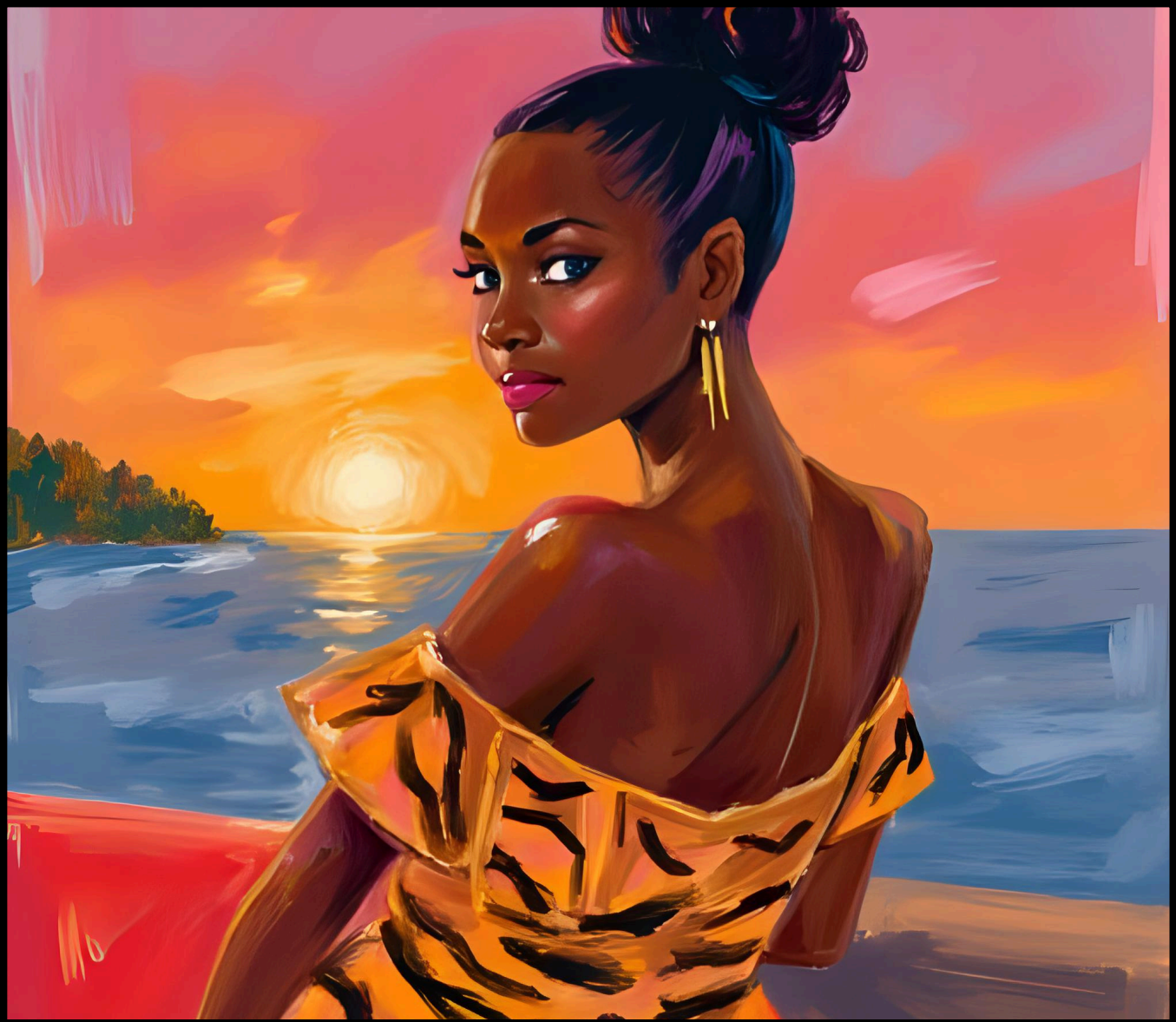


# CANNES RIVIERA

D'DAY EDITION



AFRICA USA INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL

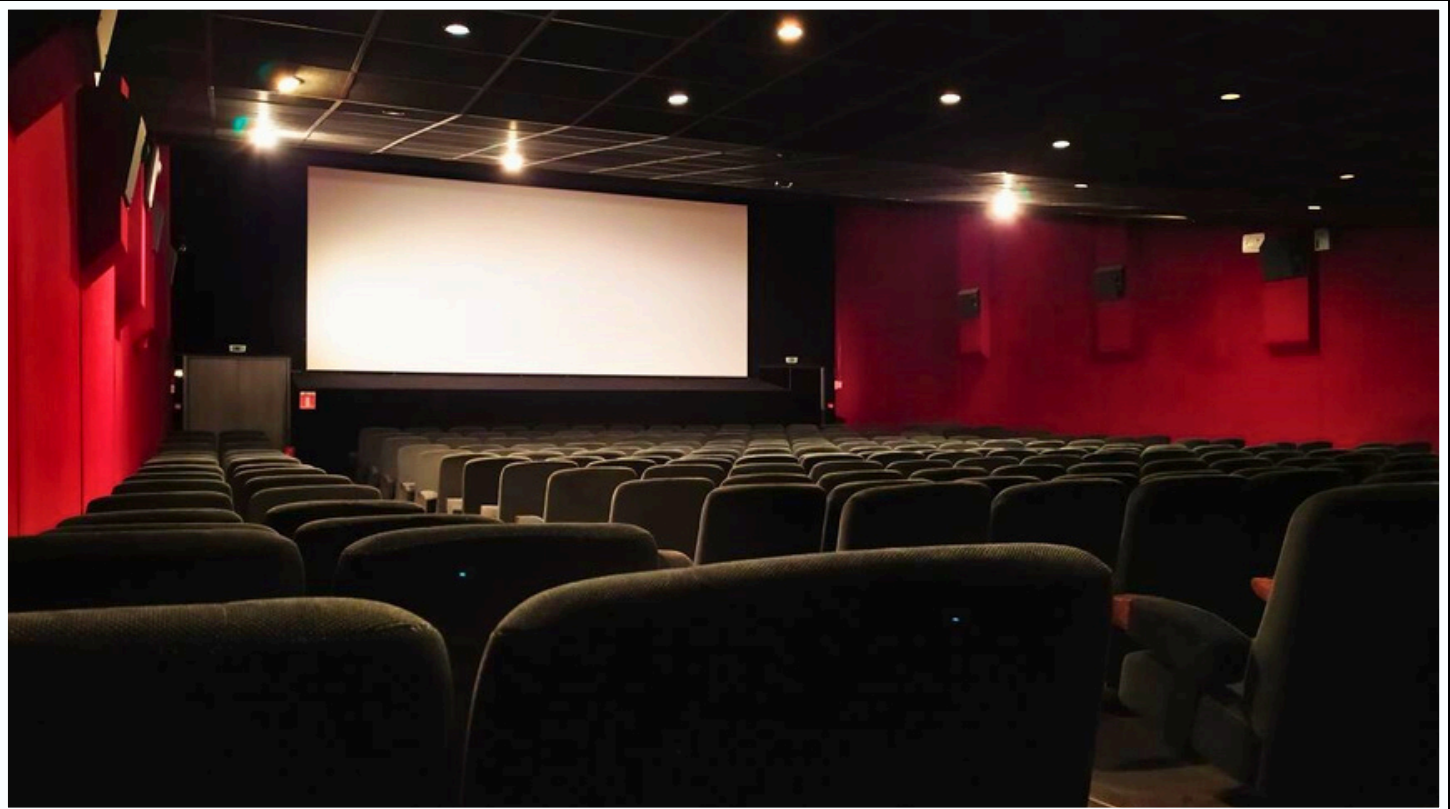
## PROGRAM CATALOGUE 2025



FRANCE USA INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL

# FESTIVAL VENUE: CINEMA LES ARCADES

**CINEMA**  
LES ARCADES



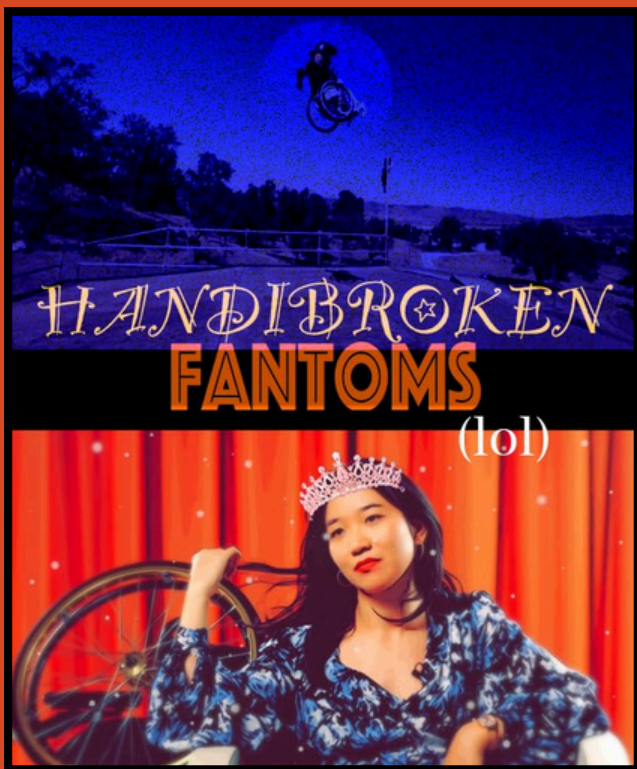
**Location:**  
**77 Rue Félix Faure, 06400 Cannes, France**  
**<https://cinemalesarcades.fr/>**



**DAY 1 OPENING DAY - AUGUST 7TH**  
**RIVIERA D-DAY**  
**1800 HRS - 1930 HRS FILM TIME**



**18:15 - 18:23 “HANDIBROKEN  
FANTOM” / FRANCE MOROCCO**  
**(Runtime 8:00)**



HANDIBROKEN FANTOMS (LOL), is a mockumentary, dealing with the inclusion of people with disabilities in the film industry. It was self-produced and directed by herself with a motor disability (wheelchair) with reduced mobility, as part of an Avon 77 Kinorama. The director believes in humor and self-mockery to convey the positive messages about inclusion based on one's own disability situation, and lead to a co-construction. This short mockumentary is a potential game-changer for disabled people in these communities in France and elsewhere. HANDIBROKEN FANTOMS (LOL), reflects this state of mind by highlighting the "broken of life" which, alas, seems to become "invisible" or even "ghosts" in a modern society, claiming to be inclusive. A young actress presents herself to a casting for a spy role in an action film with stunts, despite her differences and her physical condition.



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**Director Biography - Rahma  
Sophia RACHDI**

RACHDI is a trailblazing political journalist and changemaker, working from a wheelchair with fearless conviction. A former scientist holding a Ph.D. in Microbiology, she also earned an MBA, a Master's degree in Economics, and was awarded a prestigious fellowship in European Affairs from the ENA (École Nationale d'Administration). For the past two decades, she has served as Chief Correspondent in Paris, covering the French Presidency and the Prime Minister's office for a major U.S. news agency — making her the first and only disabled journalist in that role for over 20 years. She also sits on the Board of Directors of the French Press Club, where she continues to advocate for media inclusivity.

## DAY 1 OPENING DAY – AUGUST 7TH RIVIERA D-DAY

18:23 - 18:28 INTRO (5:00 MIN)

🕒 18:28 - 19:20 “L'autre Joséphine”  
FRANCE USA (Runtime 52:00)



A Documentary of Josephine Baker presented by her son Brian Baker (Co-writer) and Philip Judith-Gozlin (Co-producer/Director). This year marks the 100TH anniversary of Josephine Baker's arrival in France/Europe, and she is celebrated across Europe this summer. Well known as an Iconic artist, activist, trailblazer, and decorated officer who helped liberate the world from oppression of the Nazi and is an ambassador thru her life and family of INCLUSION, ONENESS AND LOVE

19:20 - 21:00 PANEL / WINE / RED  
CARPET PHOTO OPS AND  
INTERVIEWS





## DAY 2 AUGUST 8 : Pavillon Afriques

1500 hrs - 1720 hrs film time

15:00 - 15:10 INTRO (10:00 MIN)

15:10 - 15:24 “?Enough!” /  
USA (Runtime 14:00) ⌚

Fear, worry, doubt, and Imposter Syndrome attempt to take root in the careers and creative processes of Artists. Individually, they suffer an agonizing, lonely existence. Embarrassment and shame emerge as a mountainous alliance, standing in the way of their desire to seek help. Is there any hope, or will they ultimately be consumed by these seismic forces of negativity?



### KERWIN THOMPSON

Producer Actor KERWIN THOMPSON is 2022 Emmy Winner! 2019 Inaugural Taurean Award for Best Supporting Actor Winner! 2016 Metropolitan Atlanta Theatre Award Nominee! 2016 Broadway World Atlanta Award Nominee!



## DAY 2 AUGUST 8 : Pavillon Afriques

15:24 - 15:29 INTRO (5:00 MIN)

🕒 15:29 - 16:07 “The Sun”  
FRANCE (Runtime 38:00)

Mika, on a temporary internship at a retirement home after lying about his ambitions, brings energy and charm that turns the residents’ lives upside down.

Samuel Massilia is a director, screenwriter, producer (El Sueno Films), journalist, and former columnist and radio host. He began his career young, working on shows about Olympique de Marseille. At 15, he was a columnist and community manager for Club Foot Marseille on France Bleu Provence, then became assistant director and trainee editor at OMTV. In 2018, he joined Mon OM à Moi on Radio Star, which reached a record 4 million listeners in its final season.

Passionate about people’s stories, he created his own website and has published over 500 interviews with artists in film, theater, music, and comedy. Known for his deep interest in human nature, he dedicated his first book, Authentique (published in 2022), to his friend and mentor René Malleville.

His first short film, Le Soleil, was written, directed, and produced with the support of the city of Aix-en-Provence. It has been screened in retirement homes, middle and high schools, selected in Madrid and Stockholm, and even presented at the French National Assembly. In 2026, Samuel will release his second book, a novel co-written with actress and screenwriter Mylène Jampanoi.





# DAY 2 AUGUST 8 : Pavillon Afrique

16:07 - 16:12 INTRO (5:00 MIN)



🕒 **16:12 - 17:27 “Les Fractures Invisibles” / MARTINIQUE**  
(Runtime 01:14:34)



## INVISIBLE FRACTURES

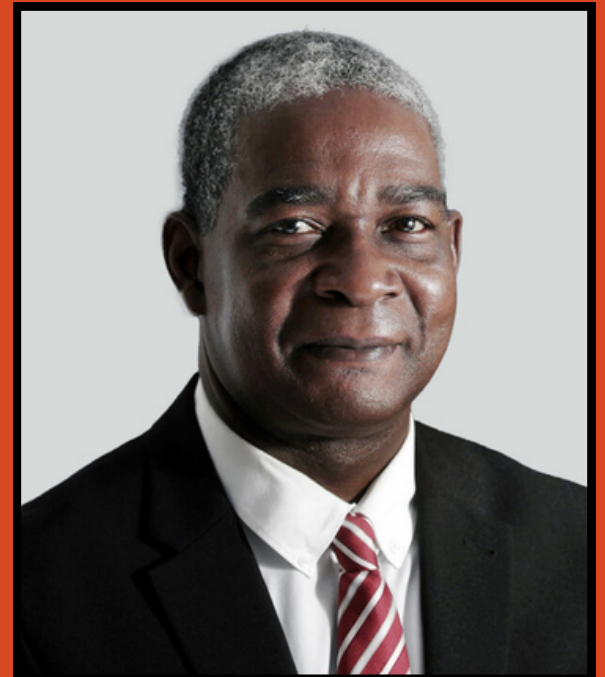
In a family where the weight of tradition outweighs individual dreams, 19-year-old Dylan lives under the constant pressure of his authoritarian father, a renowned surgeon who forces him into medical studies. Aspiring to an artistic or technical career, Dylan spirals into frustration and toxic influences. One night, under the influence of drugs, he commits an irreparable act of violence against his parents. His younger sister Léa becomes the victim of brutal harassment at school. While Léa sinks into despair, Dylan finds a glimmer of hope within himself: to rebuild his life, protect his sister, and attempt to mend the pieces of a fractured family. Invisible Fractures explores the crushing weight of family expectations, the search for identity, and the resilience required to overcome devastating trials.

## Director Biography - Jean-Michel Delphin LOUTOBY

JJean-Michel Loutoby is a Martinican screenwriter and director known for a cinematic approach rooted in social and human reality. Passionate about image and storytelling, he uses cinema as a tool for reflection and emancipation, exploring themes like identity, family transmission, and resilience.

From his early projects, he embraced engaged cinema where fiction reflects real societal issues. Drawing inspiration from the world around him, he aims to capture generational tensions and imposed life choices with authenticity.

His immersive process includes meeting young people in difficulty, social workers, and families, giving voice to those rarely heard and creating emotionally resonant characters.



17:27 - 17:45 BREAK (18 MIN)

## DAY 2 AUGUST 8 : Pavillon Afriques

1745 hrs - 1930 hrs film time

17:45 - 17:50 INTRO (5:00 MIN)



🕒 17:50 - 18:13 “Torn” / USA (Runtime 23:09)



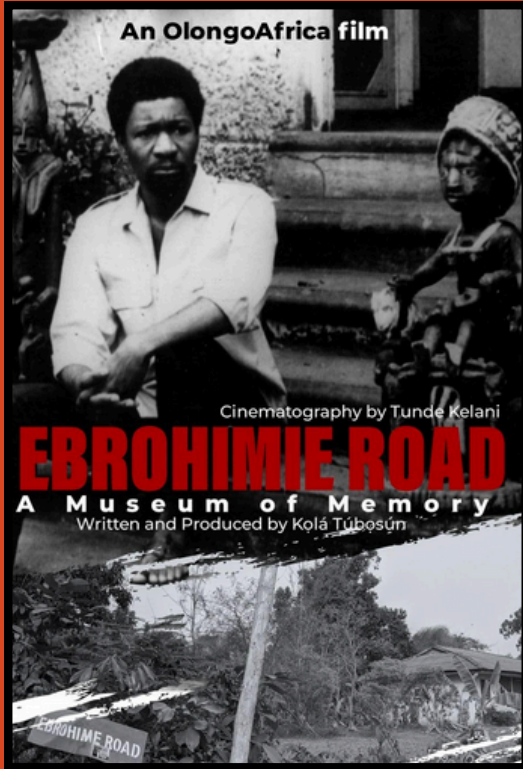
A short film about a young mother having to choose between her devoted boyfriend and her husband, who just woke up from an 8-year coma, by Tamala Baldwin.



## DAY 2 AUGUST 8 : Pavillon Afriques

18:13 - 18:18 INTRO (5:00 MIN)

18:18 - 19:59 “Ebrohimie road” (documentary 1ST AFRICA NOBEL PRIZE WINNER Wole Soyinka) (Runtime 01:41:03)



Before he became Africa's first Nobel Prizewinner in Literature, a small campus bungalow at the University of Ibadan played an outsized role in the life of a man, Wole Soyinka, his family, his university, and the nation. Here's the story. How do we preserve not just what we remember but the physical markers of such transient memory?

### Director Biography - Kola Tubosun

Kolá Túbòsún is a Nigerian writer and linguist, Fulbright scholar, Chevening Research Fellow, and author of poetry and a dictionary of names. He is the publisher of OlongoAfrica.com, co-editor of Best Literary Translations, and winner of the Special Prize of Premio Ostana (2016). This is his first film project.

Director's Statement:

History isn't always found in books—it lives in places, stories, and memories. Ebrohimie Road is my first film and a passion project about documenting and retrieving history. It reflects my ongoing interest in memory and archiving, shaped by my work in linguistics and literature. The film explores how one man's story became part of a national narrative, and how ecological changes affect our ability to remember. It offers a unique, intimate view of Africa's first Nobel Prizewinner, before he became a global figure—through a place that held part of his story.



19:59 - 21:30 PANEL / WINE / RED CARPET PHOTO OPS AND INTERVIEWS

## DAY 3 AUGUST 9 : Courts et Documentaires avec échanges récents

1500 hrs - 1645 hrs film time  
15:00 - 15:10 INTRO (10:00 MIN)

🕒 15:10 - 15:17 “Un-Silenced  
Echoes” / SOUTH AFRICA  
(Runtime 6:57)

When a young man living in a township is confronted with an evil reality, it forces him to wrestle with his own troubled past.

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### Director Biography - Onke Meje

Onke Meje grew up in the township community Fisantekraal in the Western Cape of South Africa. He wrote/directed this film while a 2nd year film student at Film School Africa. He's also a talented cinematographer who is passionate about telling genuine stories.





## DAY 3 AUGUST 9 : Courts et Documentaires avec échanges récents

15:17 - 15:22 INTRO (10:00 MIN)



15:22 - 15:26 “The Baobab Tree Story / THE UBUNTU MOVEMENT” (Runtime 03:38)



”I AM BECAUSE WE ARE”The Baobab Tree Story is a spiritually evocative short film that bridges African ancestral wisdom with modern-day consciousness. Through poetic narration and symbolic imagery, the film brings to life the teachings of the Baobab tree — often called the “Tree of Life” — as a guiding force for unity, resilience, and ecological harmony.

Inspired by the philosophy of Ubuntu — “I am because we are” — the film calls viewers to return to their roots, restore their relationship with the Earth, and honor the ancestral connections that continue to shape our collective destiny.

This short story is a sacred excerpt from the award-winning feature-length documentary The Spirit of Ubuntu, filmed across 10 African countries. The full documentary highlights powerful grassroots efforts, changemakers, and organizations that embody Ubuntu in action — from tree planting and food sovereignty to youth empowerment and interfaith healing. Together, these works weave a narrative of global transformation led by compassion, collaboration, and community.

## DAY 3 AUGUST 9 : Courts et Documentaires avec échanges récents

🕒 15:26 - 15:31 INTRO (5:00)

15:31 - 16:17 “Baka, The Wisdom of the Forest” /Cameroon, Portugal, USA  
(Runtime 45:37)



In a time of global crises—wars, climate change, and ecological collapse—it is urgent to learn from Indigenous groups who have lived in harmony with nature for millennia. Among the few still living in tropical forests, the Baka are one of the oldest, having inhabited Africa’s Congo Basin for over 50,000 years. No other group matches their knowledge of the forest, its animals, plants, and fragile ecological balance.

This film reveals, for the first time, the Baka’s way of life and ecological and medical knowledge through drones and advanced filming techniques, within a broader historical, sociological, anthropological, and biological context. It results from a unique collaboration between the Baka, Cameroonian Bantu filmmakers, NGOs, environmental agencies, and university professors in the U.S. and Canada.

This kind of cultural and multidisciplinary connection is more essential than ever—we must respect, engage with, and learn from those who understand Earth’s ecosystems best.



**Director Biography - Rui Diogo, Denis Ndeloh, Muleng Timngun**

Rui Diogo, a multi-awarded researcher, speaker, and writer, is known for addressing major scientific and societal challenges. He has published 20 books and over 160 papers in leading scientific journals. His research on human evolution has received global media attention, with over 600 features in more than 50 countries, including BBC, CNN, and The New York Times.

He has appeared in TV interviews, documentaries, TED talks, and radio shows, collaborating with international media. His fieldwork spans remote regions of Africa and Asia, with travels to around 150 countries. Committed to challenging norms and promoting inclusivity, he has influenced global conversations on evolution and diversity through works like *Evolution Driven by Organismal Behavior*, *Meaning of Life*, *Human Nature and Delusions*, and *Darwin’s Racism, Sexism and Idolization*.

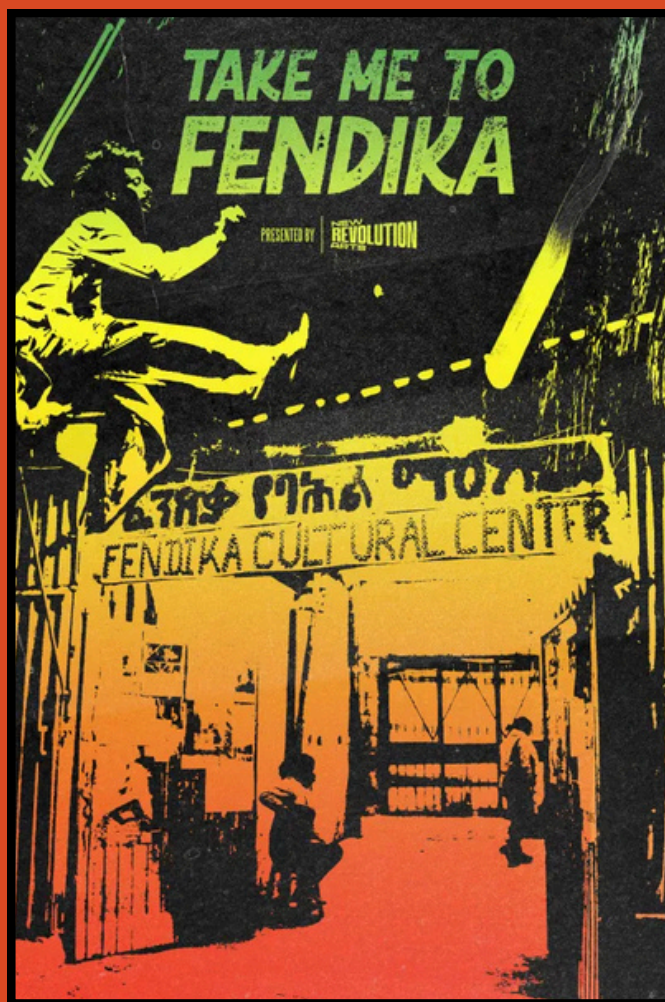


## DAY 3 AUGUST 9 : Courts et Documentaires avec échanges récents

16:17 - 16:22 INTRO (5:00 MIN)

16:22 - 16:45 "Take Me to Fendika" /  
USA ETHIOPIA (Runtime 22:34)

**Take Me to Fendika** illuminates the traditional and innovative musical culture of Ethiopia at what has been called "the best venue in Africa." Run by world-renowned dancer, Melaku Belay, Fendika Cultural Center is a dynamic art space that draws artists from across Africa and the world to present music, dance, poetry, and visual art. This film tells the story of how this vital space came into being and how it continues to serve as a place for artists to invent and reinvent Ethiopian modernity and place it in dialogue with global culture.



### Director Biography - Cisco Bradley

Cisco Bradley is a director, author, and professor at the Pratt Institute, where he teaches the history and aesthetics of music from the African diaspora and runs the Music and Migration Lab. He has founded three multimedia organizations that work to shed light on musicians operating in this sphere: New Revolution Films, [www.jazzrightnow.com](http://www.jazzrightnow.com), and the Free Jazz Oral History Director Statement: This film was a collaboration between American, Ethiopian, and Ethiopian diaspora filmmakers and artists. We had a collective goal of portraying Melaku Belay and other artists featured in the film through their own words and narratives. The film has no "expert talking heads" and presents the dancers and musicians in the film as experts of their own work. We aimed for decolonial narratives of art, music, and creativity showcasing the Ethiopian genius manifest in both tradition and in contemporary innovation.



16:45 - 17:05 BREAK (20 MIN)

## DAY 3 AUGUST 9 : Courts et Documentaires avec échanges récents

1715 hrs - 1915 hrs film time  
17:05 - 17:10 INTRO (5:00 MIN)

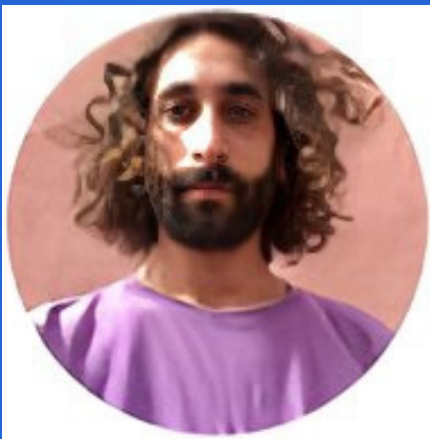
17:10 - 18:07 "BOLOMAKOTÈ" - Music, Tales and  
Spirit of Burkina Faso / ITALY BURKINA FASO  
(Runtime 56:34) 



A journey through the culture, music, and spirituality of Burkina Faso, beginning in the city of Bobo Dioulasso and moving through Bolomakotè — the neighborhood that most strongly embodies the ancient cultural heritage of the "Land of Upright People." It is the world of the Griots — poets, singers, and musicians; the Dozo hunters — healers and shamans; dancers and artisans who, since time immemorial, have preserved the traditions and mysticism of Burkinabè culture. Abdoulay Ablo Traore, musician, composer, and founder of the Sinitah Association, guides us through the rich musical and spiritual traditions of Burkina Faso.

### Director Biography - **pietro cremona**

Pietro Cremona, director and videomaker, studied film in Rome and has been working in Milan since 2010. His video productions span various fields, including fashion, design, and advertising. Through his videos, he tells the stories of companies and individuals — and from this passion came the idea to tell the story of an entire people. **Director Statement:** The documentary received the patronage of the General Embassy of Burkina Faso. With Ablo by my side, I spent my time gathering stories — glimpses of their lives and the secrets of their culture. The people in this documentary were not given any direction; they simply spoke about their art, their roles in Burkinabè society, and their lives — freely and in their own words.

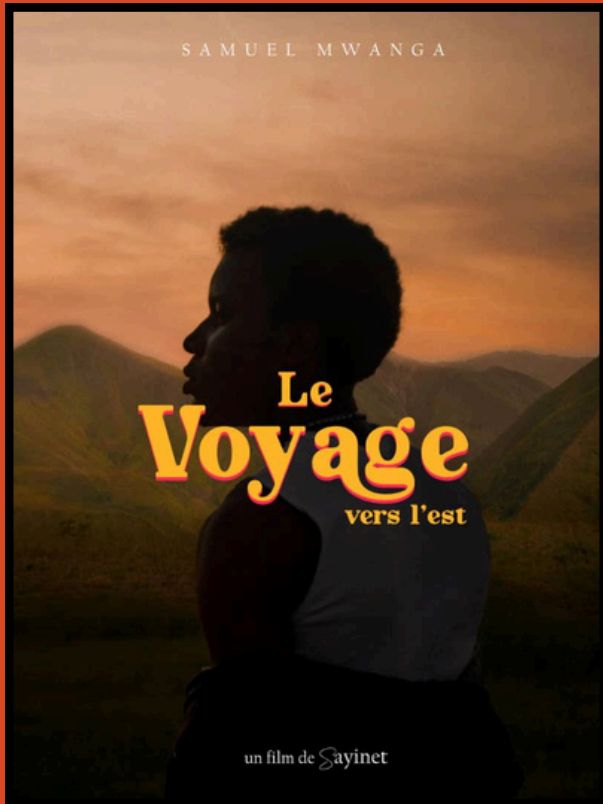




## DAY 3 AUGUST 9 : Courts et Documentaires avec échanges récents

15:54 - 15:59 INTRO (5:00 MIN)

18:12 - 19:15 “The Journey East” / CONGO (Runtime 01:02:46) ⌚



“The Journey East” is a feature-length documentary that traces the untold story of the Bashi people of South Kivu, whose deep-rooted heritage has too often been overshadowed. Guided by a singular narrator’s voice, the film unfolds their origins, the rise and fall of their kingdom under colonial rule, and the seismic shifts—modernization, conflict, and famine—that shape their lives today. Conceived and directed by Michael Sayinet and produced by Visual Error between 2022 and 2024, production spanned Kinshasa, Walungu, Kabare, Bukavu, and Kalehe. After a test screening in Kinshasa in December 2023 and a soft premiere in August 2024, the film was finalized in January 2025. Intended for audiences drawn to history, culture, and the human consequences of colonialism and war, “The Journey East” offers an immersive portrait of resilience and identity in the heart of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

### Director Biography - Michael Sayinet Mantchombe

Michael Sayinet is a Congolese filmmaker whose passion for storytelling has been shaped by both tradition and personal discovery. Born in August 1998, he traces his cinematic inspiration back to his mentor Mweze Ngangura, the celebrated director of *La Vie Est Belle* (starring the late Papa Wemba). In 2021...Director Statement: The documentary *The Journey East* was born from a deep desire to honor my people, the Bashi —past and present. I set out to illuminate their rich history and shed light on the challenges they face today. More than just a film, it is an invitation to rediscover the Democratic Republic of Congo through our own eyes, not filtered by outsiders. My hope is that *The Journey East* sparks curiosity among cinephiles and inspires more storytellers to capture the true soul of the DRC: its vibrant cultures, its enduring spirit, and its complex humanity. Too often, our nation is reduced to a single narrative of hardship; this film strives to replace that narrow view with stories of resilience, heritage, and hope. Ultimately, I want audiences everywhere to see the DRC not as a backdrop of poverty, but as a tapestry of histories waiting to be told.



19:15 - 21:00 PANEL / WINE / RED CARPET PHOTO OPS AND INTERVIEWS

## DAY 4 AUGUST 10 : Femmes, Identités & Résilience

1500 hrs - 1700 hrs film time

15:00 - 15:10 INTRO (10:00 MIN)



15:10 - 15:29 “The Black Gig” / USA (Runtime 18:35)

We follow three black students and see how they navigate being within a predominantly white school.

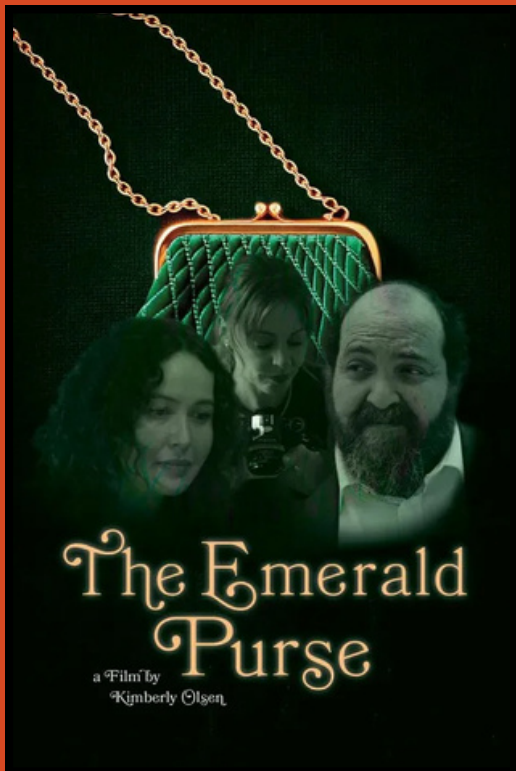




## DAY 4 AUGUST 10 : Femmes, Identités & Résilience

15:29 - 15:34 INTRO (5:00 MIN)

15:34 - 15:54 “The Emerald Purse” / SOUTH AFRICA USA (Runtime 20:00) ⌚



When a successful photographer returns home for her estranged mother's funeral, she stumbles upon an emerald-green purse containing clues that unravel her true identity, forcing her and her sister to redefine who they are.

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### Director Biography - Kimberly Olsen

Originally from the USA, I am a Producer based in Malaga, Spain, but travel frequently due to international projects. I founded my production company, Coupage Productions, a few years ago in order to pursue my love of Independent cinema. I have a degree in Humanities with a specialization in literature, am co-owner of a winery in South Africa, am a mother, and strive to be global minded.

## DAY 4 AUGUST 10 : Femmes, Identités & Résilience

15:54 - 15:59 INTRO (5:00 MIN)

15:59 - 16:16 “Maryam” / MOROCCO (Runtime 16:40) 🕒



### Director Biography - Omar Danaya

Omar Danaya 31 y.o Moroccan Actor/Director/Writer. I have many works that are web Short Movies and Video clips. I have many interviews with TV and Web Media. I speak 2 languages, Arabic and English. I also read Spanish/Turkish/French.



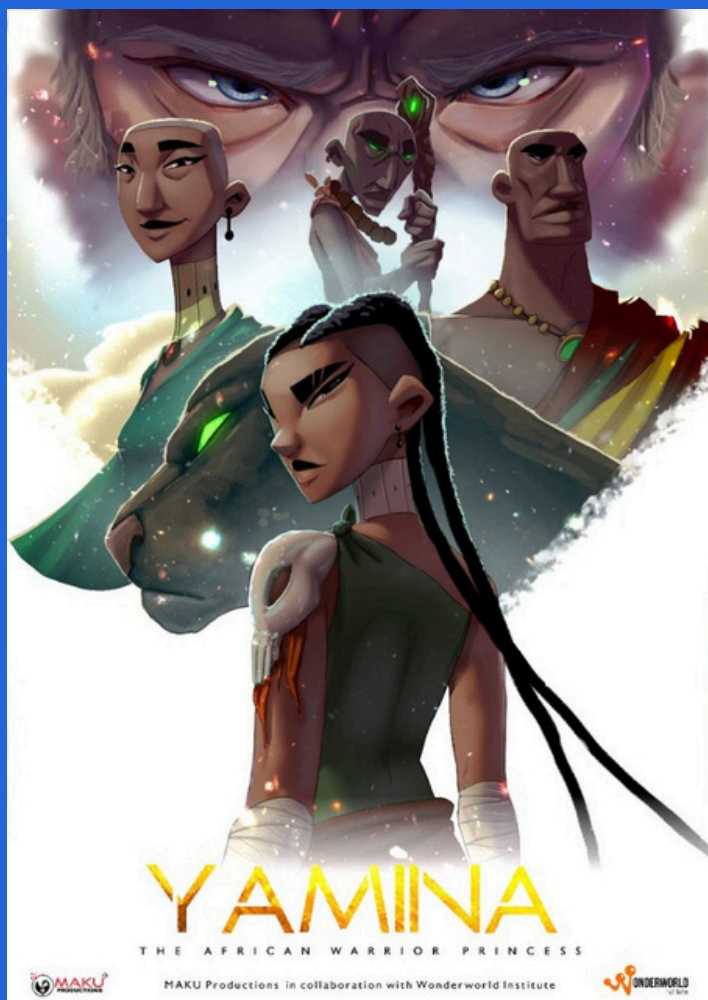
Maryam is a 14-year-old girl who studies in the first preparatory school. During her return from school, she is raped and hides the matter with her parents, but soon her mother finds out about the matter and tells Maryam to hide the matter because it may kill her if that happens. But after a short period of time, his wife tells him everything, so they look for a solution to hide her stomach because Their fear of the neighbors' gaze, after a little thought, her mother decides to take Maryam to a stress doctor, and here the events begin and end with a tragic end.



## DAY 4 AUGUST 10 : Femmes, Identités & Résilience

16:16 - 16:21 INTRO (5:00 MIN)

16:21 - 16:59 “Yamina (The African Warrior Princess)” / CANADA (Runtime 38:00)



Yamina follows the journey of a fearless princess destined to bring peace and transformation to her land. Defying traditions that favor male rulers, Yamina is trained as a warrior and leader by her father. When betrayal and invasion threaten the kingdom, she rises to lead her people, outsmarting powerful invaders and uniting allies to secure their future. Blending action, drama, and rich cultural storytelling, Yamina is a powerful tale of resilience, sacrifice, and the strength of a woman destined to change her world.



### Director Biography - Gabriel Odartei, Ananda Anim-Appiah

Gabriel Odartei is an accomplished African-Canadian Cultural Connector and creative visionary with over a decade of experience in the arts and cultural sector. Based in Toronto, Canada, Gabriel has dedicated his career to bridging diverse cultural backgrounds by fostering connections among artists, managers, facilitators, and curators. He is the founder of Ghanalinx Media Group, a prominent media company dedicated to uplifting the African-Canadian entertainment industry, and MAKU Productions, a video and

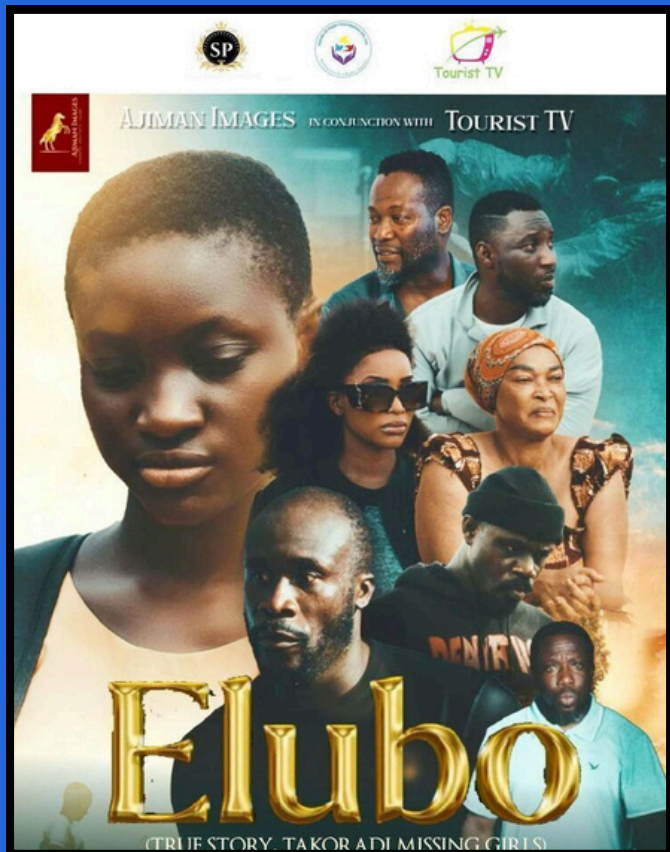


## DAY 4 AUGUST 10 : Femmes, Identités & Résilience

1720 hrs - 1925 hrs film time

17:20 - 17:25 INTRO (5:00 MIN)

17:25 - 19:40 “Elubo” / GHANA (Runtime 02:15:01) ⌚



In the gripping movie *Elubo*, two friends, Kwame and Mawuli, face a harrowing challenge when their 14-year-old sister, Akesi, is kidnapped by a ruthless gang involved in the illegal human trafficking trade. Driven by love and determination, the brothers embark on a perilous journey to rescue her, navigating dangerous territories and confronting the dark realities of the black market. As they gather clues, their unwavering bond and resourcefulness shine through. Ultimately, their quest becomes a powerful testament to the strength of family and the fight against exploitation.



### Director Biography - Opoku Agyeman Boaky. AKA NANA OPOKU

Opoku Agyemang Boaky is a 41-year-old filmmaker and digital content creator, known for his versatility and dedication in the film industry. Born and raised with a passion for storytelling through visual media.

#### Director Statement:

As a passionate filmmaker, my journey in film and television production has been shaped by a relentless pursuit of storytelling and creativity. Beginning with my training at Cape Town TV, I developed a strong foundation in visual media, which I further enhanced through practical experience at Miracle Film. Currently, as a student at the LA Film School, I am honing my craft, focusing on digital filmmaking.

19:40 - 21:00 PANEL / SERVE WINE / RED CARPET PHOTO OPS AND INTERVIEWS



## DAY 5 AUGUST 11 : Points forts & Films à grand succès

1500 hrs - 1745 hrs film time

15:00 - 15:10 INTRO (10:00 MIN)

15:10 - 15:57 “Searching for Simorgh” / FRANCE USA (Runtime 46:10) ⌚

Set in Montgomery, Alabama—a city shaped by both the Confederacy and the Civil Rights Movement—the film follows renowned French street art duo MonkeyBird as they partner with Alabama artists to create public art inspired by the 12th-century Persian poem, Conference of the Birds. The film explores why art matters, how the meaning of home takes shape, and how we’re all part of a shared human journey.



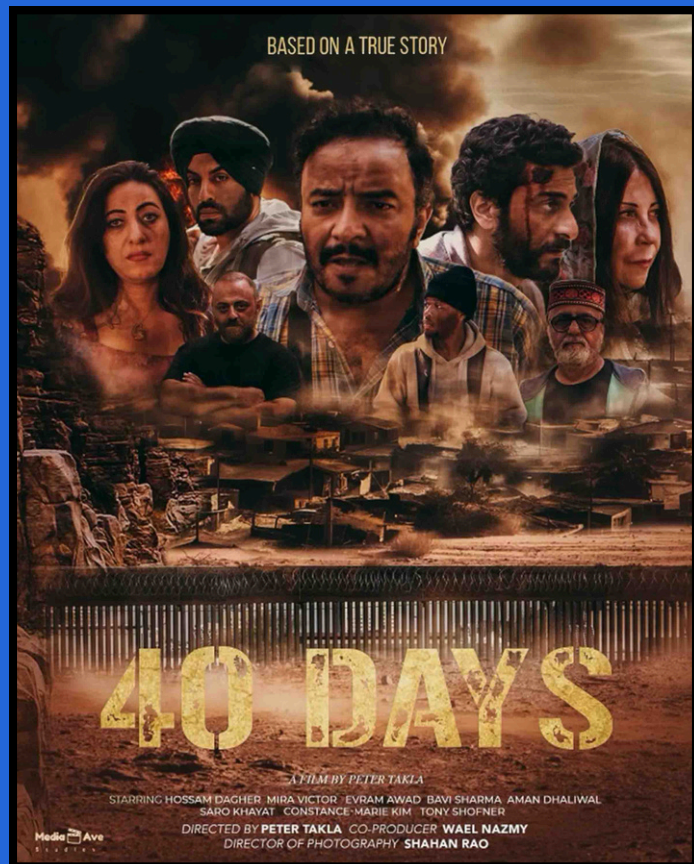
### Director Biography - Ambroise Prince

Ambroise Prince is a French filmmaker and editor known for his distinctive approach to documentary storytelling, often blending visual artistry with social narratives. His work spans television, independent cinema, and digital platforms. Career highlights include *Sur la route de Dakhla* (2019, Street Art MovieFest and Urban Films Festival), and *Veni, Vidi, Graffiti* (2016, Spicce, Apple TV, and Prime Video; won an award at Web Program Festival). He has also served as an editor on programs such as *Clique*, *90 Minutes Enquête*, and *Enquêtes d'Action*.

## DAY 5 AUGUST 11 : Points forts & Films à grand succès

15:57 - 16:02 INTRO (5:00 MIN)

16:02 - 17:44 “40 Days” / EGYPT USA (Runtime 01:42:00) ⌚



Naguib and his wife Mariam decide to take over a dangerous Journey to the united States starting from central America all the way to the US - Mexico Border facing many tough life threatening obstacles.



### Director Biography - Peter F Takla

Peter Takla is an award-winning Egyptian American filmmaker whose passion for storytelling through film drives his creative pursuits. A graduate of the New York Film Academy, he wrote, produced, and directed his debut feature film, which premiered in 2021 after its completion in 2019. Alongside feature films, he has also created several short films and numerous music videos, showcasing his diverse talents in the cinematic arts. Peter Takla is the founder and CEO of his production company Media Ave Studio.

17:44 - 18:05 BREAK



## DAY 5 AUGUST 11 : Points forts & Films à grand succès

1805 hrs - 2130 hrs film time

18:05 - 18:10 INTRO (5:00 MIN)

**18:10 - 19:56 “ Keeper of the Lake” / USA Ethiopia (Runtime 01:46:00)**



Malka Qanani, a blacksmith by trade, is turned away from military service after rumors of his and father's freemasonry travels through the town. When his father is attacked by Governor Bulcha's cronies, Malka vows to get revenge against him by kidnapping and branding his son, Danbooba, in return. Word of Danbooba's kidnapping reaches the Governor and he captures Malka's father, torturing him severely to the point of death. At his father's funeral, Malka confronts Governor Bulcha and fighting ensues. From there, Bulcha is taken by Malka and in the melee is made to confess to his true parentage. Malka decides to spare his life and is lauded as a hero.



### Director Biography - Lencho Fikru

Born and raised in Nekemte, Ethiopia, Lencho Fikru began his journey of advancing the cultural evolution of Oromia through artistic direction, writing, and directing. He holds a BA in Theatrical Arts from Wollega University. Having directed over 50 music videos for renowned Oromo artists such as Gelana Garomsa, Gutu Abera, Yosan Getahun etc and exceeding tens of millions of views on various platforms, he was awarded several ODA awards for Best Director, the much-coveted Hachalu Hundessa Award, and the AFRIMA award for Gutu Abera's "Deemi". Director Statement: I made this film to shine a spotlight on the rich and vibrant Oromo culture and values, presenting them to a global audience through high-quality storytelling that bridges tradition and innovation. At its heart, the film is a powerful celebration of persistence, illustrating how unwavering determination can overcome even the strongest opposition. Beyond this, it serves as a rallying call to inspire people -- both within our community and beyond -- to recognize, celebrate, and invest in homegrown skills and talents rather than discouraging them, fostering a culture of empowerment and pride in our unique heritage.

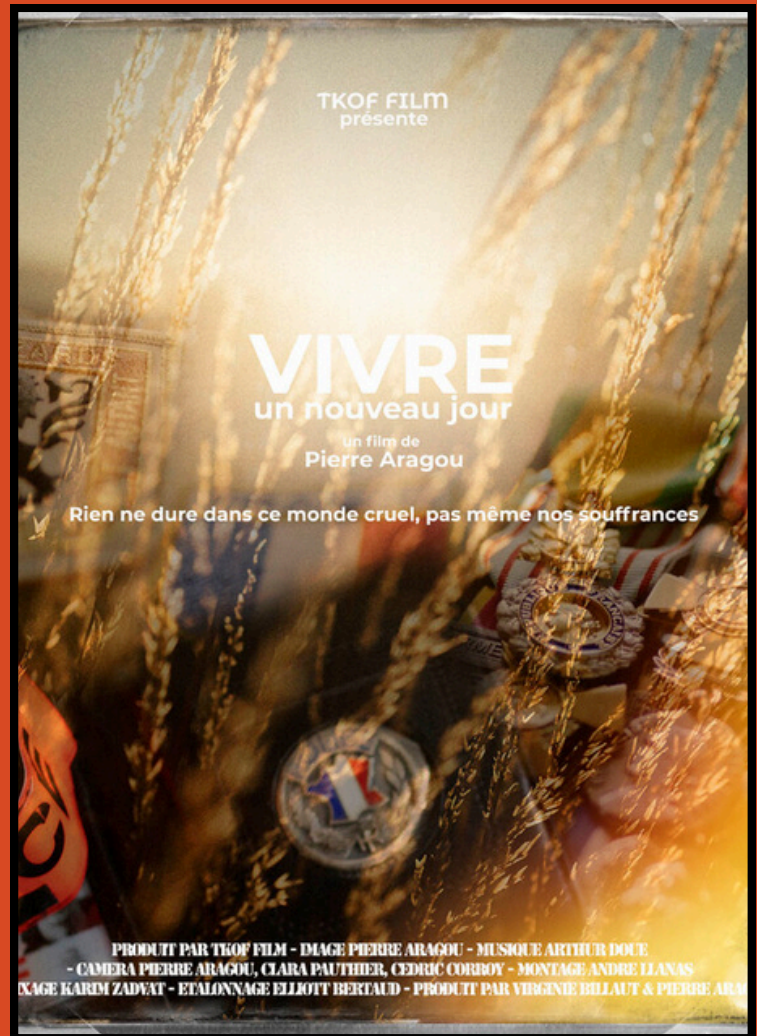


## DAY 6 AUGUST 12 HEROS AND AWARD CEREMONY

1500 hrs - 1730 hrs film time  
15:00 - 15:10 INTRO (10 MIN)

15:10 - 16:02 “Living 1 New Day” / FRANCE (Runtime 51:42) ⌚

Nothing lasts in this cruel world, not even our suffering. A powerful documentary that raises the vital issue of raising awareness and understanding of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Two life stories and a free voice on trauma and suicidal behaviour. Christophe, a police officer, and Sébastien, a soldier, give us their personal accounts, enlightened by psychiatrist Christophe Debien. They confide in us openly and generously, because their words hold the keys to remanence.



### Director Biography - Pierre Aragou

Director Statement: It's a subject that is currently poorly covered and/or skimmed over, or even taboo. In fact, the media don't give it much coverage. Often it's all about the consequences and very little about the causes. Statistical data showing figures for police suicides in France, for example, are still very high and have been for over 25 years. The police commit 45 suicides a year, or 41% more than the French working population... almost 1 suicide a week... It's staggering, but hardly anyone talks about it... or if they do, it's often negative and sensational. My personal journey began with reportage photography, then fashion photography, and ended in film.



6:02 - 16:20 BREAK



## **DAY 5 AUGUST 11 : Points forts & Films à grand succès**

**16:20 - 16:25 INTRO (5:00 MIN)**

**16:25 - 17:16 “Forever Families: Untold Soldiers’ Stories of WWII” / USA  
(Runtime 50:27)🕒**



In the quiet corners of Europe, thousands of American soldiers are buried in immaculately preserved cemeteries—symbols of sacrifice and gratitude. “Forever Families” is a deeply moving documentary that follows European caretakers, American descendants, and local historians as they keep the stories of these soldiers alive. From floral tributes on Memorial Day to digital reunions between families who’ve never met, this film reveals the powerful ways remembrance still connects strangers separated by time, distance, and war. They have become Forever Families. WE ALL KNOW THIS YEAR MARKS THE 80TH YEAR OF RIVIERA D-DAY, LIBERATION BY THE USA AND AFRICA THRU FRANCE AND THE FRENCH RIVIERA OF THE OPPRESSIVE NAZI REGIME.

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**17:16 - 20:00 PANEL / WINE / RED CARPET PHOTO OPS AND  
INTERVIEWS /**

**AWARDS CEREMONY**

**HONORS**

**TO VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO ARE PRESENT**

**TO JOSEPHINE BAKER AND HER SON (VETERAN DECORATED OFFICER)**



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## INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

CANNES RIVIERA D'DAY EDITION

AUG. 7 - 12 2025



Showcasing: **L'Autre Joséphine**  
(The Other Josephine)



Dana Drasser  
Festival Director FUIFF

**Cinema Des Arcades**

77 Rue Félix Faure  
06400 Cannes, France



Dr. Nathalie Beasnael  
Festival Director AUIFF



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# PROGRAM CATALOGUE 2025



FRANCE USA INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL

**CANNES-RIVIERA  
D'DAY EDITION 2025**

**AUGUST 7<sup>TH</sup> - 12<sup>TH</sup>**