



international images
Film Festival for Women
if it's good, it's at IIFF

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(A project of Women Filmmakers of Zimbabwe)

NEWSLETTER #1

IF IT'S GOOD, IT'S AT IIFF!

'If it's good, it's at IIFF' is the International Images Film Festival tagline. After the official opening of the fifteenth edition of the festival, the tagline easily translates to 'IIFF its fantastic, IIFF its magnificent, IIFF its mind-blowing - it's at IIFF'. The fête was opened in the usual IIFF grand style at the Sam Levy's Ster Kinekor.

Why would I call the festival mind-blowing, the opening movie for the second year running has been nothing short of inspired? With the current immigration situation in Europe, "BLACK" was as inspired a choice as any you would ever come across. Not only is the film well made but the story...well, since I will be reviewing the film let me save the glowing bits for that piece needless to say, if you were not at the IIFF opening, you need to rush to the nearest venue to you, grab a copy of the catalogue and scan it for the next screening of "BLACK" - and maybe take in one or two more while you are at it, why not? To those who were at IIFF 2015, it felt like a continuation of the theme of immigration. "Girlhood" opened the 2015 edition and the film dealt with issues affecting young African women in the Diaspora. The theme is an important one in current times and I salute IIFF for continuing to highlight it.

The opening proved that IIFF is more than just the exhibition of films but also but also a rallying point for filmmakers both Zimbabwean and international. It was a good night where filmmakers and audiences got a chance not only to watch what might with time become a European classic film. Film lovers got the chance to mix and mingle with renowned filmmakers. The filmmakers got a chance to talk shop and in their elegant dress brought life and color to the sparkling event. As I went around I managed to eavesdrop on numerous conversations as local, regional and international filmmakers conversed about all things film.

Every glittering event has that little cherry on top and for me this year was the presence at the opening



IIFF 2016 Opening Ceremony audience and guests

ceremony and the news that there is a collaborative working effort between ZIFF and IIFF. The presence of ZIFF founding Director Nigel Munyati and his team sends the right signals to the players in the film industry.

Talking of venues, IIFF has once again partnered with the National Gallery of Zimbabwe where screenings and a workshop will be taking place. The Alliance Française and Sam Levy Ster Kinekor - old IIFF screening partners are back in the mix. For the outreach programme Rutendo hall in Mufakose is back in the matrix, so choice of where to watch a movie is really down to proximity and a new and exciting relationship with Stimulus HUB is in the offing at IIFF 2016. It is possible for women of heart who are very much alive to collaborate amongst themselves. Kudos and three cheers to them.

So catch the terrific line up of films at the IIFF venues from the 27th of August to the 3rd of September.

See you there!

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BLACK: SHAKESPEARE WOULD BE PROUD



Not everybody is gifted with the incisive, methodical and flowery grammar of Robert Egbert in reviewing film. But once in a while there comes along a film so good, so engaging one could almost describe it in the words of Francis Ford Coppola as "A complete film". That is what the film "Black" is - a complete film. Adil El Arbi and Bilal Fallah's "Black" take on the classic Shakespeare Romeo and Juliet. To say Shakespeare would have been proud is an understatement; he would have been blown away. So good is the film that writing a review of the story takes away the beauty of the film, but i would be remiss not to talk about the photography. This is Belgium like you have

never seen it. Immigration is the hot button issue right now in Africa and Europe, in fact the migrant crisis is a global catastrophe. The news shows us the images of the sinking Africans looking for a new start, few make it, even fewer fully integrate into the new countries, no-one ever asks what's the story of the few who find no joy in the new nirvana. Enter "Black". Marwan and Mavela born in Belgium of migrant parents, have to fight for love and acceptance in a place they call home but don't feel like home. Sex, gang violence, rape, how does one find oneself in a world where one hasn't found acceptance. Two young star-crossed lovers, two gangs, two conflicting ethnicities and beliefs clash in this wonderfully shot, well told narrative. Like I said I am no Roger Egbert, so I won't try and review "Black" all I can tell you is find the next IIFF screening of "Black" and watch this film, it will be worth every minute. Black is the truth.

Catch screenings of "BLACK" during IIFF at Ster-Kinekor Borrowdale on Sunday the 29th of August at 1500.

AISHA: TANZANIA HAS COME OF AGE

Aisha. What can I say? We were here once, making incredible films. Aisha is a heartbreaking story of rape, a life shattered. What could easily have turned into one of those NGO type rape films is expertly scripted and the Director handles the subject with a feather-light touch that makes this film palatable, the film not the subject matter that can never be palatable. Aisha, the blurb reads 'Aisha, a young ambitious woman returns to her village for her sister's wedding. Aisha's life is turned upside down when a jilted ex lover and his gang rapes her. The village would rather turn a blind eye, but Aisha decides against all odds to stay and fight a tough battle for justice.' That's what the blurb says but that's half the story. Godliver Goardian the lead actress turns in an inspired performance. The film shines a light on a closed society

trying to keep a lid on a taboo subject. A classic case of when an immovable mass is struck by an unstoppable force. Godliver Goardian as Aisha is an unstoppable force, who razes down the immovable veil of village secrecy and rape victim shaming. The music scoring inch perfect. In Tanzania, like most African countries is still battling with the issues of gender based violence as people are afraid to report these crimes. I not only loved this film but watching the credits gave me a boost as the beautiful cinematography was done by TK, Takura Maurayi ,yes a Zimbabwean. The growth of the African film industry although we are lagging behind is a harbinger of good things to come for us.

WHAT THE PEOPLE SAID

"I am very impressed by the blockbuster line up of films, my whole week is set!" enthused the new man at the helm of the Canadian embassy, Ambassador Kumar Gupta.

"We are in a very difficult situation but when I see people like Dorothy Meck, Joe Njagu ,Obrian Mudyiwenyama, Blessing Hungwe in one room, I know there is future for film in Zimbabwe, what we need is for you guys to make films that show our reality" - Farai Mupfunya, Culture fund of Zimbabwe Trust Director

"I stayed in my seat after watching the opening film, I couldn't get out of my seat. It was so intense and real."
- Linah Gure, IIFF2016 audience member.