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African Cinema Symposium: Neglected Strands and New Trajectories

Sat 21 Oct, 10.30am – 1:30pm

**University of Edinburgh, David Hume Tower (off George Square)
Faculty Room South**

Free event - please register by emailing symposium@africa-in-motion.org.uk

As part of **Africa in Motion**, the Edinburgh African film festival taking place from 20-29 October 2006 at Filmhouse Cinema, the **Centre of African Studies (CAS)** at the University of Edinburgh hosts a half-day symposium that will combine discussion of neglected strands of filmmaking from Francophone West Africa with analysis of recent cinematic trends from other parts of the continent.

Programme

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| 10:15–10:30 | Registration and tea/coffee |
| 10:30–10:40 | Introduction & Welcome:
Lizelle Bisschoff - AiM Director
Paul Nugent - Director of the Centre of African Studies |
| 10:40–11:30 | Session One (Chair: Lizelle Bisschoff)

Imruh Bakari – Filmmaker, Writer and Lecturer (University of Winchester)
<i>Colonialism and Modern Lives in African Cinema</i>

David Murphy – Senior Lecturer and Head of French (University of Stirling)
<i>That's Entertainment? Art, Didacticism and the Popular in West African Cinema</i> |
| 11:30–11:50 | Tea/Coffee & Refreshments |
| 11:50–13:15 | Session Two (Chair: Paul Nugent)

Noe Mendelle – Head of Film and TV (Edinburgh College of Art) and Director of Scottish Documentary Institute
<i>Lusophone African Cinema</i>

Jacqueline Maingard – Senior Lecturer and Head of Education in the Department of Drama: Theatre, Film, Television (University of Bristol)
<i>Southern African Cinema: Histories and Futures</i>

Roy Armes – Emeritus Professor of Film (Middlesex University)
<i>Mapping the Field: Feature Filmmaking in Africa</i> |
| 13:15–13:30 | Close |

Speakers biographies

Imruh Bakari

Imruh Bakari is a filmmaker, writer and lecturer in Film & Media Studies, University of Winchester, UK. He is now based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, where he established his company Savannah Films in 2003. A graduate of the National Film & Television School, Beaconsfield, England, he was a founder/director of Ceddo, the film and video production and training organisation in London [1982-93] that played a defining role in the British independent film movement of the 1980s. He has also worked in theatre, radio and television. From 1999-2004 he was Festival Director of ZIFF Festival of the Dhow Countries in Zanzibar, and is a founder/director of Tanzania Screenwriters Forum. His published works include: *African Experiences of Cinema* - co-editor [BFI, 1996], "African Cinema and the Emergent Africa" - Introduction to *Symbolic Narratives - African Cinema*, June Givanni - ed. [BFI, 2000]. Films include: *African Tales* - Short Film Series [Current] - Producer; *Tumaini* [2005] - Associate-Producer; *Blue Notes and Exiled Voices* [1991]; *Omega Rising: Woman of Rastafari* [1988] - Producer; *The Mark of the Hand* [1986]; *Street Warriors* [1985]; *Burning an Illusion* [1981] - Assistant Director; *Riots and Rumours of Riots* [1981].

David Murphy

David Murphy is one of the leading theorists on African cinema in Britain, and a Senior Lecturer and Head of French in the School of Languages, Cultures and Religions at the University of Stirling. He has published widely on African, particularly Senegalese, culture and on the relationship between Francophone and Postcolonial Studies. He is working on a long-term research project on Senegalese culture and identity from 1848 to the present, for which he has received two major research awards. He has published a very well-received book in 2000 on the leading Senegalese filmmaker Ousmane Sembene, entitled *Sembene: Imagining Alternatives in Film and Fiction*, and is currently co-authoring a volume entitled *African Cinema: Ten Directors*.

Noe Mendelle

Noémie Mendelle grew up in Paris and graduated in sociology from York university where she caught the film bug and became a founding member of Steel Bank Films, a Channel 4 film workshop. She is now living in Edinburgh and shares her time between running the Film & TV Department at the Edinburgh College of Art, Scottish Documentary Institute and producing international documentaries.

Jacqueline Maingard

Jacqueline Maingard is a Senior Lecturer and Head of Education in the Department of Drama: Theatre, Film, Television at the University of Bristol. She is author of *South African National Cinema*, forthcoming in the Routledge National Cinema series. She is developing an edited volume on *The Cinema of Southern Africa* for the Wallflower 24 Frames series.

Roy Armes

Roy Armes, Emeritus Professor of Film at Middlesex University, has published eighteen books on cinema in the past forty years and his work has been translated into fourteen languages, including Japanese, Chinese, Bengali, Hebrew and Arabic. Since the mid-1980s and the publication of *Third World Filmmaking and the West*, his particular concern has been African filmmaking. This has led to the publication of five books: *Arab and African Filmmaking* (with Dr Lizbeth Malkmus, 1991, in Arabic 2006); *Dictionary of North African Filmmakers* (bilingual, English & French, 1996); *Omar Gatlato* (1998, in French 1999); *Postcolonial Images: Studies in North African Film* (2005, in French 2006, forthcoming in Arabic); and *African Filmmaking: North and South of the Sahara* (2006). (This book will be for sale during the festival.)