

BEYOND NOLLYWOOD: NIGERIAN CINEMA CHARTS A NEW PATH ACROSS THE UK



Green White Green: And All The Beautiful Colours in My Mosaic of Madness

The BFI's Black Star Season will Showcase a New Crop of Nigerian Films in London and Glasgow

- **Africa in Motion's Nollywood Nights on 6 November in Glasgow**
- **Beyond Nollywood Weekender from 18-20 November at BFI Southbank in London, including ground-breaking features, shorts and a special event with Nigerian film star Nse Ikpe-Etim**

London: Friday, 4 November, 2016 – As part of its **BLACK STAR Season**, the BFI will bring to the forefront Nigerian filmmakers who are revolutionising the industry with arthouse, documentary and experimental films. Nollywood has quickly made its mark among international audiences and new filmmakers have emerged, eager to tell new stories and push filmmaking boundaries.

The **BFI's Film Hub Scotland** has partnered with the **Africa in Motion Film Festival** for its **Nollywood Nights strand on Sunday, 6 November in Glasgow**. The strand will showcase the latest work from three of Nigeria's most popular bright new directors: *The Champagne Room* (dir. Olumide Fadeyibi, 2016), a Scottish/Nigerian co-production bringing together interrelated stories and real life experiences of domestic violence, child abuse and human trafficking; *The Road to Yesterday* (dir. Ishaya Bako, 2015), which centres around a couple's troubled relationship and intertwines moments of matrimonial bliss with episodes of profound heartache; and Kunle Afolayan's *The CEO* (2016), about five top-level employees who vie to out-do one another in a bid to be selected for the top job.

The Beyond Nollywood Weekender, which was curated by Nadia Denton, in association with the BFI's popular African Odysseys strand, will take place from 18-20 November at the BFI Southbank in London. The Weekender will open with *Green White Green: And All the Beautiful Colours in My Mosaic of Madness* (dir. Abba T. Makama, 2016). A hilarious coming of age story, *Green White Green* is the first arthouse film of its kind from Nigeria and premiered at this year's Toronto International Film Festival to much acclaim. The screening will be followed by an **Afrobeats set with DJ Cuppy** in the BFI Riverfront Bar.

One of Nigeria's most sought-after actresses, "Screen Queen" **Nse Ikpe-Etim** (*Reloaded, Journey to Self, Fifty*) will discuss her career and the Nollywood star system in a special event taking place on **Sunday 20, November**. Ikpe-Etim has acted in over 20 films and was voted Best Actress at the Africa Magic Viewer's Choice Awards in 2014.

Exploring the history of the music scene of Lagos from highlife to juju and Afrobeat is guerrilla-style music documentary *Faaji Agba* (dir. Remi Vaughan-Richards). The film features Fatai Rolling Dollar, Alaba Pedro, SF Olowookere and Ayinde Bakare.

UK premieres of 14 short films will be shown over the course of the weekend including; *The Women of Nollywood: Amaka's Kin*, (dir. Tope Oshin, 2016) an intimate look at the careers of a handful of female directors referencing the late doyen filmmaker Amaka Igwe; *I Believe in Pink* (dir. Victoria Thomas, 2016) a documentary about men who tattoo their lips pink in Lagos; futuristic animation *The Golden Chain* (dir. Buki Bodunrin, 2016); and *No Good Turn* (dir. Udoka Oyeka, 2015) a thrilling glimpse into the ramifications of a deadly Boko Haram attack.

"I am thrilled that Beyond Nollywood is taking place as one of the BFI's most far reaching seasons to date. The selection of films reflect new trends emerging from the Nigerian film space which are destined to take the African narrative to new places." - **Nadia Denton, BFI Beyond Nollywood Programmer**

7 filmmakers will be present throughout the Beyond Nollywood Weekender to participate in post-screening Q&A's, including Tope Oshin, Ishaya Bako, Remi Vaughan-Richards, Victoria Thomas, Sade Adeniran, Andy Mundy-Castle and Cherish Oteka.

The **BFI's BLACK STAR season**, which will run until the end of the year, is the UK's biggest season of film and television dedicated to celebrating the range, versatility and power of black actors. The season's aim is to bring the work of black actors to a new generation of UK audiences, helping to reposition them and their performances in our collective memory.

BLACK STAR will be available to audiences everywhere in the UK; in cinemas including BFI Southbank, on BBC Television, on BFI DVD/Blu-ray and online via BFI Player until 31 December.

The full BLACK STAR Beyond Nollywood programme can be found here:
<https://whatson.bfi.org.uk/Online/beyondnollywood>

List of Films being showcased throughout the Beyond Nollywood Weekender:

***Green White Green: And All the Beautiful Colours in My Mosaic of Madness* (dir. Abba T. Makama, 2016)**

Gala Opening Screening Followed by a set with DJ Cuppy

Uzoma, Segun and Baba have just graduated from secondary school and are on summer break before going to university. Intrigued by a radical professor who is writing a book about the history of Nigeria they decide to make a movie and in the process embark on rollercoaster ride of self-

discovery. With plenty of wit and satire, ***Green White Green*** sits at the vanguard of Nigerian arthouse cinema.

***Faaji Agba* (dir. Remi Vaughan-Richards, 2015)**

A group of elderly Yoruba master musicians in Lagos, Nigeria were forgotten until Kunle Tejuoso, owner of Jazzhole Records created the Faaji Agba Collective. Kunle's journey starts with Fatai Rolling Dollar, which leads him to others such as Alaba Pedro, SF Olowookere, Ayinde Bakare and more. From highlife to juju and afrobeat; ***Faaji Agba*** interweaves the history of the music scene of Lagos from the 1940's to the present day.

The Nollywood Star - Nse Ikpe-Etim in Conversation

Nigerian screen queen Nse Ikpe-Etim is one of Nigeria's most sought-after actresses. Known for her roles in popular Nigerian films such as Mr. And Mrs., Phone Swap and Fifty Nse has acted in over 18 films in nearly a decade in the industry. In 2014 she was voted Best Actress at the Africa Magic Viewer's Choice Awards. Taking inspiration from actors such as Joke Silva, Sophia Loren and Daniel Day Lewis; she describes herself as an ardent student of Stanislavski. Nse reflects on her career and the Nollywood star system in conversation with Nadia Denton.

Waiting for an Angel* Documentary Shorts

***I Believe in Pink* (dir. Victoria Thomas, 2016)**

In a crowded market on the Lagos mainland, John runs a thriving beauty business making men beautiful by tattooing their lips.

***Silent Tears* (dir. Ishaya Bako, 2015)**

How the 'war' on prostitution in the Nigerian capital of Abuja has led to the victimisation of innocent women.

***The Women of Nollywood: Amaka's Kin* (dir. Tope Oshin, 2016)**

An intimate look at the careers of a handful of female Directors referencing the late doyen filmmaker Amaka Igwe.

***The Story Within* (dir. Andy Mundy-Castle, 2015)**

Photographers reflect on the process of bringing their creative vision to life.

***A Man Called Dad* (dir. Cherish Oteka, 2015)**

4 London based fathers narrate their experiences, challenges and triumphs as parents.

The Gods Are Not to Blame* Narrative Shorts

***The Golden Chain* (dir. Buki Bodunrin, 2016)**

Sole crew member Yetunde oversees Eko space station in a remote corner of the galaxy.

***Mrs. Bolanle Benson* (dir. Sade Adeniran, 2015)**

60 year old Bolanle Benson has a secret rendezvous with her lover.

***Honey* (dir. Olu Yomi Ososanya, 2016)**

A young girl promises to give a man a night to remember, but at what cost?

***Imagine* (dir. Comfort Arthur, 2015)**

Imagine if your daughter was abducted on her way to school?

No Good Turn (dir. Udoka Oyeka, 2016)

Tensions are high as a doctor and police officer come to terms with the repercussions of a deadly Boko Haram attack.

Henna (dir. Ishaya Bako, 2015)

13 year old Reina has dreams but in her village young girls are married off at a young age. Will her voice be heard?

Ireti (dir. Tope Oshin, 2015)

Ireti has a life changing encounter in solitary confinement.

A Mother's Journey (dir. Sade Adeniran, 2016)

As a child, Lola was abandoned by her mother. Now a parent herself, will Lola heal the hidden scars by meeting the woman who left her?

Meet the Parents (dir. Lonzo Nzekwe, 2016)

Visual montage inspired by American rapper Jay Z's track of the same name.

Social Media:

#BFIBlackStar

@BFI

facebook.com/britishfilminstitute

instagram.com/britishfilminstitute

***** PICTURE DESK *****

A selection of images for journalistic use in promoting BFI Southbank screenings can be found at www.image.net under BFI Southbank 2016 > October / November

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NOTES TO EDITORS

BFI BLACK STAR

BLACK STAR is the UK's biggest ever season of film and television dedicated to celebrating the range, versatility and power of black actors. BLACK STAR celebrates the relationship between stars and the audiences who love them, spotlighting great performances by black actors on screen from the earliest years of cinema through to the present day, whilst exploring why opportunities to shine on screen have been historically limited for black actors. BLACK STAR

celebrates films that feature black actors in central roles, bringing their work to a new generation of UK audiences and helping to reposition them and their performances in our collective memory. BLACK STAR is currently taking place across the UK, at BFI Southbank, on BFI Player and on DVD.

About the BFI

The BFI is the lead organisation for film in the UK with the ambition to create a flourishing film environment in which innovation, opportunity and creativity can thrive by:

- Connecting audiences to the widest choice of British and World cinema
- Preserving and restoring the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations
- Championing emerging and world class film makers in the UK - investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of film makers and audiences

The BFI is a Government arm's-length body and distributor of Lottery funds for film. The BFI serves a public role which covers the cultural, creative and economic aspects of film in the UK. It delivers this role:

- As the UK-wide organisation for film, a charity core funded by Government
- By providing Lottery and Government funds for film across the UK
- By working with partners to advance the position of film in the UK.

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter. The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Josh Berger CBE.

Beyond Nollywood Filmmaker Bios

Green White Green: And All the Beautiful Colours in My Mosaic of Madness

Abba T. Makama is the founder and creative director of OSIRIS FILM & ENTERTAINMENT. OSIRIS is creative group that creates magical ideas and strategies for digital and traditional media. Abba has a degree in Business Management from the State University New York, Fredonia and studied film at the prestigious New York University (N.Y.U). On returning to Nigeria he has worked in various capacities with brands Google, GT-bank, Blackberry, etc. commissioned by AL JAZEERA to direct a documentary on the Nigeria Film Industry titled "NOLLYWOOD something from nothing." The documentary aired globally on Al Jazeera world in July 2015. In May 2016, the documentary was nominated for an AMAA (African Movie Academy Awards) under best documentary category. His film Green White Green was selected for 2016 Toronto International Film Festival.

I Believe in Pink

Victoria Thomas is an award winning and BAFTA nominated filmmaker based in the UK. Most recently she co-produced the documentaries Between Rings and Zambia's Boxing Star about 7 time worldwelterweight champion Esther Phiri which was broadcast on YLE Finland and Al Jazeera English after premiering at CPH:Dox. She is currently in production on Born In New York, Raised In Paris, a feature length music documentary about hip hop and its impact on race and identity in France in the era of ISIS. She has an MFA in Film from the Screen Academy Scotland and is an alumni of the Berlinale Talent Campus, IDFA Summer Academy and the UK's National Film and Television School.

www.thepolkadotfactory.com

Silent Tears

Henna

Ishaya Bako is a graduate of the MA Filmmaking program of the London Film School and his graduation film, "Braids on a Bald Head" was screened in over a dozen film festivals including Seattle and Clermont-Ferrand and won the Best Short Film Prize at the 2012 AMAA awards. He directed "Fuelling Poverty", a documentary that comments on the 2012 fuel subsidy scam and protests in Nigeria that won the Best Documentary Award at the 2014 AMAA. His most recent work is "Silent Tears", a documentary on gender based violence by law enforcement and his feature film debut, "Road to Yesterday", a romantic thriller starring Nollywood screen goddess, Genevieve Nnaji. Ishaya is the creative director of Amateur Heads Productions, a filmmaking creative committed to producing socially conscious content. He lives and writes in Abuja.

www.amateurheads.com

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PdL0KXiLOo4>

<https://vimeo.com/126249838>

The Women of Nollywood: Amaka's Kin

Ireti

Tope Oshin who has been named one of Africa's Leading Women, Nigeria's Most Inspiring Women, and on the Top 7 Power Women in Nigerian Film, is a multiple award-winning filmmaker who studied at the Lagos State University, Nigeria, Colorado Film School, USA, and is also an alumni of Berlinale Talents and Talents Durban. She has directed altogether about 500 episodes of Africa's biggest drama series - Tinsel, Hotel Majestic and Hush. Other credits include films, and new documentary Amaka's Kin-The Women Of Nollywood. Among her producing credits are 26 TV movies, talk shows, and 2015 BFI premiered theatrical feature Fifty. As Supervising Producer and Consultant, has reviewed over 40 screenplays, and also lent her skill as a trainer at several film workshops in Nigeria. Tope, who was Juror for the International Emmy Awards 2015, Eko International Film Festival 2015, and AfricaMagic Viewers Choice Awards 2016, has been featured on CNN twice, and also DW Deutsche Welle TV.

www.topeoshin.com

bit.ly/AmakasKinTrailer

bit.ly/IretiTheMovie

The Story Within

Andy Mundy-Castle has produced some of TV's most notable multi-cultural productions. The creator of Channel 4's seminal shorts series The Black Lesbian Handbook a Broadcast Award nominee with over a million views. He has over 10 years experience in production, notably the series Producer / Director on the landmark art show African Masters and the multi-award winning feature thriller David is Dying, which garnered 13 awards and played in over 30 international festivals. His debut feature length documentary The Fade was released to critical acclaim, shining a spotlight on the profession of barbering featuring superstar Pharrell Williams. Mundy-Castle continues to work as a Director for broadcast television and independent feature film production. He works through his production company Doc Hearts and as a freelance producer/director. Most recently steering the successful UK launch of the Netflix series The Get Down through the original branded content piece Bronx Tales. He works and lives in London.

www.andymundycastle.com

<https://vimeo.com/134785065>

A Man Called Dad

Cherish Oteka is a London-based filmmaker whose passion for storytelling began in photography. Having studied Psychology with Neuroscience, Cherish's interest in human behavior is an underlying influence in her productions. Although she is primarily a visual artist, she is also passionate about music, poetry and cinematography, all of which marry up together in her films.

Cherish is passionate about human interest stories that tackle social issues and force us to view the world through a fresh pair of eyes. Through film she aims to explore themes of identity, civil unrest, and create a platform for marginalized communities to take ownership of how their experiences are portrayed in the media. Having worked in film festivals, online video platforms and for broadcasters, Cherish uses her trained editorial eye when filmmaking and understands the conventions of broadcast storytelling whilst still using her own unique style. Cherish's short film *A Man Called Dad* was commissioned in 2014. It has since been screened at a number of reputable film festivals and venues including BFI and BAFTA. On Father's Day 2016, *A Man Called Dad* was broadcast on London Live.

The Golden Chain

Adebukola Bodunrin is a film, video, and installation artist who explores language, culture, and media. In her collage animations, she manipulates film using unorthodox manual and digital techniques in order to produce unexpected cinematic experiences. Bodunrin completed her Master of Fine Arts at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Her work has been screened or exhibited nationally and internationally at venues that include the Jersey City Museum of Art, the Scope Art Fair, Onion City Film Festival, the Chicago Underground Film Festival, Nightingale, Chicago, Festival Animator, Poznań, Poland, Ok, Quoi? festival, Sackville, New Brunswick, Anthology Film Archives, New York, the Black Cinema House, Chicago, and at Images Festival, Toronto. She has participated in studio residences at the Chicago Artists Coalition as a participant of the BOLT residency, and at the Chicago Cultural Center. She lives and works in Los Angeles.

<http://www.adebukolabodunrin.com/>

<https://vimeo.com/181331432>

Mrs. Bolanle Benson

A Mother's Journey

Sade Adeniran has written for radio, theatre and film. She is primarily known for her debut award winning novel *Imagine This*, which won the 2008 Commonwealth Writer's Prize for the Africa Region. However, Sade is also a filmmaker, and so far has made several short films, *More Cake* (2013) *Mrs. Bolanle Benson* (2015) and *A Mother's Journey* (2016). *More Cake* screened at *Raindance*, *Molodist* and *London Black Film Festival*. *A Mother's Journey* and *Mrs. Bolanle Benson* will be screened as part of the British Film Institute's Black Star programme celebrating. The adapted version of her novel *Imagine This*, recently won the British Urban Film Festival Award for Best Script Talent. Sade is also working on a collection of short stories and the second series of her short story podcasts (SWoSSP) which promotes African writers and stories. SWoSSP is freely available to listen to on SoundCloud and the iTunes store.

<http://www.sades-world.com/mother/>

<https://vimeo.com/154982772>

Honey

Olu Yomi Ososanya is Nigerian writer, film and television Director and Producer. He started his career as a staff writer before making the transition to behind the camera as a Director, He's written on television shows, *The Station*, *Edge of Paradise* and *The Johnsons* as well as worked on talk shows and reality television. He is best known for his short film *Bliss*, a homage to the work of master of suspense, which got a Special Mention at the *Fastnet Short Film Festival* and he was the writer of, *Erased*, which was selected for the *Cannes Short Film Corner* in 2016.

<http://www.oludascribe.com/blog/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zf7afNcHRYs>

Imagine

Comfort Arthur is a British Born Ghanaian who gained a Bachelors Degree in Graphic Design at Central St Martins and a masters degree in Animation at the Royal College of Arts. In 2012 she

moved to Ghana and now works as a freelance editor, illustrator, Graphic Designer and animator. She has worked on several award winning films in Ghana such as Sparrow production's Potomanto and Rebecca. She has also edited top tv series shows such as Adam's Apple and V Republic. In 2015 her short animation film The Peculiar Life of a Spider was nominated in the animation category at the Ghana Movie Awards and The Africa Movie Academy Awards. In addition, her short animation film "Imagine" won best Animation 2016 at the Golden Movie Awards.

No Good Turn

Udoka Oyeka started his journey when he stumbled into a theater elective while in college. He graduated with an accounting degree from the University of Texas at Arlington and immediately went to drama school to chase his passion performing for the screen. While producing and performing short films with friends in Canada, writing and directing followed naturally. He released his first feature "ZR 7(The Red House Seven)" in cinemas nationwide (Nigeria) in 2011 and has followed with short films entitled "Down and Out" and "Living Funeral" which have gathered nominations in different film festivals. His new film titled "No Good Turn" deals with the effect of terrorism in Nigeria. Udoka is advent on creating African films of international standards and is steadily following his passion as an actor and a filmmaker.

www.karmacauseproductions.com

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7qurYzHTclg>

Meet the Parents

Lonzo Nzekwe is a Nigerian/Canadian writer/director/producer. He is a self-taught filmmaker whose only formal film training came from watching behind the scenes videos of established film directors working on set. He also studied the 2 Day Film School DVD by Dov SS Simens and developed his Final Cut editing skills by enrolling at WITZ Training (Canada's first Apple Authorized Training Centre). In 2009 he founded his production company, Alpha Galore Films and released his award-winning debut feature film, Anchor Baby in 2010. The film won 13 international awards including Best Film and Best Actress awards at the 2010 Harlem International Film Festival. Anchor Baby was also nominated in two categories at the 2011 African Movie Academy Awards. Lonzo Nzekwe is a co-founder and the former CEO of the first black-owned 24-hour television network in Canada, FEVA TV Inc. He is founder of multimedia entertainment company, IronFlix, Inc. The company specializes in online digital distribution and production of film and series content.

<http://www.meettheparentsmovie.com/>

Faaji Agba

Remi Vaughan-Richards is vibrant and versatile director. She studied MA Design at the Royal College of Art, London, and a Post Graduate Diploma in Film and Television at Kingston University, London. She received an award at the Africa Magic Viewers Choice Awards (2016) for her documentary 'Faaji Agba'. In 2013, an award for her contribution to documentary films in Nigeria. The award winning docu-drama 'One Small Step' featured in the New York African Film Festival and 'Scent of the Streets', documentary for Communicating for Change/BBC films featured at Afrikamera, Berlin; as well as the groundbreaking 52 part TV drama 'Wetin Dey' for BBC World Service Trust, Nigeria. Remi created an interactive multi-media project for the launch of the L22m Rich Mix cultural centre, London. Her feature films include: 'The Department', (drama), Inkblot Films and her latest drama feature, 'Unspoken' for Ford Foundation. Since 2000 her skills and experience have added an extra dimension to her work as a director. Remi's mission is to create a slate of cutting edge feature films and documentaries that will focus a sharp lens onto contemporary Africa.

<https://filmfreeway.com/project/470665>

<https://vimeo.com/142400618>

Nse Ikpe-Etim is one of Nigeria's most sought-after actresses. Known for her roles in popular Nigerian films such as Mr. And Mrs., Phone Swap and Fifty Nse has acted in over 18 films in nearly a decade in the industry. In 2014 she was voted Best Actress at the Africa Magic Viewer's Choice Awards. Taking inspiration from actors such as Joke Silva, Sophia Loren and Daniel Day Lewis; she describes herself as an ardent student of Stanislavski.