

22 Films & DVD including 5 New Releases
from & about

Africa

Berlin 1885: The Division of Africa

A Film by Joel Calmettes



On February 26th, 1885, at Chancellor Otto von Bismarck's official residence in Berlin, the "Berlin Conference on Africa" came to a successful conclusion. After three months of negotiations amongst the leading diplomats from all the major European powers (and the US), the "General Act of the Berlin Conference" had been agreed. And a large part of Africa's subsequent fate had been set in motion.

For at a time when an estimated 80% of Africa remained under traditional and local control, the purpose of the Berlin Conference had been for the Great Powers to establish rules amongst themselves for the colonization of Africa and the exploitation of Africa's resources. Including the division of territory, the drawing of maps, and the establishment of Congo—as a personal possession of the Belgian King. No Africans had been invited to the Conference.

Using actual transcripts taken down at the time, **BERLIN 1885: THE DIVISION OF AFRICA** combines reenactments of the Conference proceedings and previously unexplored archival materials, with the insights of historians and scholars from six nations, to discuss the politics, implications, and legacy of the first international conference about Africa.

*"Cleverly using the exchanges put down in the diplomatic archives, **BERLIN 1885** never sacrifices the demand of the documentary to the virtue of fiction. The seriousness of the program comes nonetheless with a skillful direction that maintains our attention. This a model of the genre, educational but without heaviness."*—**Télérama**



**2011 Festival International
du Film PanAfricain de
Cannes**

84 min | color | 2010

Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$398



ICARUS FILMS

Boyamba Belgique: or Why a King Should Not Lose His Sword

A film by Bart van Peel & Dries Engels



NEW On June 30, 1960, slightly over 50 years ago, the largest African colony Congo became independent of Belgium.

The day before, Wednesday, June 29th, around half past four in the afternoon, as the Belgian King Baudouin was being driven through Kinshasa, standing bolt upright next to the future president Kasavubu in a Cadillac convertible, he saluted the Belgian flag. At this very moment a young Congolese man steps from the crowd, steals the sabre of King Baudouin from behind, and runs away. And photographer Robert Lebeck eternalizes the incident in a single shot.

In **BOYAMBA BELGIQUE: OR WHY A KING SHOULD NOT LOSE HIS SWORD**, this picture becomes a key-hole through which to peer at the decolonization of Africa. For the filmmakers embark on a search for the thief, meeting eyewitnesses, searching for archives, visiting villages, and digging into the meaning and symbolism of the act.

Until, like in all good stories of hidden history, after false starts and misdirection about the person and meanings both, they do discover the real thief, and, why he did it.

"This fascinating, fast paced investigation goes back into the history of Congo and dispels the mystery of a highly symbolic act."

—Le Nouvel Observateur

"A real police investigation in which the filmmakers discover theories that are as astonishing as they are unexplored of this event, and one that takes the filmmakers not only across the country, but also through the history of Congo." —Le Figaro

57 min | color | 2010
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$ 390

Mobutu: King of Zaire

A Film by Thierry Michel

This is the definitive visual record of the rise and fall of Joseph Désiré Mobutu, ruler of Zaire (the Congo) for over 30 years. It draws on 140 hours of rare archival material and 50 hours of interviews with those once close to Mobutu. An essential history and documentary resource, the film is in three parts:

QUEST FOR POWER documents Mobutu's rise, showing how he turned on his mentor, Patrice Lumumba, and instigated a coup that would lead to a four-year civil war.

AN AFRICAN TRAGEDY covers 1969 to 1988, a period during which Mobutu became undisputed ruler of Zaire, controlling its riches, property and people.

THE END OF A REIGN covers 1988 to 1997, when opposition movements arose. Finally, in 1997, Laurent Kabila seized Kinshasa, and Mobutu fled, dying in exile later that year.




"Rejects shrill indictment in favor of the cumulative revelation of its subject through film and the testimony of knowledgeable Mobutu aides and other qualified individuals. [This film] is the devastating witness that lays bare the homicidal, corrupt, vainglorious tyranny of Mobutu Sese Seko."

—The New York Times

"A stunning documentary."
—American Historical Review

 **2001 Film Festival, African Literature Association**

 **2000 Film Festival, African Studies Association**

 **1999 Best Documentary Nominee, International Documentary Association**

162 min | color | 1999
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$398

Congo In Four Acts

Produced by Djo Tunda & Steven Markovitz

CONGO IN FOUR ACTS is four short documentary films (on one DVD) made by Congolese filmmakers about everyday life in the Democratic Republic of Congo.



Ladies In Waiting (24 Min)

Directed by Dieudo Hamadi & Divita Wa Lusala

In a run-down maternity hospital, women cannot leave with their infants because they don't have the money to pay the hospital's fees. A long-suffering manager negotiates with them, until they agree to leave personal valuables as collateral: a celebration dress, a pair of earrings, a suitcase. Without pointing fingers or laying blame, LADIES IN WAITING eloquently exposes both the squalid hospital system and the endemic poverty of Congo.

"LADIES IN WAITING channels Frederick Wiseman as it chronicles the bureaucratic dysfunctions of a Kinshasa maternity ward."—Hot Docs



Symphony Kinshasa (15 Min)

Directed by Kiripi Katembo Siku

Take a hard-hitting tour through Congo's capital city and discover the consequences of graft, neglect and poverty. Infrastructure is imploding, malaria is rife, fresh water is rare as flood waters are common, live electricity cables lie bare in the street, and garbage is everywhere. This film isn't pretty, but it certainly is revelatory.



Zero Tolerance (17 Min)

Directed by Dieudo Hamadi

Rape has been used as a weapon in the recent Congo wars—and one of its awful legacies has been its increased acceptance in everyday life. Women now find themselves vulnerable to abuse by criminals, opportunists and ordinary men.

ZERO TOLERANCE focuses on a rural community, where a woman returning from her shopping is attacked by a gang of youths. With unflinching honesty, the film highlights the scope of the problem and the community's burgeoning anger in response to endemic abuse.

After the Mine (14 Min)

Directed by Kiripi Katembo Siku

Kipushi is a mining town, one of thousands ensuring the ongoing wealth of Congo's elite. But for those who live in the shadow of its toxic fallout, with tainted water and contaminated soil, life is much harder.



"Highly effective quartet of documentaries on the woes of central Africa state Democratic Republic of the Congo, it presents some harrowing material in bracingly direct fashion."—The Auteurs

"This documentary presents a raw view of how national issues of war and government corruption trickle down and create citizens who replicate that violence and create a society in which dignity and respect are relegated secondary to survival."—Educational Media Reviews Online

"A dramatic, visually shocking, and therefore effective piece of storytelling. ...Viewers are introduced to a range of experiences of the ordinary (that is, poor) Congolese. ...There is a great deal to talk about here, and teachers and those who want to start a public dialog will find this quartet very useful."

—Anthropology Review Database

 2011 New York African Film Festival

 2010 Berlin Film Festival

 2010 Cinéma du Réel Film Festival

 2010 Hot Docs Film Festival

69 min | color | 2009
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$398

State of Mind: Healing Trauma

Directed by Djo Tunda Wa Munga
Produced by Steven Markovitz & Djo TundaWa Munga



Can a country overwhelmed by five million deaths successfully heal and move on?

That is the underlying question in *STATE OF MIND*, a powerful film about the use of psychotherapy to talk about loss, forgiving, and finding new memories to overlay the traumatic older ones.

After years of war, millions in the Democratic Republic of Congo suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder. Pioneering therapist Albert Pessu travels to Kinshasa, the country's capital, to train health practitioners—many of whom have survived horrendous violence—in a form of short-term group therapy called symbolic interaction.

STATE OF MIND: HEALING TRAUMA captures the sessions through fly-on-the-wall scenes, and features candid, heartbreaking interviews with participants. The film is a layered, engrossing and intriguing look at a national collective trauma and one ambitious initiative to try and heal wounds.

"Al Pessu, a master therapist from the U.S. demonstrates how the language of trauma and recovery transcends language and culture, and that it is possible to install a sense of safety and protection in even the most traumatized individuals. A remarkable achievement."

—Bessel van der Kolk, MD,
Director, National Complex
Trauma Treatment Network

🌻 2010 International
Documentary Film Festival
Amsterdam

🌻 2010 Dokfest
Munich

52 min | color | 2010 | CC
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$298

For the Best and for the Onion!

A Film by Elhadj Magori Sani



The Galmi region of Niger is renowned for its onions, which are prized throughout West Africa. They bring the farmers who grow them income and hope for the future, but also sorrow and suffering.

FOR THE BEST AND FOR THE ONION! is a verité documentary that captures the rhythms of life in Galmi, and how the vagaries of market price and harvest can affect the most intimate personal decisions.

Yaro is an onion farmer whose daughter is betrothed. The couple hope to marry soon, but after each harvest—much to his future son-in-law's frustration—Yaro postpones the wedding yet again. He says he wants his daughter to be married with dignity, and that means having enough money to pay for all the expenses tradition demands.

As the growing season progresses, Yaro is under increasing pressure to finally set a date for the wedding. Meanwhile, the market price of onions begins a rapid downward slide.

Filmed in director Elhadj Magori Sani's home community, *FOR THE BEST AND FOR THE ONION!* offers a rare level of intimacy and immediacy that can only come from the eye of an insider.

"An intimate look at the lives of one African Muslim family in Galmi, Niger."

—Educational Media
Reviews Online

🌻 2011 New York African
Film Festival

🌻 2010 Best Short
Documentary,
Pan African Film & Arts
Festival (Los Angeles)

🌻 2009 Best Documentary
Feature, African Movie
Academy Awards

🌻 2009 Best Foreign Film,
Terra di Tutti Film Festival
(Italy)

🌻 2009 London
Film Festival

52 min | color | 2008
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$390

Four Films directed by Susan Vogel

The New York Times recently wrote of Susan Vogel, the founding Director of the Museum for African Art in NYC, that her exhibitions "revolutionized the way art, any art, could be exhibited." Her last book *BAULE: African Art/Western Eyes* was awarded the Herskovits Prize, the African Studies Association's highest honor for original research on Africa, and her body of work was recognized with the Leadership Award of the Arts Council of the ASA. She then completed two years as a MFA student at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, and became a filmmaker.

The Future of Mud: A Tale of Houses and Lives in Djenne

Produced by Susan Vogel, Samuel Sidibé,
Trevor Marchand & the Musée National
du Mali

Komusa Tenap is a mason in the World Heritage town of Djenne, Mali. The ancient construction techniques he practices, using mud, are environmentally sound and strikingly beautiful. The film shows Komusa at work on two new buildings and the famed annual replastering of Djenne's Great Mosque, while also providing an introduction to the history of Malian architecture.

58 min | color | 2007 |
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$390



Malick Sidibé: Portrait of the Artist as a Portraitist Produced in Association with the Musée National du Mali



MALICK SIDIBÉ looks at a renowned photographer whose work has documented Malian society over a 40-year period. After independence in 1960, Sidibé's snazzy studio portraits

and party shots captured the buoyant optimism of a new nation. Today they are recognized internationally as masterpieces.

8 min | color | 2006 | Sale/DVD: \$145

Living Memory: Six Sketches of Mali Today Produced by Susan Vogel, Samuel Sidibé, Eric Engles & the Musée National du Mali



Mali is one of the 10 poorest countries in the world. Yet a rich culture flourishes here, with Malian

artists prominent in contemporary Africa and beyond. The film focuses on ritual dance, reproductions of iconic Malian objects that flood the market even as the originals stream out of the country, striking personal styles, architecture, contemporary artists, and music.

53 min | color | 2003 |
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): ~~\$390~~ now \$348

Fang: An Epic Journey



An African art object's journey through a century of peril and adventure.

8 min | color | 2001 | Sale/DVD: \$145

Fold Crumple Crush: The Art of El Anatsui

A Film by Susan Vogel



NEW Filmed over three years in Venice, Nsukka (Nigeria), and the U.S., this is a powerful portrait of El Anatsui, Africa's most widely acclaimed contemporary artist. Anatsui's work involves ingenious steps and thousands of hours of labor, converting used bottle tops into huge, opulent wall hangings. In *FOLD CRUMPLE CRUSH* Anatsui discusses how his artworks have become a marriage of painting and sculpture, objects that speak of African history but also reach for the ethereal.

We see him installing work on the great world stage of the Venice Biennale, and follow him back to the town of Nsukka as he goes about his daily life. Behind the charming, easy-going artist we also discover a man who remains mysterious even to his dearest friends. Finally, Anatsui admits us to the privacy of his home where he tells us about his formative years, and reveals a youthful discovery that clouded his life.

The film is accompanied on the DVD by *ANATSUI AT WORK: EIGHT SHORT FILMS*. In these elegant, instructive shorts Anatsui demonstrates his artistic process and discusses his theories on specific media as he creates one of his most ambitious works. The films can be used separately or as a 28-minute film.

"Moves elegantly among El Anatsui's many spheres."
—Jacob Burns Film Center

"Engaging, informative, and sensitive."
—Economist Intelligent Life

53 min (+28 min) | color | 2011
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$398

Banking the Unbanked

A Film by Sarah Vos



Ever since microfinance entrepreneur Muhammad Yunus won the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize, microfinance projects have played a growing role in international development.

For executives like Reliance Financial CEO Baboucarr Khan and COO Ismaila Faal, the field offers opportunities to raise people in the Gambia out of poverty—and to make money.

BANKING THE UNBANKED is a verité documentary that follows Khan, Faal and other members of the Gambia-based Reliance team as they try to build the bank into a viable West African financial institution, targeting clients who make under \$5 a day.

But the bank runs afoul of Gambian regulators—and as it falters, a microfinance consultant urges a harder line against impoverished creditors.

BANKING THE UNBANKED captures the tension and drama in the surprisingly cut-throat world of microfinance—a world where many small loans add up to a whole lot of money.



"This film will be useful in a variety of courses. It will tie in well with a class on entrepreneurship as it details the process of starting up a business and the issues faced by entrepreneurs regardless of geographic location. It will be of interest to those studying microfinance or microfinance in Africa."—**Educational Media Reviews Online**




 **2010 Netherlands Film Festival**

56 min | color | 2009
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$390

Where Are You Taking Me?

A Film by Kimi Takesue



 A high society wedding, a boxing club, a beauty salon, a school for survivors of the civil war: these are a few of the many places in Uganda discovered in Kimi Takesue's feature documentary, **WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?**.

Employing an observational style, this contemplative documentary reveals multifaceted portraits of Ugandans in both public and private spaces. The film travels through Uganda, roaming the vibrant streets of Kampala and the rural quiet of the North, to reveal a diverse society where global popular culture finds expression alongside enduring Ugandan traditions. Throughout the journey, **WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?** asks us to consider the complex interplay between the observer and the observed, and challenges our notions of both the familiar and exotic. **WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?** offers unexpected images of a complex country, encouraging us to abandon pre-conceived notions of where we are going and what we will find.


"Stellar...Takesue's documentary took the explosive subject of former Ugandan child soldiers in an unexpected direction; instead of choosing the usual routes of investigative journalism or bombastic commentary, the film keeps its distance from the traumatized youngsters and observes them with detached empathy as they readjust to 'normalcy'."

—**Richard Porton, Cineaste**

"Beautifully meditative ... an enriching experience."

—**Jay Weissberg, Variety**

 **World Premiere, 2010 Rotterdam Film Festival**

 **2011 Documentary Fortnight, Museum of Modern Art**

 **2010 Amakula Film Festival, Uganda**

72 min | color | 2010
Sale/DVD: \$398

Last Grave At Dimbaza



Directed by Chris Curling & Pascoe Macfarlane
Produced by Nana Mahomo, Antonia Caccia & Andrew Tsehiana

In 1974, a small group of South African exiles and British film students produced one of the first and most influential films about apartheid. LAST GRAVE AT DIMBAZA—shot clandestinely in South Africa and smuggled out of the country—had an enormous impact on global opinion, revealing shocking inequalities between whites and blacks.

Filed throughout South Africa—sometimes with hidden cameras—LAST GRAVE AT DIMBAZA visually portrays the era's stark contrasts between living and working conditions for the majority populace of then 18 million blacks and the 4 million whites who ruled over them. The result is a stunning indictment of the apartheid system and an invaluable historical resource.



🌻 **2006 Film Festival, African Studies Association**

🌻 **Best Film, 1975 FESPACO African Film Festival**

55 min | color | 1974 | CC
 Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$390

Story of a Beautiful Country

Directed by Khalo Matabane
A National Film Board of Canada Production

This is the journey through South Africa of Khalo Matabane, a young black filmmaker. The film captures the physical beauty of a still troubled land, while also serving as a forum for ordinary people to talk about their feelings and impressions of the new South Africa. Following the format of talk radio (a national obsession) topics range over issues such as land, race, language, globalization, democracy, identity, and violence. STORY OF A BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY expresses the hopes and dreams of the next generation of people trying to find their way and their voice in the new South Africa.



"The film offers a unique opportunity for the viewer to gain awareness of South Africa through everyday people in an intimate fashion."—**Educational Media Reviews Online**

🌻 **2005 Film Festival, African Studies Association**

🌻 **2005 Film Festival, African Literature Association**

🌻 **2005 New York African Film Festival**

73 min | color | 2004 | CC
 Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$348

Behind The Rainbow

Directed by Jihan el-Tahri
Produced by Steven Markovitz & Jihan el-Tahri



Against the backdrop of South Africa's 2009 elections, which saw Jacob Zuma become the country's third democratically elected president, BEHIND THE RAINBOW is a detailed exploration of the evolution of the ruling African National Congress (ANC), since it first came to power with Nelson Mandela's election in 1994.

The film's focus is on the development over the years of the relationship between two of the ANC's most prominent leaders, Thabo Mbeki—who followed Mandela as president and served from 1999 to 2008—and Jacob Zuma, who was one of the most important commanders of the ANC's armed struggle against the apartheid government.

BEHIND THE RAINBOW tells their story—one of friendship, comradeship, and eventual bitter personal conflict—with rich archival material and through in-depth interviews with both Mbeki and Zuma, as well as many of their current and former ANC colleagues.

Harsh economic inequalities, xenophobic attacks, corruption scandals, strikes and township protests all contributed to Mbeki's fall. Zuma may have won his battle with Mbeki, but his government is now facing many of the same problems.

"While the film provides an engrossing view of political personalities, it also sheds lights on the complex processes of policy formation and political compromises. This richly-detailed documentary captures a unique span of recent history. El-Tahri's film will inform and engage students of political science and African studies."—**Educational Media Reviews Online**

138 min | color | 2009
 Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$398

Seeds of Hunger



A Film by Yves Billy & Richard Prost

With the world of agriculture confronting such factors as global warming, population urbanization trends, changes in eating habits, and increased demand from biofuels, SEEDS OF HUNGER outlines the shape of an impending global food crisis. Filmed in Africa, China, Latin America and the U.S.

★★★½ "A powerful look at a timely and important topic, this is highly recommended."—Video Librarian



52 min | color | 2008
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$390

Earth Keepers

Directed by Sylvie Van Brabant
Produced by the National Film Board of Canada

NEW Join young environmental activist Mikael Rioux on a journey to Kenya, India, Sweden and Canada, as he meets the key visionaries behind innovative projects with promise for the future of our planet. The thinkers he meets include Wangari Maathai, the Kenyan Nobel Peace Prize winner and founder of the Green Belt Movement.



"Its main strength is its focus on solutions rather than just bemoaning the problems."
—Educational Media Reviews Online

43 min | color | 2009 | CC
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$298

The Price of Aid

A Film by Jihan el-Tahri

Every day the U.S. donates food to starving people in the world's poorest countries. This is an in-depth case study of a famine crisis in Zambia, showing how the aid programs can create long-term problems. THE PRICE OF AID questions how America's well-intentioned foreign-aid program has spawned a self-serving relationship between aid, American business and politics.



"A Winner! Informative, well-balanced, and credible... it should be acquired by libraries of every college offering courses in public administration, agricultural studies and political science."
—Catholic Library World

55 min | color | 2004
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$348

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