



PRESS RELEASE

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Africa in Motion (AiM) Short Film Competition: Metaphysical drama from South Africa takes first prize

A gripping South African short film, ***Umkhungo (The Gift)*** by Matthew Jankes, took the first prize in the Africa in Motion (AiM) Film Festival's annual short film competition. This beautifully photographed metaphysical drama tells the story of a disillusioned Johannesburg street thug who rescues an orphaned child with uncontrollable supernatural powers. It was produced as part of the Focus Features Africa First programme, which has been mentoring up-and-coming African filmmakers to produce quality short films. Filmmaker Matthew Jankes will receive a cash prize sponsored by The Africa Channel (www.theafricachannel.co.uk).

Seven stunning films from across the continent competed in the fourth Africa in Motion short film competition. The competition receives dozens of entries from all over the continent each year, from which a shortlist is selected. This year's shortlisted films were screened at the Africa in Motion Film Festival on Friday 4 November, with the winning film announced immediately after the screenings. The films deal with themes ranging from myths and folktales, families and relationships, to mysterious powers and the magic of storytelling. In these short films we see how African filmmakers continue to address serious and relevant social issues (such as religious fundamentalism, environmental protection and domestic abuse) and how the scope of the genre is expanding through more films experimenting with style and narrative.

The Africa in Motion short film competition is geared towards young and emerging African filmmakers who have not yet produced feature-length films. The winning film is selected by a high-profile jury, consisting of international film practitioners. Filmmaker Zina Saro-Wiwa, member of the jury, described ***Umkhungo*** as 'a deeply serious film with powerful performances. Well cast. An original and utterly unique take on black disaffection in South Africa. A sublime little movie that packs a major, major punch.'

Commenting on this year's shortlist, Noe Mendelle, Director of Scottish Documentary

Institute and one of the short film competition judges said:

'The short list was extremely strong making it quite a challenge to select a winner. The technical standard of production is getting higher and higher. It was also lovely to see countries such as Algeria and Ethiopia represented in the competition.'

For full details on Africa in Motion please visit www.africa-in-motion.org.uk.

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Notes to Editors

1. The short film competition entrants were:

Lezare (For Today)

Zelalem Woldemariam | Ethiopia 2010 | 15m | Amharic with English subtitles

***The Tailored Suit* (UK Premiere)**

Kitso Lelliott | South Africa 2011 | 18m

***Dina* (UK Premiere)**

Mickey Fonseca | Mozambique 2010 | 23m | Portuguese with English subtitles

***Garagouz* (UK Premiere)**

Abdenour Zahzah | Algeria 2011 | 23m | Arabic with English subtitles

***Khouya (My Brother)* (UK Premiere)**

Kuossim Yanis | Algeria 2010 | 16m | Arabic with English subtitles

Umkhungo (The Gift)

Matthew Jankes | South Africa 2011 | 29m | Zulu with English subtitles

Tinye So

Daouda Coulibaly | Mali 2011 | 25m | Bambara with English subtitles

2. For press enquiries, please contact Gillian Cook on 07790 200 471 or gillian@africa-in-motion.org.uk
3. Press releases, logos and publicity images are available to download from www.africa-in-motion.org.uk/press
4. AiM is delivered by a management team: Lizelle Bisschoff (lizelle@africa-in-motion.org.uk), Isabel Moura Mendes (isabel@africa-in-motion.org.uk) and Kari Ann Shiff (kari-ann@africa-in-motion.org.uk).
5. AiM is funded by Creative Scotland, Commonwealth Foundation and British Film Institute Transition Fund (Africa in Motion Schools Tour). Sponsors are: Centre for Theology and Public Issues (CTPI), University of Edinburgh; School of Languages,

Cultures and Religions, University of Stirling; Scottish Documentary Institute; Society for Francophone Postcolonial Studies; Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh; Wines of South Africa and The Africa Channel (Short Film Competition).

6. AiM is supported by a Board of Advisors consisting of high profile film critic, writer and producer Mark Cousins; Professor Noe Mendelle, Head of Film and TV at the Edinburgh College of Art and Director of the Scottish Documentary Institute; Professor David Murphy, Professor at the University of Stirling and a leading scholar on African film; Professor Paul Nugent, Professor of Comparative African History and Director of the Centre of African Studies at the University of Edinburgh; and Dr. Andrew Lawrence, honorary fellow at University of Vienna.