

Lusaka International Film Festival 2016 Best of the Fest screening programme 2017.

All films to be screened at FRESH VIEW CINEMAS Levy Junction Mall Lusaka.

CITIZENFOUR

MONDAY 9TH JANUARY 2017

Directed by Laura Poitras / 20h00 / 2014 / 1h54min / USA / Doc, Biography, Historical / English / 30 ZMW

Synopsis: CITIZENFOUR is a real life thriller, unfolding by the minute, giving audiences unprecedented access to filmmaker Laura Poitras and journalist Glenn Greenwald's encounters with Edward Snowden in Hong Kong, as he hands over classified documents providing evidence of mass indiscriminate and illegal invasions of privacy by the National Security Agency (NSA).

Poitras had already been working on a film about surveillance for two years when Snowden contacted her, using the name "CITIZENFOUR," in January 2013. He reached out to her because he knew she had long been a target of government surveillance, stopped at airports numerous times, and had refused to be intimidated. When Snowden revealed he was a high-level analyst driven to expose the massive surveillance of Americans by the NSA, Poitras persuaded him to let her film.

Awards

Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature 2015

BAFTA award for Best Documentary 2015

German Film Award for Best Documentary 2015

Independent Spirit Award for Best Documentary 2015

New York Film Critics Circle Award 2015

Primetime Emmy Award for Exceptional Merit Documentary 2015

Gotham Independent Film Award for Best Documentary

COLOURS OF THE ALPHABET

MON 23/TUE 24/ WED 25/ THURS 26 AND 27 JANUARY 2017

Directed by Alastair Cole / 20H00 / 2016 / 1h20min / UK / New Zealand / Zambia / Doc, Language, Education / Soli, Nyanja, Bemba / English Subs / 30 ZMW

Synopsis: Alastair Cole's feature debut is a beautiful, inspiring and bittersweet story about language and childhood in Africa. Steward, Elizabeth and M'barak are three first time school pupils in rural Zambia who struggle to make sense of an educational system where the language they speak at home is different from the language used in the classroom. Moments of perplexed incomprehension, both comedic and tragic ensue, as the children slowly come to terms with the fact that their tongue is no longer their own. At a time when nearly 40% of the world's population lack access to education in their own language despite UNESCO recognizing mother tongue education as a human right, Colours of the Alphabet offers an intimate and moving insight into a global phenomenon from the unique perspective of three innocent children.

SUGARCOATED

THURSDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 2017

Directed by / 20H00 / 2015 / 1h30min / Canada / Doc, Social politics / English / 30 ZMW

Synopsis: It all starts with a secret PR campaign dating back to the 1970s. For forty years, Big Sugar deflected all threats to its multi-billion dollar empire, while sweetening the world's food supply. As obesity, diabetes, and heart disease rates skyrocket, doctors are now treating the first generation of children suffering from fatty liver disease. The sugar industry is once again under siege. They dodged the bullet once. Can they do it again?

Awards:

2016 CSA winner of the Donald Brittain Award for Best Social / Political Documentary.

GULABI GANG

THURSDAY 23TH FEBRUARY 2017

Directed by Nishtha Jain/ 20H00 / 2012 / 1h36min / 2012 / Norway, India / Doc, Early marriage, Gender rights/ English sub/ 30 ZMW

Synopsis: In Bundelkhand, India, a revolution is in the making among the poorest of the poor, as the fiery women of the Gulabi Gang empower themselves and take up the fight against gender violence, caste oppression and widespread corruption.

Awards:

Human Rights and Public Liberties Award - Aljazeera International Documentary Film Festival 2014

Best Documentary – National Film Awards India 2014

Tri Continental Film Festival – Amnesty International Award for Human Rights 2013

Muhr Asia Africa Award – Dubai International Film Festival 2012

SEARCHING FOR SUGARMAN

THURSDAY 9TH MARCH 2017

Directed by Malik Bendjelloul / 20H00 / 2012 / 1h26mins / Sweden, United Kingdom / Biography, Music / English / 30 ZMW

Synopsis: *Searching for Sugar Man* is a 2012 Swedish–British documentary film of a South African cultural phenomenon directed and written by Malik Bendjelloul which details the efforts of two Cape Town fans in the late 1990s, Stephen "Sugar" Segerman and Craig Bartholomew Strydom, to find out whether the rumoured death of American musician Sixto Rodriguez was true and, if not, to discover what had become of him. Rodriguez's music, which had never achieved success in the United States, had become very popular in South Africa during the apartheid although little was known about him in that country.

Awards:

Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature 2013 · Malik Bendjelloul, Simon Chinn

BFCA Critics' Choice Award for Best Documentary Feature 2013

BAFTA Award for Best Documentary 2013 · Malik Bendjelloul, Simon Chinn

Writers Guild of America Award for Best Documentary Screenplay 2013 · Malik Bendjelloul

Polish Academy Award for Best European Film 2014 · Malik Bendjelloul

PGA Outstanding Producer of Documentary Theatrical Motion Pictures 2013 · Malik Bendjelloul, Simon Chinn

Directors Guild of America Award for Outstanding Directing – Documentaries 2013 · Malik Bendjelloul

FAREWELL MY CONCUBINE

(LIFMF Classic)

THURSDAY 30TH MARCH 2017

Directed by Chen Kaige / 17h30 / 1994 / 2h51 / China / Drama, Melodrama / English Subs / 30ZMW

Synopsis: In 1924, young Cheng Dieyi (Leslie Cheung) begins training at the Beijing Opera House at the same time as Duan Xiaolou (Fengyi Zhang). Cheng specializes in playing female parts, often against Duan's commanding male leads. While pretending to be in love with Duan onstage, Cheng begins to develop actual romantic feelings for his co-star, which are not reciprocated. Over the next 50 years, the two men maintain a complicated friendship as China undergoes turbulent changes.

Awards:

Palme d'Or Award – Cannes Film Festival 1993
FIPRESCI PRIZE – Cannes Film, Festival 1993
Cesar Award France – Best Foreign Film 1994
NYFCC Award – New York Film Critics Circle Awards 1994
Best Foreign Language Film – Golden Globes 1994

DRAGON BLADE

THURSDAY 13TH APRIL 2017

**Directed by Daniel Lee / 17h30 / 2015 / 2h7min / China / Drama, Action, Adventure
/English Subs / 30 ZMW**

Synopsis: In western China, 48 BC, a security company under China's current government called The Silk Road Protection Squad is committed towards stopping battles and promoting the idea of peace. Huo An (Chan), the captain, successfully averts a battle between the Indians and Huns. The group returns to their unnamed home city, where Huo An's wife serves as a schoolteacher for orphans. However, the government uncovers evidence that someone in the group is corrupt, causing the entire group to be sentenced to construction work at Wild Geese Gate, a ruined fortress. Once they arrive, the group pays respects at the shrine of a fallen Chinese general. They originally were child-slaves of Hun descent, but the general had later rescued them.

When corrupt Roman leader Tiberius arrives with a giant army to claim the Silk Road, Huo An teams up his army with an elite Legion of defected Roman soldiers led by General Lucius to protect his country and his new friends.

A massive success in its native China, the biggest box office movie of all time.

UNSEEN

THURSDAY 27TH APRIL 2017

Directed by Perivi Katjavivi / 20h00 / 2016 / 1h10min / Namibia / Drama, experimental / English / 30 ZMW

Synopsis: The Unseen is about art, identity and solitude. It presents three interconnected vignettes that follow three different characters as they slip into spaces in Namibian society mostly unseen.

There's Sara (played by Senga Brockerhoff) the rebel who's calm resolve to end her life provokes a range of interesting and conflicting reactions in the people close to her. Anu (played by Mathew Ishitile), a dreamy musician, struggles to explain his hallucinations and out of body experiences to his rough-neck buddies across town. Estranged from his wife, African-American actor Marcus (played by Antonia David Lyons, known for his roles in Hotel Rwanda, Scandal, 24, American History X), is in town to play a role in an epic historical film but spends his time wandering through the outback searching for significance.

The Unseen is a collection of philosophical musings on what it means to be alive in independent Namibia. It intentionally blurs the line between fiction and documentary.

BIKES VS CARS

THURSDAY 11TH MAY 2017

Directed by Fredrik Gertten / 17h30 / 2015 / 1h32min / Sweden / Doc /English Subs / 30 ZMW

The bicycle, an amazing tool for change. Activities and cities all over the world are moving towards a new system. But will the economic powers allow it? Climate change and never-ending gridlocks frustrate people more than ever. Instead of whining, people in cities around the world take on the bicycle as a Do It Yourself solution.

Awards

Docs Against Gravity Film Festival - Special Mention, 2015
UK Green Film Festival - Audience Award, 2015
Tempo Documentary Award - Honourable Mention, 2015
Cinemambiente Environmental Film Festival - Best Film, 2015
South By South West - World Premiere, 2015
Full Frame Documentary Film Festival - Official Selection, 2015

HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS

(One of the 100 Best films of World Cinema)

THURSDAY 25TH MAY 2017

Directed by Yimou Zhang / 17h30 / 2004 / 1h59min / China / Action, Adventure, Drama / English subs / 30 ZMW

Synopsis: The Tang Dynasty is fighting to keep control over China, a battle they are losing to several rebel groups. One such group is the House of Flying Daggers, who steal from the wealthy and give to the poor. Two police deputies working with the government (Takeshi Kaneshiro, Andy Lau) are ordered to investigate the dancer Mei (Zhang Ziyi), who is rumoured to be working with the House of Flying Daggers. But both men fall under her charms and decide to help her escape instead

Awards

National Society of Film Critics Award for Best Cinematography
2005 · Zhao Xiaoding / National Society of Film Critics Award for Best Director
2005 · Zhang Yimou / Satellite Award for Best Visual Effects
2005 · Kirsty Millar, Andy Brown
/Satellite Award for Best Cinematography
2005 · Zhao Xiaoding
Los Angeles Film Critics Association Award for Best Foreign Language Film
2004 · Zhang Yimou
Golden Rooster Award for Best Art Direction
2004 · Huo Tingxiao
AACTA Awards - Australian Film Institute International Award for Excellence in Filmmaking
2005 · Roger Savage
Boston Society of Film Critics Award for Best Cinematography
2004 · Zhao Xiaodin

SEEDS OF TIME

THURSDAY 8TH JUNE 2017

Directed by Sandy Mcleod / 20h00/ 2015 / 1h54min / USA / Doc, History, News / English / 30 ZMW

A perfect storm is brewing as agriculture pioneer Cary Fowler races against time to protect the future of our food. Seed banks around the world are crumbling, crop failures are producing starvation and rioting, and the accelerating effects of climate change are affecting farmers globally. Communities of indigenous Peruvian farmers are already suffering those effects, as they try desperately to save over 1,500 varieties of native potato in their fields. But with little

time to waste, both Fowler and the farmers embark on passionate and personal journeys that may save the one resource we cannot live without: our seeds.

SLINGSHOT

THURSDAY 29 JUNE 2017

Directed by Paul Lazarus / 20h00 / 1h28min / 2015 / USA / Doc, Biography / English / 30 ZMW

Focuses on noted Segway Inventor Dean Kamen and his work to solve the world's water crisis. An eccentric genius with a provocative worldview, Kamen is an inspiration for the future for future scientists. His inventions help people in need and ease suffering. SlingShot is about an indomitable man who just might have enough passion and innovative thinking to create a solutions for a crisis affecting billions.

Kamen lives in a house with secret passages, a closet full and helicopter garage. His latest passion: the SlingShot water purification system created to obliterate half of human illness on the planet. Kamen reminisces about improving home dialysis and choosing to forego parenthood while lamenting he has only one lifetime for inventing. SlingShot is both an inspirational character study and a look at Kamen's vapour compression distiller from its earliest development through recent trials in rural Ghana and Beyond.

TWO RAGING GRANNIES

THURSDAY 13TH JULY 2017

Directed by Havard Bustnes / 20h00 / 1h18min / 2014 / Norway,USA / Doc / English / ZMW

"Two Raging Grannies" is a touching and thought-provoking documentary that challenges the idea that we must continue to shop, consume, amass, and keep the economy growing. Armed with courage, humor, a long friendship and a zest for life, Shirley and Hinda take to cities and towns across the US to engage everyone from the recently homeless to university students to growth economists and Wall Street tycoons, questioning the sustainability of continued economic growth, and demonstrating that it is never – ever – too late to get out and make a difference.

WELCOME TO THE SMILING COAST

THURSDAY 27TH JULY 2017

Directed by Bas Ackerman / 20h00 / 1h12min / 2016 / Gambia / Netherland / Doc / English / 30ZMW

Welcome to the Smiling Coast offers a rare insight into the lives of 15 youngsters moving within the informal sector of the Gambian tourism industry. Although the smallest country on the African mainland, The Gambia has become a popular tourist destination due to its warm climate, abundant wildlife and cheap intimacy. Each year over 100.000 tourists, predominantly older European women, visit the Smiling Coast of West Africa in search of this exotic blend of sun, safari and sex.

Most tourists stay within the comforts of all-inclusive resorts, far removed from the everyday experience of ordinary Gambians. In fact, with a third of its population living below the poverty line, the Gambia is at present, 50 years after its independence, one of Africa's poorest nations. Ironically, many Gambians, particularly youngsters, are living only a few steps away from the tourist hotels and beaches. Here, in the 'ghetto', they are trying to survive in the margins of the omnipresent tourism industry. With this lure of a better future just around the corner, the 'back way', the dangerous illegal journey to Europe across deserts and high seas, is always lingering in their minds.

Do they eventually try their luck abroad or find their peace at home? *Welcome to the Smiling Coast* shows the varied and often creative alternative strategies Gambian youngsters employ to secure their livelihood. Capturing their struggles, hopes and dreams, this documentary puts a human and positive face on the informal economy that lies behind the glitter of the Smiling Coast.
