long line of customers come to see Mambar Pierrette, the Douala resident dressmaker, to have their clothes ready for elite social events and ceremonies. Pierrette becomes much more than a seamstress, but also a confidante to her customers. When the rain storm threatens to flood her workshop, Pierrette will have to stay afloat.

This film is screened in partnership with Portland Art Museum's Africa Fashion Exhibit and followed by a panel discussion with African designers in Portland. *In French with English subtitles.*

### SIRA

Centerpiece, Friday, February 16th, 6:30 pm, Hollywood Theatre  
*directed by Apolline Traoré (Burkina Faso, 2022, 75 min.)*

This bold film tells the story of Sira, a young woman traveling with her family in the Sahel to meet her betrothed, Jean-Sidi. Islamic terrorists attack the party and assaults Sira, leaving her for dead. Sira exacts her revenge in this strong portrayal of female courage and resilience. Winner of the Panorama Audience Award at the Berlin International Film Festival, this stunning film is Apolline Traoré's latest masterpiece. (Contains sexual violence)

*In English, French and Diola with English subtitles.*

### MWABI / CAN YOU SEE US?

Friday, February 17th, 7:00 pm, PCC Cascade  
*directed by Kenny Mumba (Zambia, 2022, 109 min.)*

Rejected by his father at birth, a boy with albinism navigates a childhood of bullying, tragedy and cautious hope in this coming-of-age drama. Based on the life of popular musician John Chiti, this uplifting film reminds us that strength to overcome resides within each of us.

*In English with English subtitles.*

**OUR LADY  
OF THE  
CHINESE  
SHOP**

**Friday, February 23rd, 7:00 pm, PCC Cascade**  
***directed by Ery Claver (Angola, 2022, 98 min.)***

This film makes strong and persistent remarks on colonial past, capitalist present, and perhaps even a future loss of humanity. A surreal, richly allegorical urban tale about how a plastic statue of the Virgin Mary creates unexpected changes to the lives of the people who encounter it on the streets of Luanda. The film captures the dreams and paradoxes of the characters as their lives play out in a city full of resentment and greed, but also friendship and imagination.

***In Portuguese, Mandarin, and English with English subtitles.***

**HAWA**

**Family Fest Saturday Matinee, February 24th, 2:00 pm, PCC Cascade**  
***directed by Maimouna Doucoure (France, 2022, 106 min.)***

Hawa, a young girl, lives alone with her terminally ill grandmother. When she learns that Michelle Obama is visiting Paris, Hawa has the crazy idea of being adopted by her. Everyone around her helps out in the most unpredictable ways. This delightful film will be screened for Family Fest where youth audiences can gather and fun with activities related to the film.

***In English and French with English subtitles.***

**ALL THE  
COLORS  
OF THE  
WORLD  
ARE BETWEEN  
BLACK & WHITE**

**Saturday, February 24th, 7:00 pm, PCC Cascade**  
***directed by Babatunde Apalowo (Nigeria, 2023, 93 min.)***

Bambino is a delivery driver in Lagos when he meets the charismatic Bawa, the two immediately hit it off. Given how terribly dangerous it is to come out in Nigeria where homosexuality is illegal and punishable by 14 years of imprisonment, Bambino is understandably fearful of admitting to himself and to his photographer friend Bawa that he is gay. The film compassionately explores Bambi's anguished inner journey to come to terms with his identity.

***In English and Igbo with English subtitles.***

**Women Filmmakers Week**

**MOTHER OF  
ALL LIES**

**Friday, March 1st, 7:00 pm, PCC Cascade**  
***directed by Asmae El Moudir (Morocco, 2023, 100 min.)***

Psychologists have long used simulations as therapeutic tools to help their patients unlock forgotten memories and heal hidden traumas. Asmae El Moudir does just this in her highly innovative documentary retelling of the Bread Riots in 1981. Through a handmade recreation of her family's old house and neighborhood featuring small figurines the story unfolds.

Many characters serve as "puppeteers" of their own miniature puppet/figurine selves. In this way, they slowly reenact the story, unlocking the hidden secrets and revealing the truth of what happened.

***In Arabic with English subtitles.***

**LIONHEART**

**Saturday Matinee, March 2nd, 2:00 pm, PCC Cascade**  
***directed by Genevieve Nnaji (Nigeria, 2019, 65 min.)***

Running a company is challenging, especially in a male-dominated industry. Looking to prove her worth, Adaeze steps up to the challenge when health issues force her father, Chief Ernest Obiagu, to take a step back. Ironically, he appoints his crude, eccentric brother Godswill to run the company with his young daughter instead. Complications arise when Adaeze and Godswill discover that the business is in financial trouble leading to crazy and often hilarious results.

***In English, Hausa, Ibo with English subtitles.***

**BANEL &  
ADAMA**

**Closing Night, Saturday, March 2nd, 7:00 pm, PCC Cascade**  
***directed by Ramata-Toulaye Sy (Senegal, 2023, 87 min.)***

With its original story and gorgeous cinematography, this debut film is about a young couple who refuses to bow down to tradition. They have decided to live apart from their families because Adama won't accept his blood duty as future chief. When Adama informs the village council of his intention, the whole community is disrupted. The rain that's supposed to come doesn't come, and Banel and Adama will learn that where they live, there is no room for passions, let alone chaos.

***In Pular and Peul with English subtitles.***

**Short Film Series**

**Saturday Matinee, February 17th, 2 pm, PCC Cascade**

From the dark corners of the mind, the abstract of processing environments lived in, and relationships revealing the truth of family bonds, let these films take you on a short journey in connecting to the tenderness of being human.

**For Them That Prey** ***directed by Mmakgosi Anita Tau (USA, 2022, 13 min.)***

A psychological drama about a young woman in transit perpetually harassed in a motel as she attempts to enjoy a simple night of sleep. Hear from the Botswana visiting filmmaker Mmakgosi Anita Tau about her experience as a woman in cinema!

**Night Stop** ***directed by Khadar Ayderus Ahmed (Somalia, 2022, 13 min.)***

A teenage boy meets a mysterious woman on a quiet highway at night.

**Luanda Blue** ***directed by Gegé M'bakudi (Angola, 2022, 13 min.)***

A monochromatic experimental film uses the language of colors to represent a powerful cycle of problematic situations.

**Mistida** ***directed by Falcão Nhaga (Portugal, 2022, 30 min.)***

A mother and son travel the distance from the grocery store while they also deal with issues that haunt them.

**The Last Ranger** ***directed by Cindy Lee (South Africa, 2023, 27 min.)***

When young Litha is introduced to the magic of a game reserve by the last remaining ranger, they are ambushed by poachers.