



## AfricanBamba Human Rights Film and Arts Festival 2013



**where:** Thiaroye, Senegal  
**when:** 12-15 december 2013

**contacts:** AfricanBamba – [africa.thiaroye@gmail.com](mailto:africa.thiaroye@gmail.com) – [africanbamba.webs.com](http://africanbamba.webs.com)  
Abdoulaye Gaye - Festival Director – cell. +221 778828817



**AfricanBamba Human Rights Film and Arts Festival** - first human rights film festival in Senegal - showcases human rights and social issues documentaries to raise awareness and inspire change. AfricanBamba Human Rights Film Festival uses films as a mean to address urgent social issues: primary goal is to engage youth and the community towards positive social change and empowerment by raising awareness on human rights through the support of films screenings.

**AfricanBamba** has successfully inaugurated its first edition in 2012 with a programme of film screening, music concerts, arts exhibitions, building up a very significant community event in Senegal to debate and raise awareness on social contemporary issues affecting young people, migration and the environment.

AfricanBamba Human Rights Film and Arts Festival is continuing in 2013 with a second edition, focused on **Youth** and **Women**. The potential of youth in the world, and particularly of African youth in countries such as Senegal, is enormous and unfortunately yet not at all exploited: energy, dreams and hopes are crushed under pressing poverty, lack of employment and huge inequalities in the world economic system. **Gender** is a main factor for development and opportunity in Senegal, and young women are unfortunately very often in severe conditions which do not allow them to emancipate and fulfill their potential. AfricanBamba itself aims to become a project where such energy could be channelled to allow for youth and women's empowerment in the community.

**Core programme** of the festival will be the **screening of films** focused on **human rights**, in particular on key issues relevant to youth and women. Trying to engage participation from the community, AfricanBamba uses films as a medium to start discussion on themes that require urgent attention in the banlieue – from youth unemployment to women's emancipation, from street children to exploitation in polygamous families. Youth resistance and women's empowerment will be portrayed through films, to celebrate and learn from the efforts that youth and women are making in other parts of the world and in Africa, facing similar difficulties and challenges, hopefully provoking inspiration towards positive social change also at local level.

The Festival hopes to become an opportunity for community building and creating alliances at local and global level for creating alliances and networks which would facilitate throughout the year other projects towards development, empowerment, education and for the voicing of the concerns of the community.

## **why**

**AfricanBamba Human Rights Film & Arts Festival** is the first festival in Senegal dedicated to human rights films. The Festival truly means a very important opportunity for learning through films, for community building and for creating alliances at local and global level towards empowerment, education and the voicing of the concerns of the community whilst offering an opportunity to debate issues such as for instance, migration, street children exploitation, flooding, youth unemployment, gender inequality or police abuse. These and others key urgent themes are addressed during the festival through different artistic modalities for then been discussed informally throughout the evening.

The festival is one key opportunity for us to communicate to our governors, to our people and to the world what are our dreams, our worries, how we would see a social just and peaceful world. The Festival provides us in fact with one the very few opportunities for the youth of the banlieue to be exposed to socially engaged cinema – feature films and documentaries from around the world – and is an important chance for the community to be actively involved in a participatory programme of direct engagement on human rights, where films can act as tools for advocacy and voicing concerns



of the community. The festival would ideally become – year after year – a space where socially oriented communication, voicing of concerns, sharing of experiences and information / awareness would be happening at the local level, whilst globally connected.

The festival can thus have a significant impact on the community of Thiaroye. For the youth of Thiaroye the location of the festival in the banlieue rather than in Dakar or Goree means recognition in itself and increases the identity of the festival as a participative project rooted in the community. In Thiaroye, where is very rare the presence of NGOs or international organisations, the festival is in fact viewed as a new way for the community to engage, be recognised and express themselves on their urgent social issues.

### **who**

AfricanBamba is a creative entity dedicated to the promotion of African music, cinema and style through festivals, live events, cultural projects, film productions and arts.

Started in Bologna, Italy for the active participation of young Senegalese to Human Rights Nights (international festival of cinema of human rights, founding member of Human Rights Film Network), AfricanBamba has now returned to its home - Thiaroye, Dakar in Senegal - to create opportunities for young people to artistically engage with social contemporary issues, develop projects for community empowerment and employment through the arts and share experiences of migration.

AfricanBamba Human Rights Film Festival 2012 was realised in partnership with Human Rights Nights, in collaboration with Movies that Matters, Puma.Creative, Italian Cooperation Agency in Senegal and Brazilian Embassy in Dakar. For this year – second edition - we have already received a few relevant confirmation from partners and donors: Human Rights Nights, annual festival of cinema arts and music in Bologna - promoted by Fondazione Cineteca di Bologna, Bologna Municipality and the University of Bologna – has renewed its partnership to AfricanBamba Human Rights Film Festival, offering pro-bono consultancy and support for film programming, subtitling and research. The Italian Cooperation Agency in Senegal has confirmed interest in partnership with AfricanBamba as technical sponsor, providing free use of a video projector.

AfricanBamba team includes young and more experienced professionals in the creative cultures and events production. Abdoulaye Gaye, Festival Director, has gained experience through working at Human Rights Nights, and in several music and cinema projects in Europe.

### **when**

12 – 15 December 2013

### **where**

**AfricanBamba Festival hub is Centre Culturelle Jacques Chirac, a community centre**

Central venue of the festival is Centre Culturelle Jacques Chirac, which is centrally located in Thiaroye and is renowned by the community, as it is a centre for youth engagement against drugs and abuse through sports. The venue will be set up with an open air screening space, a conference room, an outdoor performance stage and a bistrot café. The venue can host up to 400-500 people. We think that Centre Culturelle Jacques Chirac is ideal as a venue, as it has space for all aspects of



the festival. The cinema screenings will happen in an area that is dedicated and that holds from 100 to 200 people, so it will be ideal.

Pre-festival screening in the banlieue neighbourhood and the last after festival screening in Malika, will be located in the main squares of Thiaroye and on the Malika beach.

## what

AfricanBamba Human Rights Film & Arts Festival will feature 5 full days of film screenings and 3 debates dedicated to the issues of human rights. In anticipation to the festival we will organise 5 film community screenings in the banlieue neighborhood, schools and the university to promote the festival and start to engage the audience. We will also organise one final screening event on the beach of Malika. Alongside a few collateral events will be organised: an opening concert of traditional Senegalese music, 1 theatre performance, 1 closing sport event.

The programme content will focus on two main strands:

1. Youth & **Talibe children** – focusing on issues of street children and youth empowerment
2. **Women** - focusing on issues of **girl marriage**, women's exploitation in the family, polygamy and gender inequality.

Youth potential and energy are not exploited because of lack of opportunities and employment, especially if they are raised in large families with no easy access to education. In Senegal some families with lots of children, not being able to give them an education, bring the children in another city, giving them in care to a *marabout*, for teaching them the Q'ran. However very often the children gets exploited by the coranic school, which instead of teaching them the Q'ran send them to the streets to ask for charity. In Africa there are many youth who do not go to school and who in the day are in the banlieue neighborhood without doing anything, surviving and hussling. This attracts deviation and perpetuates ignorance. Young men faces unemployment, lack of professional and vocation training, work placements. All this increase the risk of entering into the criminal world to survive, in the lack of other opportunities, and open up access to drugs and alcohol abuse. There is therefore a segment of youth at risk, whose energies are not channelled in a positive way.

Youth issues are different in gender, with different consequences in the lives of men and women as they grow adults. Young ladies are forced to get married very young sometimes with older men, or the married women are forced to remain in the house to do domestic works for the enlarged family of the husband, making lots of children and having no opportunities for personal development or individual professional emancipation. The woman situation is thus conditioned by the social pressure which confines her to stay at home taking care of the domestic issues, often with many children and no support from the husband. With no support from the husband and lack of alternative emancipation, at times women can also fall into the trap of prostitution as a way to survive. Finally, polygamy is still a practice in Senegal, with tensions arising in the families when the husband dies.

We would like to raise awareness on these issues and mechanisms through screenings of films and debates which will encourage discussion on these themes: youth, street children, women.

The film programme will present 10 films – 5 feature films and 5 short films. Each day a feature film and a short film will be presented accompanied by an introduction on the theme and a final discussion. We will take this screening occasion to also celebrate the masters of Senegalese cinema – this year with films by Djibril Diop Mambety and Sembene Ousmane.



We would like to raise awareness on these issues and mechanisms through screenings of films and debates which will encourage discussion on these themes: youth, street children, women.

The film programme will present 10 films – 5 feature films and 5 short films. Each day a feature film and a short film will be presented accompanied by an introduction on the theme and a final discussion. We will take this screening occasion to also celebrate the masters of Senegalese cinema – this year with films by Djibril Diop Mambety and Sembene Ousmane.

3 debates will be organised during the festival, before or after screenings:

- 1 debate with the participation Mayor of Thiaroye and the social welfare departments of the municipality, focused on the central themes of the festival, on the conditions of the youth, children of the street and women in the banlieue
- 1 debate on the Talibe children with the marabout, chief of the coranic schools that host the talibe children – focused on the issues of street children, begging on the streets, presenting opportunities for strengthening children education and training, introducing local projects for vocational training and apprenticeships as alternative opportunities for children on the streets, in collaboration with Save the Children, UNICEF
- 1 debate made with and for the women of the banlieue, with a special guest to talk of gender issues, forced marriages in young age, women exploitation in the family, lack of opportunities for emancipation, discussing proposals for solutions, in collaboration with Girl Effect, Girls not Brides

The audience will be formed by the communities of Thiaroye and in general the banlieue of Dakar, local NGOs, activists for social issues and gender, students of the university and schools, media. We will invite at the festival partners and donors, local NGOs and activists, university professors, media representatives.

### **Festival objectives**

- to raise awareness on human rights and social contemporary issues, using films as key tools to start debates
- to strengthen community building and create alliances at local and global level, for advocacy and social change
- to create spaces for participation and representation of the concerns of the community

### **Target groups**

- young people of Thiaroye
- women and children (specific screenings and projects designed for involvement)
- local community (for raising awareness projects on social issues and human rights and the environment)



