IIFF2023

28 NOVEMBER - 2 DECEMBER 2023

ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE
DZIVARASEKWA COMMUNITY HALL 1
B2G BATANAI GARDENS

IF IT'S GOOD IT'S AT IIFF
WELCOME NOTE

Greetings!!! The International Images Film Festival for Women is back again. We are excited to bring you our 20th edition, whose theme is ‘Women of Hope’, in which we celebrate 20 years of the International Images Film Festival for Women in Zimbabwe and Abroad. This year IIFF takes place in Harare from 28 November to December 2 and from 8 to 11 December in Bulawayo. Thirty-eight local and international films that range from short fiction to long and short documentaries and long fiction have been selected to provoke and challenge as well as entertain. These films can be seen at the Alliance Francaise, Batanai Gardens (B2C), Dzivarasekwa Community Hall 1 and Hatcliffe Community Centre Hall venues. This year’s festival, as usual, presents a rare program of cinematic gems that Zimbabweans will not have another chance to see on the big screen.

Tafadzwa Chovuchovu - Festival Manager

This year we are honoured to welcome the following international guests:

Ms Souad Houssein, formerly manager of the “Fonds image de la Francophonie”, joins us as the President of the Jury. Ms Houssein’s work with “Fonds image de la Francophonie” involved support to film production, capacity building, production financing and marketing promotion. During her 25 years at the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), Ms Houssein gained a wealth of experience in the development and promotion of films from the Global South. She is currently creating, the Pan-African Audiovisual and Cinema Observatory, which aims to research market trends in Africa and abroad, and suggest suitable cinema policies in African nations.

Souad Houssein

Mr Sana Na N’Handa became the first director of the National Film Institute of Guinea Bissau after graduating from the Cuban Institute of Cinematographic Art and Industry. He continued to develop his art at the Institute for Advanced Cinematographic Studies in Paris. His first feature film, Xime was the fourth film to be produced in Guinea Bissau and received the special jury prize at the Amiens International film festival as well as the special jury prize at the Annonay first film festival. In 1995 Xime was awarded the Intercultural Communication Prize for a Feature Film Vues d’Afrique (views of Africa) festival in Montreal. In 2012, in association with the Filipa Cesar, Flora Gomes and Suleimane Biai, Mr N’Handa initiated the project Luta ca caba ind, The Struggle is not over yet.

Sana Na N’Handa

The theme “Women of Hope” points to stories of women who are still on their journey after deciding on which path to take at the crossroads they come to in their lives. In spite of challenges, they are hopeful and determined that at the end of the path they will achieve their goals and realize their many different and complex dreams, no matter their station in life.

Admission is free at all venues. We look forward to seeing all the curious people out there who are seeking a hopeful way of life.
Ms Binete Undonque started working as an actress with distinguished directors in outstanding plays, such as “Beyond Caring” by Alexander Zelding which received a Golden Globes nomination for the for best play of 2022. She was the lead actress in Sana Na N’Hada’s “Nome”, with a world premiere at the Cannes Film Festival 2023 in the Acid selection. In 2018 she moved to England where she studied at Giles Foreman Center for Acting School and this year she will commence her studies in cinema at London South Bank University.

Ms Zanele Mthembu is the owner and managing director of Brown Panther Films. An independent audio-visual company, Brown Panther films specializes in sports, arts, culture, and music content. Ms Mthembu is also the current Board Chairperson of the South African organization Sisters Working in Film and Television (SWIFT), an organisation created to advocate for equal opportunities for women in the audio-visual sector. Ms Mthembu has over 25 years of experience in media, enabling her to offer diverse expertise, gained through her work in local, regional, and international markets. The International Images Film Festival for Women competition films will be awarded by a jury from diverse parts of the world. The Jurors for IIFF’s competitions are international experts in the cinema of Southern and African countries.

Born in Barcelona after studying psychology at university Ms Carla Sospedra trained and worked as an actress. Moving to the other side of the camera in 2007 she co-founded the production company Cassette Films. In 2015 Ms Sospedra produced the short film, “Sara’s Runaway”, which was awarded the Silver Biznaga prize for Best Short Film at Málaga Spanish Film Festival. Her latest project showing at IIFF this year is the long documentary “Yellow Ceiling”.

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Main Competition

All the way from Djibouti via France is the multi-talented and experienced Souad Houssein who is the President of the Jury after having acquired solid experience in the development and promotion of films from 37 countries, notably through the management of the “Fonds image de la Francophonie” (cinema component).

Zanele Mthembu has served as a juror for the International Emmy Awards in New York City, Wild screen Panda Awards in Bristol, Guangzhou International Documentary Festival Awards, and the South African Film and Television Awards. Ms Mthembu works as a part-time lecturer at the Tshwane University of Technology, Department of Visual Communications. She boasts over 25 years of experience in media and offers diverse expertise, gained through her work in local, regional, and international markets.
Veteran Zimbabwean Filmmaker Mr Tawanda Gunda has been making films since 2000. His audio-visual works includes writing and directing several award-winning films, tv-series, documentaries and feature films, including the internationally acclaimed short film “Peretera Maneta”, (Zw, 2005). He is a trustee of the Institute of Creative Arts for Progress Africa.

**Documentary Competition Jury**

Mr Cosmo Zengeya studied Film and Television at the Zimbabwe School of Film and Television for Southern Africa (ZIFTESSA). In 2010, Mr Zengeya’s documentary on labour migration titled “Much to the Land of Promise” was awarded the best Zimbabwean Documentary in 2013 at the International Images Film Festival for Women in Zimbabwe. Mr Zengeya travelled through, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia and South Africa to produce his documentary. The film explores the dilemmas that immigrants face as they are caught between rejection in a foreign land and the hardships back home. He currently works as a freelance video journalist, writer and documentary filmmaker.

Mr Terrence Mapurisana, is a veteran journalist whose work has been recognised with many awards. Starting out as the editor of several magazines, in 2002 Mr Mapurisana moved to electronic media when he joined the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC) as an Arts Editor. Soon promoted to Arts Correspondent, he rose through the ranks to become the Deputy News Editor for the ZBC News and Current Affairs in 2019, following which he was appointed Managing Editor. Amongst other qualifications, Mr Mapurisana holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Media Studies, a National Diploma in Journalism, and a Diploma in Public Relations.

Ms Daphne Jena holds a B.Sc. (Hons) in Media and Society Studies from the Midlands State University (MSU) and a Master of Science in Development studies from the Women’s University in Africa (WUA). With over seven years’ experience in journalism, writing, feminist organising and women’s rights advocacy, she has written articles for Zimbabwean publications on women’s and youth rights. Ms Jena’s advocacy and activism work began with content creation using online alternative media for activism and human rights advocacy.

**Short film Competition Jury**

Ms Malaika Mushandu holds a BA in Performance Media from AFDA University in South Africa. Ms Mushandu started her career in front of the camera when she became the youngest Miss Zimbabwe winner in 2011 at the age of 16. Working behind the camera after completing her studies, Ms Mushandu has garnered several best director accolades for her debut film “Mirage” (Zw, 2020).

Mr Tari Mtetwa is an award-winning filmmaker with extensive experience in documentary production with a keen interest in experimenting with different art forms. His documentaries, ‘And the Beat Goes On’ and ‘Pixels of Ubuntu” have been screened at film festivals across the world. Mr Mtetwa has also produced short fiction films. Apart from film, he is an educator and a published poet.
Film Producer and National Arts Merit Awards (NAMA) winner Ms Nakai Matema, who also currently serves on the National Film Strategy Team, is a former Executive Director of the Zimbabwe International Film Festival Trust (ZIFFT). During her tenure at ZIFFT, Ms Matema ran the iconic Short Film Project (SFP) whose production won national film awards and were nominated for various international prizes. She recently participated at the Lagos Scriptwriting workshop hosted by ICAPA Trust in October 2023. She has served on juries on various international film festivals such as the Tampere International Short Film Festival, Finland, the Durban International Film Festival and the Cape Town International Film Festival.

Hailing from Matabeleland South, Ms Carine Tredgold was schooled in Bulawayo and graduated from the University of Cape Town with a degree in Architecture. After working in the area of affordable low income housing in newly independent Zimbabwe Ms Tredgold began a career in production design and set building for numerous films, TV Commercials, reality shows and documentaries. She has also created stages for music, theatre and dance festivals. Ms Tredgold was Production Manager for the Harare International Festival of the Arts (HIFA) since 1999. She has also been the Technical Advisor of the Zanzibari Music Festival, Sautiza Busara, since 2015, and has run the Gender@Work stage management training course for Music in Africa - ACCES festival since 2019. Ms Tredgold is passionate about developing a professional film industry in Zimb-}

**Zimbabwean Competition Jury**

Creative writer, editor, playwright and poet Ms Eresina Hwede runs a production company that aims to inspire positive change in Zimbabwe through storytelling. Ms Hwede is a script writer and digital storytelling expert and trainer, as well as being active as a publishing, culture and arts consultant, and as a literary critic. Ms Hwede has written several screenplays and radio and stage dramas. She has served on the jury of the National Arts Merit Awards (NAMA) and has been a judge on Cover to Cover, a schools’ writing competition.

Mr Admire Kamudzengere, is a researcher and lecturer in the University of Zimbabwe's Department of Sociology. Interested in questions of identity, politics, and society, often informed by the multifaceted structural and social issues that have marked Zimbabwe’s last decade, much of Kamudzengere's artistic work consists of self-portraits that explore personal struggle, self-definition and father-son relationships. He works in performance, video, installation and painting, as well as various printmaking techniques including mono type, silkscreen and lithography. His experimental practice captures themes of psychological and political struggle in both the personal histories of families and the parallel narratives of society and nation. Mr Kamudzengere, held his first solo exhibition at Catinca Tabacaru Gallery in New York City in 2017.
Mr Tomas Lutuli Brickhill, born on 25 March 1978, moved to Zimbabwe at an early age with his family. Filmmaker, writer, and musician Mr Brickhill returned to the UK and graduated from the University of Creative Arts in Farnham. On his return to Zimbabwe Mr Brickhill worked as the manager of the Mannenberg, Zimbabwe’s premier jazz venue. In 2015 he returned to film making, working on Zimbabwe’s hit TV show “Battle of the Chefs”, initially as a cinematographer and later as director. During his time on the show, Mr Brickhill developed the concept and script for a feature film based on the international TV show, “Cook Off”. With the same name, Mr Brickhill’s production ‘Cook Off’ (Zw, 2017), became a nationwide success, and was acquired by Netflix, becoming the first Zimbabwean film to stream on the platform.

Mr Abel Dzobo is a Zimbabwean scriptwriter, director and producer who is interested in social justice narrative. His work combines entertainment with subtle activism for a better world. He has written and produced various short films and documentaries on societal ills such as child marriage, child prostitution and maternal mortality. Mr Dzobo holds a Master’s Degree in Media and Society Studies from Midlands State University where he is also a lecturer in Film Studies. He was trained in scriptwriting at a Women Filmmakers of Zimbabwe (WFOZ) program in 2009 by Tsitsi Dangarembga of Zimbabwe and Charles Liburd of the Netherlands.

Dr. Rosemary Chikafa-Chipiro holds a Degree in Film Criticism and Literature from the University of Zimbabwe. She is an African feminist academic whose research centres on African feminisms and African women’s representations across diverse media. She has published extensively on African women’s issues and misogyny in film, literature, social media and politics. She lectures at the University of Zimbabwe in the Department of Creative Media and Communication where she teaches courses on film, gender, race, class and the media, and mass communication.

IIFF 2023 is grateful to all our sponsors who have made IIFF 2023 possible: Open Society Foundation, The Culture Fund of Zimbabwe Trust funded by the European Union, United States Embassy in Zimbabwe, The Director of the Alliance Francaise, Ms Fanny Gauthier, The Embassy of Spain in Zimbabwe, The Netherlands Embassy in Zimbabwe, The Australian Embassy in Zimbabwe, The Institute Francaise, Movies that Matter, The Internationales Frauen Film Festival Dortmund+Köln and Ms Esther Antonio. Thank you to our sponsors and to our audience who have supported the festival through 20 inspiring editions through which the IIFF team has learnt and grown.
AGE 45, AT
Director: Prunuelle Sakofio  Producer: Hadassa Feidangamo
Country: Central African Republic  Year: 2023  Language: French with English subtitles
Running Time: 20 minutes 26 seconds  Short fiction

Evelyne, 45, was to get her baccalaureate to be able to provide the needs of her family. Juliana, her daughter, is embarrassed to be in the same classroom as her. Her husband Simplice opposes her initiative. Thus, she has to face pressures and despondency.

Alliance, Friday 01 Dec, 11:30am-13:30pm
Dzivarasekwa, Saturday 02 Dec, 10:00am-12:00pm

ANASTACIAS
Director: Tathiane Almeida  Producer: Sebastiao Braga & Ricado Vidal  Country: Brazil
Year: 2021  Language: Portuguese
Running Time: 81 minutes  Documentary

Women who had troubled emotional relationships, but who still show deep affection for other people and for life. This is what connects the stories of Anair, Nega, Cenira, Janaina, and Márcia, but also the fact that they all live in the Jabaquara district, on the outskirts of the city of São Paulo. Different stories about abandonment, loneliness, and violence are the starting point to delve into the characters and their intimate and complex worlds. These women revisit past traumas and relationships, but also the good fruits of the present and their plans for the future. Their light-heartedness and good spirits in dealing with daily life events counteract their personal dramas. The film depicts social issues, but especially how these characters deal with emotions and feelings such as acceptance, self-love, and freedom.

Dzivarasekwa, Tuesday 28 Nov, 12:30pm-14:30pm
Batanai Gardens, Thursday 30 Nov, 16:30pm-18:30pm

ANATOMY OF TIME
Director: Jakrawal Nilthamrong  Producer: Mai Meksawan, Chatchai Chaiyon & Yohann Cornu
Country: Thailand, France, Netherlands, Singapore  Year: 2021
Language: Thai with English subtitles  Running Time: 118 minutes  Long Fiction

The growing bond between two stages of a woman’s life separated by time. Maem is a young woman in 1960s rural Thailand. Her clocksmith father imparts his philosophy onto his daughter, while tensions from the military dictatorship and communist rebels are rising. She is courted by two very different young men - a feeble rickshaw driver who is literally pushed aside by an ambitious and ruthless army chief. Fifty years later, the army chief has become a disgraced general. Maem nurses her abusive husband during his last days and looks back at her past filled with loss, suffering and joy.

Alliance Francaise, Wednesday 29 Nov, 11:30am-13:30pm
Hatcliffe, Friday 01 Dec, 14:00pm-16:00pm

BEFORE, NOW AND THEN
Director: Kamila Andimi  Producer: Gita Fara, Ifa Isfansyah & Suma Adiwinata
Country: Indonesia  Year: 2022  Language: Indonesisch with English subtitles
Running Time: 103 minutes  Long Fiction

Raden Nana Suhani, a Sundanese woman in the 1960s, lost a father and son to the war in West Java. She remarried to start a new life with a man who was rich but always looked down on her. Her husband was also an unfaithful person. Nana suffers in silence. Until one day, she became friends with one of her husband’s mistresses who made everything change. Together, these two women seek hope for independence.

Hatcliffe, Thursday 30 Nov, 09:00am-11:00am
Alliance Francaise, Thursday 30 Nov, 16:30pm-18:30pm
BLACK ULTRA VIOLET
Director: Simbarashe Mahachi  Producer: Kgalalelo Mosikare
Country: Zimbabwe  Year: 2023  Language: English
Running Time: 10 minutes  Experimental
After an alien-obsessed astronaut is recruited for a mission in an uncharted sector of space, he discovers that his sense of time is distorting, creating years-long time differences with mission control on Earth as his team is stalked by a mysterious aircraft seemingly retreating from where they are headed.

Dzivarasekwa, Tuesday 28 Nov, 10:00am-12:00pm
Batanai Gardens, Thursday 30 Nov, 10:00am-11:30am

BORGA
Director: York-Fabian Raabe  Producer: Alexander Wadouh & Roxana Richters
Country: Germany  Year: 2021  Language: German, English, French with English subtitles
Running Time: 104 minutes  Long fiction
"Borga" is Better. A Borga is a Ghanaian abroad living an excessive wealthy lifestyle. At least that’s what they want everyone to believe. The two brothers Kojo and Yoofi grow up on the electronic waste dump Agbogbloshi, which is based within Ghana’s capital Accra. In order to survive, they are extracting valuable metals by burning western electronic devices. Kojo is a second born son who wants to gain the acknowledgment and respect of his father. One day Kojo meets a Borga from Germany. His dream of going there is born. 10 years later he leaves his family behind in order to fulfill his dream of becoming a Borga. Arriving in Germany after a five-year odyssey through the continents he realizes quickly that he was chasing a myth. Germany does not welcome him with open arms. But going back is no option. Being ashamed of coming home not having made it, he has to fulfill the picture of the wealthy Borga from Germany.

Alliance Francaise, Wednesday 29 Nov, 14:00pm-16:00pm
Dzivarasekwa, Saturday 02 Dec, 12:30pm-14:30pm

BORN DIFFERENT
Director: Ann Sarafina  Producer: Ann Sarafina
Country: Nigeria  Year: 2020  Language: English
Running Time: 16 minutes 33 seconds  Documentary
The story revolves around Grace - a lady born with a skin disorder. She talked about her struggles living with Neurofibromatosis - the stigma and humiliation she faces daily and how she was able to build her self-esteem regardless.

Dzivarasekwa, Tuesday 28 Nov, 10:00am-12:00pm
Batanai Gardens, Thursday 30 Nov, 10:00am-11:30am

DALVA
Director: Emmanuelle Nicot  Producer: Julie Esparbes & Delphine Schmit
Country: France, Belgium  Year: 2023  Language: French with English subtitles
Running Time: 83 minutes  Long Fiction
Dalva is 12, but she dresses and lives like a woman. She lives alone with her father. One evening, the police storms into their home and takes her into foster care. Dumbfounded at first, she later meets Jayden, a social worker, and Samia, a teen with a temper. A new life seems to start for Dalva.

Alliance Francaise, Wednesday 29 Nov, 16:30pm-18:30pm
Dzivarasekwa, Thursday 30 Nov, 12:30pm-14:30pm
**DAUGHTER OF THE SOIL**
Director: Derrick Manieca  
Country: Zimbabwe  
Year: 2023  
Language: English  
Running Time: 21 minutes 21 seconds  
Short fiction

“DAUGHTER OF THE SOIL” is a short film about the power, legacy, and beauty of African women. The film follows a young African girl Shona (Zimbabwian) who falls asleep and finds herself interacting with one of her spiritual guides. Within the film her spiritual guide reveals to her the female ancestors that came before her. Through this journey she learns about her history and culture as well as what it means to be an African. “Daughter Of the Soil” highlights the importance of knowing one’s identity and the relevance that history and culture play in the world that is ever changing and dictating who you should be.

Dzivarasekwa, Tuesday 28 Nov, 10:00am-12:00pm  
Batanai Gardens, Thursday 30 Nov, 10:00am-11:30am

**DEPTH OF EMOTIONS**
Director: Amanda Ranganawa  
Producer: McLara Multimedia, Amanda Ranganawa  
Country: Zimbabwe  
Year: 2023  
Language: Shona & English with English subtitles  
Running Time: 75 minutes  
Long fiction

Depth of Emotions is a story about Grace, a young woman who loses her womb when a fibroids removal surgery goes wrong. Ryan, Grace’s boyfriend, stands by her during this unfortunate phase and he decides to marry her. Ryan’s decision to marry Grace is met with opposition from his family.

Batanai Gardens, Wednesday 29 Nov, 11:30am-13:30pm  
Hatcliffe, Thursday 30 Nov, 14:00pm-16:00pm

**ENTIRETY, ONE’S FULLFILMENT**
Director: Sumedh Madhukar Jadhav  
Producer: Sumedh Madhukar Jadhav  
Country: India  
Year: 2023  
Language: Hindi with English subtitles  
Running Time: 27 minutes  
Short fiction

Extremely poor Addu is a class topper. His mother also wants to start working but father doesn't allow her. Addu requires to make a kandil (Lantern) it's necessary to get good grades. His friends are going to purchase Kandil (Lantern) making kit for 250 rupees. Addu asks his mother for help, she tries her best but gets rejection from her husband. Financially failing father doesn't want to spend unnecessarily. Mother finds her own approach to make a kandil (Diwali lamp). Her unique creation garners admiration from both the community and the school, highlighting Her resilience and resourcefulness in the face of challenges.

Dzivarasekwa, Tuesday 28 Nov, 10:00am-12:00pm  
Batanai Gardens, Thursday 30 Nov, 10:00am-11:30am

**GUSHUNGO**
Director: Klara Ana Rosa  
Producer: Mhondoro Dreams  
Country: Zimbabwe  
Year: 2023  
Language: Shona & English with English subtitles  
Running Time: 7 minutes 52 seconds  
Experimental

“GUSHUNGO’: Is the Shona culture of Zimbabwe really as patriarchal as we are told? Or have there been distortions in the culture that have made it seem like it is? What are the true origins of the mysterious totem ‘Gushungo’, we go out to investigate the origins of ‘GUSHUNGO.’

Dzivarasekwa, Tuesday 28 Nov, 10:00am-12:00pm  
Batanai Gardens, Thursday 30 Nov, 10:00am-11:30am
**I AM NOT DOWN**
Director: Jyoti Madnani Singh  
Producer: Kumar Gautam  
Country: India  
Year: 2023  
Language: Hindi with English subtitles  
Running Time: 11 minutes 37 seconds  
Short fiction

Saloni, a class topper, is period shamed in school after she gets her first period. At home, her uneducated but caring mother Asha tears the only vest of her husband to provide a clean cloth for Saloni’s protection and comfort as she has to take annual exams the next day. When Saloni’s father, Anil, comes to know that his only vest has been torn and used to absorb menstrual blood, he gets furious. He puts the cloth left for sun-drying into the fire and it turns into ashes. Saloni is shattered but Asha is determined, neither she wants period shaming for her daughter nor she wants her to miss exams.

**JOAN’S GIRLS**
Director: Ran Levy-Yamamori  
Producer: Ran Levy-Yamamori  
Country: Kenya  
Year: 2023  
Language: English  
Running Time: 29 minutes 32 seconds  
Documentary

When Joan Owaka retired from her job in Kenya’s capital Nairobi, and returned to her ancestors’ land near Kisumu, she found out that many of her friends and relatives face a severe issue of early pregnancies, a significant challenge in Kenya, with a prevalence rate of 18% among girls aged 15-19 years, especially in the rural Kenya (according to the Kenya Demographic and Health Survey 2014). Poverty, limited access to education and healthcare, and cultural practices such as early marriage and female genital mutilation contribute to the high rates of teenage pregnancies.

**LAST QUEEN, THE (Closing Film)**
Director: Adila Bendimerad & Damien Ounouri  
Producer: Adila Bendimerad, Damien Ounouri & Patrick Sobelman  
Country: Algeria  
Year: 2023  
Language: Algerian Arabic with English subtitles  
Running Time: 110 minutes  
Long fiction

The pirate Aroudj Barbarossa frees Algiers from the tyranny of the Spanish and seizes power over the kingdom. Rumor has it he murdered King Salim Toumi despite their alliance, against all odds, one woman will stand up to him: Queen Zaphira. Between history and legend, this woman’s journey tells of a struggle, of personal and political turmoil endured for the sake of Algiers.

**LAST RANGER, THE**
Director: Cindy Lee  
Producer: John Powell & Darwin Shaw  
Country: South Africa, United States  
Year: 2023  
Language: Xhosa with English subtitles  
Running Time: 27 minutes 36 seconds  
Short fiction

When young Litha is introduced to the magic of a game reserve by the last remaining ranger, they are ambushed by poachers. In the ensuing battle to save the rhinos, Litha discovers that the desperate poacher is her father.
LOBOLA, A BRIDE’S TRUE PRICE
Director: Sihle Hlophe  Producer: Xoliswa Sithole  Country: South Africa
Year: 2022  Language: English, Southern Sotho, Zulu with English subtitles
Running Time: 95 minutes  Documentary

March 2014. Filmmaker Sihle Hlophe has just gotten engaged. A few days later, her father passes away. Sihle is in a serious fix - who will receive the Lobola now that her father is no more? Sihle respects Lobola but she has reservations about the transactional, patriarchal and heteronormative elements of the practise. In an effort to learn more about Lobola before making her final decision, Sihle attends the Lobola ceremonies of three other couples.

Dzivarasekwa, Friday 01 Dec, 15:00pm-17:00pm
Batanai Gardens, Saturday 02 Dec, 10:00am-11:30am

MOST BEAUTIFUL THING, A
Director: Mary Mazzio  Producer: Common, Grant Hill, Dwyane Wade, 9th Wonder
Country: United States of America  Year: 2020  Language: English
Running Time: 95 minutes  Documentary

A MOST BEAUTIFUL THING explores not only the safety these young men found on the water (where, as the captain reflected, "we were in a place where we could not hear the sound of sirens"), but the trauma of violence and cyclical poverty, examining how these young men were able to support each other in reimagining a different future for themselves, and how rowing and the water provided the backdrop for that opportunity. These young men came together, after 20 years out of the boat, to race this past summer, not only to celebrate the team's founding, but the fact that they are still alive. This is their story.

Alliance Francaise, Wednesday 29 Nov, 10:00am-11:00am

MUD CLAN (BANI)
Director: Prunelle Sakofio  Producer: Hadassa Feidangamo
Country: Central African Republic  Year: 2023  Language: French with English subtitles
Running Time: 119 minutes  Long fiction

A teenage beggar must defy an age-long myth to regain her freedom.

Batanai Gardens, Thursday 30 Nov, 14:00pm-16:00pm
Dzivarasekwa, Friday 01 Dec, 10:00am-12:00pm

MY DONKEY, MY LOVER AND I
Director: Caroline Vignal  Producer: Laetitia Galitzine & Aurélie Rouvière
Country: France  Year: 2020  Language: French with English subtitles
Running Time: 95 minutes  Long fiction

Months that Antoinette waits for summer and the promise of a week with her lover, Vladimir. But, at the last moment, he cancels: his wife has booked a family hike in the Cévennes with a donkey! Abandoned, Antoinette decides on the spur of the moment to set off on her own on the way to Stevenson. When she arrives, no Vladimir, but a certain Patrick - a recalcitrant donkey (nobody is perfect!) - who will accompany her on her singular journey.

Alliance Francaise, Saturday 02 Dec, 10:00am-11:30am

NOME (Opening Film)
Director: Sana Na N'Hada  Producer: Spectre Production
Country: Guinea Bissau, France, Portugal, Angola  Year: 2023
Language: Portuguese with English subtitles  Running Time: 112 minutes  Long fiction

A violent war between the Portuguese colonial army and the guerrillas of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde. Nome leaves his village and joins the maquis. After years, he will return as a hero, but joy will soon give way to bitterness and cynicism.

Alliance Francaise, Tuesday 28 Nov, 17:00pm-21:00pm
Hatcliffe, Friday 01 Dec, 09:00am-11:00am
OUTSIDER, THE
Director: Dereck Nziyakwi  Producer: Lucky Aaroni  Country: Zimbabwe
Year: 2023  Language: Shona, English  Running Time: 17 minutes  Short fiction

Set in a marginalized rural area of Zimbabwe, The Outsiders tells the story of Mai Tari, a resilient 60-year-old woman who faces the challenges of illegal mining.

Alliance, Friday 01 Dec, 11:30am-13:30pm
Dzivarasekwa, Saturday 02 Dec, 10:00am-12:00pm

RIDE ABOVE
Director: Christian Duguay  Producer: Maxime Delauney & Romain Rousseau

Literally born and raised with horses, Zoe leads a happy life at her parents' racehorse stables, driven by the dream of someday becoming a jockey like her father. To Zoe, nothing beats being with horses, especially her « best friend » Beautiful Intrigue, the stable's prize mare, who taught the child how to walk. When Beautiful Intrigue gives birth to a foal that Zoe names Tempest, the girl is the first to see in him the champion her parents have been waiting and working for all their lives. The winner she will ride to victory. But Zoe's dreams are shattered one stormy night, when a panicked Tempest accidentally injures the girl, leaving her permanently "disabled". Furious at life, Zoe slips into despair and pulls her entire family down with her, especially her father, who is on the verge of losing everything. But with the indefectible support of her family and the help of Seb, a stable hand with a gift for communicating with horses, Zoe will seek to conquer the impossible, in pursuit of her dream.

Alliance Francaise, Saturday 02 Dec, 11:30am-13:30am

RUKA
Director: Fungai Sarah Muzoroza  Producer: Fungai Sarah Muzoroza
Country: Zimbabwe  Year: 2023  Language: English  Running Time: 2 minutes 57 seconds  Experimental

"Ruka meaning 'to braid' or 'to knit' in chiShona, is a short fashion film based on slow sustainable fashion pieces by Fungai Muzoroza And captured beautifully by Mordekai Musonza. Braiding has been a part of African culture from the beginning of time through means on hairstyling, knitting, crotcheting, weaving and macrame. The film 'Ruka' celebrates these methods through each design and plays around with a mixture of cultural and modern-day inspirations and textures. It also celebrates the beauty of collaboration and cross culture education within Africa."

Dzivarasekwa, Tuesday 28 Nov, 10:00am-12:00pm
Batanai Gardens, Thursday 30 Nov, 10:00am-11:30am

SEVEN WINTERS IN TEHERAN
Director: Steffi Niederzoll  Producer: Melanie Andernach & Knut Losen
Country: Iran  Year: 2023  Language: Persian  Running Time: 97 minutes  Documentary

Tehran, July 2007: Reyhaneh Jabbari, 19, has a business meeting with a new client. When he tries to rape her, she stabs him in self-defense. Later that day, she is arrested for murder. Her trial results in a death penalty sentence. Thanks to personal and secretly recorded videos provided by Reyhaneh’s family, their testimonies and the letters written by Reyhaneh in prison, the film retraces the fate of a woman who becomes a symbol of resistance and women's rights even beyond the borders of Iran.

Hatcliffe, Thursday 30 November 11:30-13:30pm
Batanai Gardens, Friday 01 December 11:30am-13:30pm
SHOW HER THE MONEY
Director: Ky Dickens  Producer: Sharon Gless, Catherine Gray, Dawn LaFeeda, Wendy Ryan
Country: United States  Year: 2023  Language: English
Running Time: 86 minutes  Documentary

Women have been shut out of the financial world, making it nearly impossible to get their ideas and inventions funded. Featuring visionary entrepreneurs who have boot-strapped their companies into success stories and the wealthy women who funded them - SHOW HER THE MONEY reminds us that money is power and women need it to achieve true equality.

Dzivarasekwa, Wednesday 29 Nov, 15:00pm-17:00pm
Batanai Gardens, Friday 01 Dec, 14:00pm-16:00pm

SIRA
Director: Apolline Traore  Producer: Denis Cougnaud
Country: Senegal, France, Germany, Burkina Faso  Year: 2023
Language: French & Fula with English subtitles  Running Time: 122 minutes  Long fiction

After a brutal attack, a young nomad named Sira refuses to surrender to her fate without a fight and instead takes a stand against Islamist terror.

Dzivarasekwa, Wednesday 29 Nov, 12:30pm-14:30pm
Alliance Francaise, Friday 01 Dec, 14:00pm-16:00pm

SUNU THIOSSANE: THE MAKING OF AN AFRICAN DREAM
Director: Mamedjarra Bousso Diop-Mar  Producer: Mamedjarra Bousso Diop-Mar
Country: Senegal  Year: 2023  Language: English
Running Time: 27 minutes  Documentary

The 10th anniversary of the Sunu Thiossane Youth Development Organization shows the journey that has been a kaleidoscope of steps towards a mission that focuses on educating African youth for greater, global impact. This documentary focuses on the journey of growth, cultural awareness and bridging the gap between Africans and the Diaspora. From settling in Senegal to running a summer camp, to setting up a year-round youth program specifically aimed at providing quality education to our young people and our community.

Alliance, Friday 01 Dec, 11:30am-13:30pm
Dzivarasekwa, Saturday 02 Dec, 10:00am-12:00pm

THROUGH THE NIGHT
Director: Loira Limbal  Producer: Duana C. Butler  Country: United States
Year: 2020  Language: American English with English subtitles
Running Time: 75 minutes  Documentary

The story focuses on a New York daycare center, open 24 hours, run by Deloris, or “Nunu,” and her husband Patrick Hogan. The daycare is a safety net for many working families, especially single mothers, who struggle to make ends meet on top of the difficult task of raising children. Especially with Americans working longer hours across multiple jobs, 24-hour daycare centers are beginning to flourish.

Batanai Gardens, Tuesday 28 Nov, 11:30am-13:30pm
Dzivarasekwa, Thursday 30 Nov, 10:00am-12:00pm
TOO LATE TO DIE YOUNG
Director: Dominga Sotomayor Castillo  Producer: Rodrigo Teixeira & Dominga Sotomayor Castillo  Country: Chile  Year: 2018
Language: Spanish with English subtitles  Running Time: 110 minutes  Long fiction
A coming-of-age and slice-of-life drama set in Chile. Growing up at a time when her country made the shift from dictatorship to democracy, her family worried about further political upheaval. They left town with other families to form an off-the-grid style commune, away from busy cities and the problems that came with them. Only there would be other issues for a young girl growing up in these conditions to confront.

Dzivarasekwa, Wednesday 29 Nov, 10:00am-12:00pm
Batanai Gardens, Thursday 30 Nov, 11:30am-13:30pm

TOP END WEDDING
Lauren and Ned, in love and engaged, have just ten days to find Lauren’s mother who has gone AWOL somewhere in the remote far north of Australia, reunite her parents, and pull off their dream wedding.

Reps Theatre, Thursday 30 Nov, 17:00pm-20:00pm

WATCHER
A young American woman moves with her husband to Bucharest, and begins to suspect that a stranger who watches her from the apartment building across the street may be a local serial killer decapitating women.

Alliance Francaise, Tuesday 28 Nov, 10:00am-11:30am
Batanai Gardens, Wednesday 29 Nov, 14:00pm-16:00pm

WE DON’T TALK
Director: Marjolein Busstra  Producer: Lotte Gerdign, Marieke Konijn & Olivia van Leeuwen  Country: Netherlands  Year: 2022  Language: Dutch with English subtitles  Running Time: 71 minutes  Documentary
Wij praten niet (We don’t talk) is an intriguing documentary of in-depth conversations between therapists and youngsters who are entangled in the complex network of sexual violence and exploitation. It takes us into the inner struggle of four characters in their process to break free from this world while they are all still — to a greater or lesser extent — connected to it and can’t seem to part with. The film offers an intimate insight into the reminiscent of their experiences and process of extrication, where the distorted self-judgment of guilt and shame holds them captive. A close look at the dynamics of therapy, pointing out the importance of signaling youngsters who experience this and to start conversation in a world in which they often feel it’s not safe to talk.

Hatcliffe, Friday 01 Dec, 11:30am-13:30pm
Alliance Francaise, Friday 01 Dec, 16:30pm-18:30pm
**WOMEN OF RWANDA**
Director: Sophie Krieg  Producer: Marc Bouter & Sophie Krieg
Country: Rwanda, Germany  Year: 2023  Language: English
Running Time: 30 minutes  Documentary

24-year-old influencer and startup founder, Sarah Uwase, embarks on an emotional journey through her home country, Rwanda, to find out the secret of feminism. She pursues the goal of making her own fashion brand “Wase” big to be able to integrate even more single mothers, but begins to despair. Her journey to meet other inspiring strong women encourages her not to give up so easily.

Alliance, Friday 01 Dec, 11:30am-13:30pm
Dzivarasekwa, Saturday 02 Dec, 10:00am-12:00pm

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**WOMEN OF VALOUR**
Director: Anna Somershaf  Producer: Anna Somershaf, Tal Barda
Country: Israel  Year: 2021  Language: Hebrew with English subtitles
Running Time: 75 minutes  Documentary

Ultra-Orthodox women are forbidden to run for Israeli parliament. One woman is determined to change this historic ban. Fighting against her own community with her friends, brings a huge personal price, but Esty Shushan won't stop until she achieves equal rights for 600,000 women.

Alliance Française, Thursday 30 Nov, 14:00pm-16:00pm
Batanai Gardens, Friday 01 Dec, 16:30pm-18:30pm

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**WRITING WITH FIRE**
Director: Rintu Thomas & Sushmit Gosh  Producer: Rintu Thomas & Sushmit Ghosh
Country: India  Year: 2021  Language: Hindi with English subtitles
Running Time: 94 minutes  Documentary

Khabar Lehariya is a newspaper and news channel run entirely by women. The film focuses on the story of 3 strong, intelligent and fierce reporters that work for KL and their journeys. Based in rural Uttar Pradesh, India, the film presents everything these women go through in a predominantly male profession, and the challenges of being a working woman in rural India. Throughout the film you'll find yourself cheering for every single one of the women - not because the film makes you, but you just want to.

Alliance Francaise, Tuesday 28 Nov, 11:30am-13:30am
Batanai Gardens, Wednesday 29 Nov, 16:30pm-18:30pm

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**XALE**

“Xalé,” a colorful, melodic and tragic tale about Awa, a 15-year-old girl who has her hopes and future destroyed by an uncle. Awa is happily living her teenage years alongside her twin brother Adama, who dreams of traveling Europe. When their grandmother dies, their Aunt Fatou and their Uncle Atoumane plan to marry to preserve the family unit, but Fatou doesn’t love Atoumane. Tired of waiting to consummate his marriage, Atoumane commits an unspeakable act.

Batanai Gardens, Tuesday 28 Nov, 10:00am-11:30am
Dzivarasekwa, Thursday 30 Nov, 15:00pm-17:00pm
In 2018, one year after the rise of the #MeToo movement, a group of nine women filed a complaint against two of their teachers – Antonio Gómez and Ruben Escartin – accusing them of committing numerous acts of sexual abuse between 2001 and 2008, when they were just teenagers. In her latest effort, Catalonian director Isabel Coixet meets with the victims and tries to give the viewer a sense of just how wrong things were within the walls of Lleida’s Aula Theatre and among the ranks of the youth theatre company La Inestable.
MASTERCLASSES

Producing masterclass with Ms Carla Sospedra.
This masterclass is conducted by prize winning producer Carla Sospedra a native of Barcelona, Spain. Ms Sospedra’s masterclass will cover in-depth knowledge on pre-production planning, product management, budgeting and finance, project selection, and the responsibilities of a producer among other film producing aspects.

Directing masterclass with Mr Sana Na N’Handa.
Prize winning director from Guinea Bissau Sana Na N’Hada will lead the directing masterclass. In this masterclass, Mr N’Handa will elaborate on how to select a compelling story for your film, how to evaluate and refine a script, develop the film and how to guide actors to give their best performance.

Pitching masterclass with Ms Zanele Mthembu
IIFF 2023’s pitching masterclass is facilitated by Ms Zanele Mthembu of Brown Panther Films South Africa. Ms Mthembu will share information as to how pitching skills involve understanding the goal of a pitch, creating a pitch deck and different type of pitches you can use to sell your project.

Our valued sponsors of IIFF 2023 are
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00am-11:30am</td>
<td><strong>TUESDAY 28 NOVEMBER</strong>&lt;br&gt;TUE 28 NOVEMBER&lt;br&gt;<strong>WATCHER, USA/UE/Ro (2022), 95 minutes</strong>&lt;br&gt;MOST BEAUTIFUL THING, A USA (2020), 95 minutes&lt;br&gt;<strong>PRODUCING MASTERCLASS by CARLA SOSPEDE (SPAIN)</strong>&lt;br&gt;PITCHING MASTERCLASS by ZANELE MTHEMBU (SOUTH AFRICA)&lt;br&gt;<strong>MY DONKEY, MY LOVE &amp; I, FR (2020), 65 minutes</strong></td>
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<td>11:30am-13:30pm</td>
<td><strong>WEDNESDAY 29 NOVEMBER</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>WRITING WITH FIRE, INDIA (2021), 94 minutes</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>ANATOMY OF TIME, THAI/FR/NU/KEN (2021), 118 minutes</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>YELLOW CEILING, ES (2022), 94 minutes</strong>&lt;br&gt;SHORTS GROUP 2&lt;br&gt;<strong>RIDE ABOVE, FR/CA (2022), 110 minutes</strong></td>
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<td>14:00pm-16:00pm</td>
<td><strong>THURSDAY 30 NOVEMBER</strong>&lt;br&gt;BORGIA, DE GHANA (2021), 104 minutes&lt;br&gt;<strong>WOMEN OF VALOR, ISRAEL (2021), 75 minutes</strong>&lt;br&gt;SIRA, SEN/FR.DE/BFA (2023), 122 minutes&lt;br&gt;<strong>WE DON'T TALK, NL (2022), 75 minutes</strong>&lt;br&gt;followed by reception hosted by the Netherlands Embassy</td>
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<td>16:30pm-18:30pm</td>
<td><strong>FRIDAY 1 DECEMBER</strong>&lt;br&gt;DALVA, FR/BEI (2023), 83 minutes&lt;br&gt;BEFORE, NOW &amp; THEN, IDN (2022), 103 minutes&lt;br&gt;<strong>WE DON'T TALK, NL (2022), 75 minutes</strong>&lt;br&gt;followed by reception hosted by the Netherlands Embassy</td>
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<td>17:00pm-21:00pm</td>
<td><strong>SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER</strong>&lt;br&gt;IFF 2023 OPENING CEREMONY &amp; SCREENING: NOME, GUINEA BISSAU (2023), DIRECTED BY SANA NA NYANDA, 112 minutes (BY INVITATION ONLY)</td>
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<td>10:00am-11:30am</td>
<td><strong>TUESDAY 28 NOVEMBER</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>XALE, SN (2022), 101 minutes</strong>&lt;br&gt;DIRECTING MASTERCLASS by SANA NA NYANDA (GUINEA BISSAU)&lt;br&gt;SHORTS GROUP 1&lt;br&gt;<strong>WE DON'T TALK, NL (2022), 75 minutes</strong>&lt;br&gt;PRICE, SA (2022), 95 minutes</td>
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<td><strong>THURSDAY 30 NOVEMBER</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>THROUGH THE NIGHT, USA (2020), 75 minutes</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>DEPTH OF EMOTION, ZW (2023), 75 minutes</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>TOO LATE TO DIE YOUNG, CHILE (2019), 110 minutes</strong>&lt;br&gt;7 WINTERS IN TEHRAN, IRAN (2023), 97 minutes</td>
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<td><strong>FRIDAY 1 DECEMBER</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>WATCHER, USA/UE/Ro (2022), 95 minutes</strong>&lt;br&gt;MUD CLAN, NGA (2023), 119 minutes&lt;br&gt;<strong>SHOW HER THE MONEY, USA/CA (2022), 86 minutes</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>WE DON'T TALK, NL (2022), 75 minutes</strong>&lt;br&gt;followed by reception hosted by the Netherlands Embassy</td>
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<td><strong>SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>WRITING WITH FIRE, INDIA (2021), 94 minutes</strong>&lt;br&gt;ANASTACIAS, BBA (2021), 81 minutes&lt;br&gt;<strong>WE DON'T TALK, NL (2022), 75 minutes</strong>&lt;br&gt;followed by reception hosted by the Netherlands Embassy</td>
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<td><strong>TUESDAY 28 NOVEMBER</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>SHORTS GROUP 1</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>TOO LATE TO DIE YOUNG, CHILE (2019), 110 minutes</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>THROUGH THE NIGHT, USA (2020), 75 minutes</strong>&lt;br&gt;MUD CLAN, NGA (2023), 119 minutes&lt;br&gt;SHORTS GROUP 2</td>
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<td><strong>FRIDAY 1 DECEMBER</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>BEFORE, NOW &amp; THEN, IDN (2022), 103 minutes</strong>&lt;br&gt;NOME, GNB (2023), 112 minutes&lt;br&gt;<strong>WE DON'T TALK, NL (2022), 75 minutes</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>ANATOMY OF TIME, THAI/FR/NU/KE (2021), 118 minutes</strong></td>
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<td>14:00pm-16:00pm</td>
<td><strong>SHORTS GROUP 1</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>TOP END WEDDING, AU (2019), 113 minutes</strong>&lt;br&gt;DIRECTED BY WAYNE BLAIR, Hosted by the Australian Embassy (BY INVITATION ONLY)</td>
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<td>17:00pm-20:00pm</td>
<td><strong>TUESDAY 28 NOVEMBER</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>REPS THEATRE (Belgrade, 2nd Street extension)</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>WE DON'T TALK, NL (2022), 75 minutes</strong>&lt;br&gt;followed by reception hosted by the Netherlands Embassy</td>
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<td>17:00pm-21:00pm</td>
<td><strong>TUESDAY 28 NOVEMBER</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>HOYLE FIELD (2nd Tina Close, Chişinău)</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>WE DON'T TALK, NL (2022), 75 minutes</strong>&lt;br&gt;followed by reception hosted by the Netherlands Embassy</td>
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<td>17:00pm-21:00pm</td>
<td><strong>SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER</strong>&lt;br&gt;**IFF 2023 CLOSING AND AWARDS CEREMONY &amp; SCREENING: THE LAST QUEEN, ALGERIA (2022), 107 minutes (BY INVITATION ONLY)</td>
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