

3RD EDITION

MATATU FILM STAGE

"Cinema Is Food But People are Starving"



MARCH
27
6:00 PM

LONDON EDITION

MARCH
29
5:15 PM



RICH MIX



£10

Funded by



FILM POSSIBLE

In Partnership with

RICH MIX



MESHWORKS



ABOUT

Matatu Film Stage is a travelling pan-African film festival that began in Uganda. The festival takes its name from the matatu, the colourful public minibuses found across East African cities that carry people, stories, music, and ideas from one place to another. In the same spirit, Matatu Film Stage is built around movement. It carries African cinema across borders and into different kinds of spaces, creating opportunities for stories to meet new audiences.

Rather than limiting screenings to traditional theatres, the festival embraces a flexible and community-driven approach to exhibition. Films are presented in cinemas, cultural venues, public spaces, and unexpected environments where audiences can gather, watch together, and engage in conversation. The programme focuses on bold and original films from African and diaspora filmmakers, many of whom work outside mainstream distribution systems and whose stories are often underrepresented internationally.

The London Edition forms part of the festival's third edition as it expands beyond the continent. Over two days, the programme presents a curated selection of short films alongside panel discussions and audience conversations exploring how African cinema travels internationally. These discussions reflect on the institutions, funding structures, and cultural networks that shape how films circulate globally.

By bringing the festival to London, Matatu Film Stage creates a meeting point between African filmmakers, diaspora communities, and global audiences. The festival is not only about screening films, but about creating shared cultural spaces where dialogue, exchange, and new creative connections can emerge.

Movement

Dialogue

Connection

Stories

People

Cinema

Access

Community

Boldness





FESTIVAL PROGRAM



RICH MIX LONDON

35-47 BETHNAL GREEN ROAD,
LONDON E1 6LA



DAY 01

PANEL AND FILM SCREENING



EVENT DETAILS

27 MARCH

RICH MIX, 35-47
BETHNAL GREEN
ROAD, LONDON E1 6LA

PANEL DISCUSSION 5:00 PM

FILM SCREENING 6:15 PM

NETWORKING 8:30 PM

Join us for an insightful panel discussion exploring Bridges, Borders, and Gatekeepers: African Cinema in the International System, followed by a screening of curated bold African short films.



more information at
www.matatufilmstage.com

DAY 02

KIBANDA EXPERIENCE



EVENT DETAILS

29 MARCH

RICH MIX, 35-47
BETHNAL GREEN
ROAD, LONDON E1 6LA

FILM SCREENINGS 5:15 PM

NETWORKING 8:00 PM

FESTIVAL WRAP 10:00 PM

LIVE WITH VJ EMMY

The Kibanda Experience brings a cinema culture from Uganda and across East Africa to London. Inspired by the lively video halls found in many neighbourhoods, this format shows how films are often experienced in communal, energetic spaces rather than silent theatres.

A Video Joker (VJ) narrates, interprets, and reacts to the film in real time, creating a playful and interactive atmosphere between the screen and the audience. Through this experience, Matatu Film Stage invites London audiences into a different way of watching cinema, one that is social, spontaneous, and deeply rooted in community.



more information at
www.matatufilmstage.com



LONDON EDITION

MARCH 27 & 29 2026

FILM PROGRAMME



RICH MIX LONDON

35-47 BETHNAL GREEN ROAD,
LONDON E1 6LA



DAY 01

FILM SCREENING



SCREENING PROGRAM

27 MARCH



RICH MIX, 35-47
BETHNAL GREEN ROAD,
LONDON E1 6LA



£10



6:00 PM

more information at
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IN THREE LAYERS OF DARKNESS

DIR: HOUCEM SLOULI
15:23 | TUNISIA



A RHYTHM UNSUNG

DIR: D. SEUN RICHARDS
12:50 | NIGERIA, UK



THE LAST SHOEMAKER

DIR: ALI MUSOKE
32:53 | UGANDA



RESURGENCE OF LUBUGO

DIR: HANNAH ALLCHURCH
14:24 | UK, UGANDA



ANTICIPATION

DIR: BYOMA MARIAH
01:14 | UGANDA



I EAT WHAT I LIKE

DIR: SHARI MWANIKA
14:00 | UGANDA



MAHAMMOUD'S MERCEDES

DIR: BEN EAGER
07:09 | SWEDEN

DAY 02

FILM SCREENING



SCREENING PROGRAM

29 MARCH



RICH MIX, 35-47
BETHNAL GREEN ROAD,
LONDON E1 6LA



£10



5:15 PM

more information at
www.matatufilmstage.com



PROMISE

DIR: D. WILMOS PAUL
20:54 | UNITED STATES



JIMBI

DIR: D. IVAN TUSABE
15:11 | UGANDA



JANGU

DIR: PATIENCE NITUMWESIGA
15:00 | UGANDA



DON'T TALK TO STRANGER

DIR: NATASHA AYOO
11:54 | KENYA



ONCE

DIR: JOE-FRANCIS KIAGA
04:11 | TANZANIA



NDOTO/DREAM

DIR: OMAR HAMZA
17:31 | KENYA



THE GODS MUST BE JOKING

DIR: YINUSA A. KOREDE
23:30 | NIGERIA

FILMS



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07:09 | SWEDEN

Chassen faces multiple administrative obstacles in obtaining a visa for France, driven by his dream without borders and his right to move freely around the world...

A young Nigerian musician travels to the UK chasing opportunity but lost among countless jazz players, learns to find his voice by drawing from his own roots.

An 18-year-old shoemaking prodigy races to save her family's failing factory and pay its workers, only to discover powerful forces are determined to buy and dismantle her inheritance.

In Kampala, designer Katende Godfrey reclaims Lubugo (barkcloth), once stigmatized under colonisation, transforming it through fashion, upcycled materials, and hip-hop culture into a bold act of cultural preservation and ecological resistance.

Hungry all day, he races home for leftovers only to find a surreal twist on the menu

A curious 19-year-old determined to experience life beyond the limits of her family home sets out on a journey of discovery that challenges her understanding of sexuality, freedom, and the choices that shape who she becomes.

A father tells his son a story from his past, where he ventures through various African countries, with unexpected encounters, to the heart of the Congo jungle in a Mercedes Benz.

FILMS



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Promise, a single mother facing deportation and John, an ex-con with a business idea, find their marriage of convenience becoming something more.

A timid man who looks away during a sexual assault starts to develop a rapidly spreading mysterious skin rash threatening to transform him into a mythical creature known as Jimbi.

After being robbed and stranded at midnight, two sisters make a desperate wish at a witch's parlor for three hours in a town without men, unaware the wish will change their reality forever.

A lonely young woman desperate for connection falls hard for a seemingly sweet stranger, but their whirlwind romance spirals into a web of dark, deadly consequences neither of them saw coming.

Once is a poetic film that hauntingly captures a fractured relationship, where two souls, once sun and moon, are desperately trapped by the fragile illusions they use to justify staying together.

A lonesome boy, Kisu(10),disobeys his only guardian to pursue a newly found friendship

The life of a struggling, chronic gambler takes an unexpected turn after he encounters a strange dog.

Panel Discussion

BRIDGES, BORDERS, AND GATEKEEPERS:

African Cinema in the International System



WEMA MUMMA

Film Programmer &
Creative Producer



MICHAEL BURGESS

Business Development, Partnerships
& Cultural Programming Expert



PATIENCE TAWENGWA

Producer: Global Campaigns



ALI MUSOKE

Filmmaker & Creative
Entrepreneur



RICH MIX - LONDON

FRI 27 MARCH, 5:00 PM

FREE ENTRY

This panel takes a closer look at how African cinema actually travels.
Who builds the bridges between filmmakers and global audiences?
Who controls access to funding, festivals, distribution, and visibility?

And once a film crosses borders, what happens next?

Does that exposure translate into real opportunity for the people who made it, or does it end at visibility?

We want to sit with these questions honestly. Not just celebrate progress, but understand the structures shaping it. The systems, the gaps, the quiet barriers, and the possibilities that are opening up.

PARTNERS

The London Edition is funded by the British Council Culture Connect programme, which supports cultural organisations, festivals, and artists across Sub-Saharan Africa and the UK to collaborate, build networks, develop markets, and share work with wider audiences.

Matatu Film Stage London is presented by Film Possible in partnership with the Royal African Society, Rich Mix, Laba Cinema, MeshWorks, Stone Age Pictures and Creative Resilience International.



PATIENCE KATUSHABE

Festival Director | Curator

patience@filmpossible.org
www.matatufilmstage.com

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