

AFRIKA Film Festival Köln

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**Press release: 16th Afrika Film Festival Köln (13 to 23 September 2018 at Filmforum im Museum Ludwig)
Theme: migration within Africa**

Dear members of the press, dear colleagues,

The issue of migration is currently unavoidable in the German media and in German politics. Yet little is known of the fates and realities of those involved beyond the headlines. The 16th edition of Afrika Film Festival Köln aims to raise awareness of the largely ignored people migrating within Africa, of the places they migrate to and from, and of the myriad consequences, such as the sprawling refugee camps, the exhausting migration routes, tensions between neighbouring states, and the subsequent resistance against the political causes of migration.

The main film programme (supported by the German Federal Cultural Foundation's TURN fund) is devoted to the situation in Western Sahara. Following its occupation by Moroccan troops in 1974, the majority of the Sahrawi people living there were forced out and into Algeria. Despite the far-reaching media censorship, we will be screening Sahrawi short films and documentaries, and the feature film **APATRIDE**.

This year's festival will again feature a diverse range of offerings: new art house films by famous Arab directors (**VOLUBILIS**, **RAZZIA**), debut features like the coming-of-age dramas **MAKI'LA** from the Congo and **DJON ÁFRICA** from Cape Verde, plus the spectacular thriller **FIVE FINGERS FOR MARSEILLES**, a modern take on the classic Western that explores post-Apartheid society in South Africa.

The subject matter of the short films being screened is equally as diverse as the range of countries they were made in: African Shorts embarks on a journey across Africa, and there are other events dedicated to the African diaspora, creative and experimental filmmaking, and "Afrofuturism". The genre's science fiction elements and the virtual reality programme at Cologne Public Library both help Africa to ditch the label of being homogenous or behind the times.

Our cooperation with other establishments at this year's festival includes a double-bill of readings from **Sami Omar** and **Dr Marion Kraft** at Cologne Public Library (17.09, 7 pm) and a screening of **BAMA KO** (18.09, 7 pm) that will renew our collaboration with Museum Ludwig.

Last but by no means least, there will be two cinematic gems from the archive: **KADDU BEYKAT** by Safi Faye was the first film to be made by a female African director. We will also screen a restored digital version of Adamu Halilu's **SHAIHU UMAR**, a Nigerian film that was long thought to be lost. An early example of authentic African cinema.

Around 25 guests have been invited to discuss the films and surrounding issues. Please check up-to-date announcements for the names of confirmed guests.

Please visit our new website (www.afrikafilmfestivalkoeln.de), or follow us on Facebook (Afrikafilmfestivalkoeln) or Instagram (@afrikafilmfestivalkoeln).

Film links, photos and further information can now be provided. If you wish to conduct interviews with our guests, we kindly ask that you contact us at mail@filminitativ.de

Festival press pass: €10.

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