

17TH ANNUAL AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL

March 24–26, 2023

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Free Admission | Brown Hall, Room 100

Friday, March 24 | 7 PM

PRECIOUS HAIR & BEAUTY

In English and Yoruba with English

John Ogunmuyiwa, United Kingdom, 2021, 11 minutes

An ode to the mundanity and madness of the high street, told through the window of an African hair salon.

SAINT OMER

In French with English subtitles

Alice Diop, Senegal/France, 2022, 122 minutes

Follow Rama, a novelist who attends the trial of Laurence Coly at the Saint-Omer Criminal Court to use her story to write a modern-day adaptation of the ancient myth of Medea. Things do not go as expected.

Best Screenplay, Chicago International Film Festival, 2022

Winner, Edipo Re Award (Università degli Studi di Padova e ResInt Rete dell'Economia Sociale Internazionale), Best Debut Prize & Grand Jury Award, Venice International Film Festival, 2022

Best Film, Toronto Film Critics Association Award, 2023

African Modernism in America Exhibit Special Hours

Organized by the American Federation of Arts and the Fisk University Galleries, *African Modernism in America* is the first major traveling exhibition to examine the complex connections between modern African artists and patrons, and cultural organizations in the United States, amid the interlocking histories of civil rights, decolonization, and the Cold War. The exhibition features more than 70 artworks by 50 artists that exemplify the relationships between the new art that emerged in Africa during the 1950s and 1960s.

On view March 10, 2023–August 6, 2023, at the Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum. The museum will host special viewing hours during the festival, March 24–26; the museum will be open until 7 p.m.

YOUTH MATINEE

Saturday, March 25 | 3 PM

SNAIL AND THE WHALE

In English

Max and Suzanne Lang, Animation by Triggerfish, South Africa, 2019, 27 minutes

The amazing journey of a tiny snail who longs to see the world and hitches a ride on the tail of a friendly humpback whale. A joyous, empowering story about the natural wonders of the world and discovering that no matter how small you are, you can make a difference.

Winner, BAFTA's Children & Young People Awards, 2022

Winner, Venice TV Award, 2020

Saturday, March 25 | 7 PM

LA STAR

In Lingala and French with English subtitles

Kevin Mavakala, Congo, 2022, 14 minutes

A director does everything possible to ensure his film shoot is successful. Unfortunately for him, he casts an actress who does not make his task easy.

Best International Short Film Award, Festival Écrans Noirs 2021

Best Film Award, Qibodo Africa Film Festival, 2021

TUG OF WAR (VUTA N'KUVUTE)

In English and Swahili with English subtitles

Amil Shivji, Tanzania/South Africa, 2021, 92 minutes

Denge, a young freedom fighter, meets Yasmin, an Indian-Zanzibari woman, in the middle of the night as she is on her way to be married. Passion and revolution ensue in this coming-of-age political love story set in the final years of British colonial Zanzibar.

Special Jury Prize, New Directors Competition, Seattle International Film Festival, 2022

Best Film, African Movie Academy Awards, 2022

Best Actress in a Leading Role, African Movie Academy Awards, 2022

Reception and post-show discussion with Amil Shivji, moderated by filmmaker Ekwa Msangi following screening.

TROLL GIRL

In English

Kay Carmichael, Animation by Triggerfish, South Africa, 2021, 8 minutes

A trollish child, raised by a nun in a human village, defies her own insecurities and the villagers' fears to save her mother from danger.

MY BETTER WORLD

In English

Fundi Films/Maan Creative, Tanzania/South Africa, 2021–22, 30 minutes

My Better World is an animated series that follows the exciting adventures of six African teens as they navigate the complex challenges of school, family, and friendship! The series was developed with the help of local teens and is brought to life by a team of artists and animators from across Africa.

Sunday, March 26 | 7 PM

EGÚNGÚN (MASQUERADE)

In Yoruba and English with English subtitles

Olive Nwosu, Nigeria, 2021, 14 minutes

A woman returns to her hometown of Lagos in search of healing. What she discovers instead is a path that takes her into her past and toward a new understanding of the people and experiences that shaped her. *Egúngún (Masquerade)* is a meditation on home, memory, and identity — on the many versions of ourselves that haunt us.

Golden Starfish Award, Hamptons International Film Festival, 2021

Best Student Short, Aspen Shortsfest, 2021

XALÉ

In Wolof and French with English subtitles

Moussa Sene Absa, Senegal, 2022, 101 minutes

The drama centers on Awa, a 15-year-old student, and her twin brother (and confidante) Adama, who dreams of a better life in Europe. When their beloved grandmother arranges for their Aunt Fatou to marry a relative whom Fatou detests, the results of this forced union bear consequences not only for the unhappy couple, but for the community — and, most gravely, for the twins. The film boldly inflects contemporary melodrama with traditional storytelling modes in this potent, music-filled tale of one woman's tragedy and transcendence.

Sponsored by African and African-American Studies and Film and Media Studies in Arts & Sciences and the African Students Association of Washington University. It is funded in part by a grant from the Women's Society of Washington University. Financial assistance for this project also has been provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency, and an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. The event is also supported by the Saint Louis Art Museum. Saturday's films are co-presented with the St. Louis Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

 Washington University in St. Louis


THE WOMEN'S SOCIETY
of WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
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AFRICAN STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
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