

INITIATIVE AFRICA PRESENTS THE



Initiative Africa

16TH ADDIS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

*«Peace is the only battle
worth waging»
Albert camus*

25th - 29th

MAY

Opening: May 25th
Screenings: May 26th, 27th & 28th
Closing: May 29th

2022 Addis Ababa

FREE ENTRANCE

FILM CATALOG

SCREENINGS

Alliance Ethio Française

Hager Fiker Theater

Italian Cultural Institute

ABOUT AIFF

The Addis International Film Festival (AIFF) is an annual film festival created by Initiative Africa in 2007 and held in Addis Ababa Ethiopia. The Festival is the largest independent documentary cinema festival in Africa and it was established as a unique initiative seeking to use power of the film to support innovative ways of creating awareness on social issues.

The Festival is celebratory and educational event showcasing a carefully curated selection of films from both seasoned and emerging filmmakers addressing a wide range of themes such as peace, inequality, women empowerment, children's rights and much more.

The 16th Addis International Film Festival will take place from May 25th - 29th, 2022. The 16th AIFF will provide a platform for diverse filmmakers from all over the world to share these stories with local audiences. The 16th Addis International Film Festival has extensive and diverse screening that consist of 17+ documentaries, shorts, and features from around the globe.

MESSAGE FROM THE FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

Let me welcome you to the Sixteenth Edition of the Addis international Film Festival. This year has been a difficult one – the war here in Ethiopia in the Northern and other parts of the country, as well as the one in Ukraine, plus the economic, social and environmental crisis across the world continues unabated.

Our thoughts, prayers and hearts are with all of those suffering in this time, both in Ethiopia and around the world. Many may have lost loved ones, lost jobs and security, lost homes or livelihoods. We have been very conscious of these difficult circumstances, working hard to curate this year's edition with the limited resources that we have at our disposal.

This year the Festival presents over 15 top reviewed films from Ethiopia and different countries from around the world. On average the Festival receives over 600 films for selection each year. For the Sixteenth Edition we offer you a programme full of discoveries, diverse selection of absorbing documentaries, instructive workshops, Q&A's with the film makers, and other special events.

I have to give huge thanks and congratulations to each and everyone in the team for making our 15th Edition a reality. Including: Alliance Ethio Française, Hager Fiker Theater and Italian Cultural Institute

Kebour Ghenna
Festival Director

**As always come with friends and enjoy every second of
the Festival, after all it's YOUR Festival!**

MESSAGE FROM THE FESTIVAL COORDINATOR

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 16th Edition of the Addis International Film Festival show.

My team and I have combed the world to find a selection of the best new documentaries for this year's festival. The films you will find listed in these pages span a wide variety of genres, styles and topics. As always, we educate and inspire communities and continue "making the invisible visible".

This year a total of 12 countries will be represented on screen: Germany, Philippines, Australia, El Salvador, Norway, France, United States, Spain, Ethiopia, India, South Africa and Kenya.

We're excited to be presenting the world premiere of the films *Among Us Women* by Sarah Noa Bozenhardt and *The Ins and Outs* by Yoannas Feleke. There are a further live panel discussions and Q&A with directors of international films taking place, too.

We hope the stories we've brought together will inspire you, teach you something new, and make you feel all our efforts are worthwhile! Let me assure you, lovers of AIFF, you are in for a treat.

Finally, on behalf of myself and everyone here at AIFF, I want to express my deep appreciation to the many sponsors and supporters who have helped make this festival possible.

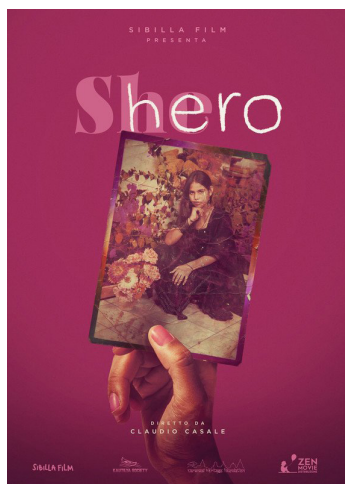
Come join us from May 25th to May 29th. We are free and open to the public. No tickets required.

Lucy Abera
Festival Coordinator

SCREENING SCHEDULE

Venue	May 25th	May 26th	May 27th	May 28th	May 29th
Italian Cultural Institute	<p>Opening 1. Shero(15min) 5:30PM-5:45PM</p> <p>2. Among Us Women (60min) 6:00PM-7:30PM</p> <p>Q&A with Director Sara Noa and the Crew - 20min</p>	<p>1. A Fire Within(85min) 5:30PM-7:00PM</p> <p>2. Kakuma my City(50min) 7:10PM-8:00PM</p>	<p>1. In My Blood it Runs (90min) 5:30PM-7:00PM</p> <p>2. Mai Khoi & The Dissidents (90min) 7:10PM-8:20PM</p>	<p>1. The Awakening of the Youngs(15min) 3:30PM-3:45PM</p> <p>2. Rift Finfinee (80min) 4:00PM-5:45PM</p> <p>Q&A with Director Daniel Kotter - 20min</p>	<p>1. Life Boat (30min) 3:15PM-3:40PM</p> <p>2. The Ins and Outs (55min) 3:50PM - 6:00PM</p>
Alliance Ethio Fran- caise		<p>1. Heloise (20min) 5:30PM-5:50PM</p> <p>2. Seryan Ates: Sex, Revolution and Islam (80min) 6:30PM-8:00PM</p> <p>Q&A with Director Nefise Ozkal Lorentzen - 20min</p>	<p>1. The Pink Cup (30min) 5:30PM-6:00PM</p> <p>2. The People vs Agent Orange(90min) 6:10PM-7:40PM</p>		
Hager Fiker Theater		<p>1. Lock Down Lucnh Club (20min) 5:30PM-5:50PM</p> <p>2. A Thousand Cuts (100min) 6:00PM-7:50PM</p>		<p>1. Fly so Far(90min) 3:30PM-5:00PM</p> <p>2. Nasri- n(90min) 5:10PM-6:40PM</p>	

1. Shero



Screening @ Italian Cultural Institute on May 25th 5:00PM - 5:15 PM

Director: Claudio Casale

Production: Italy

Length: 15 min

Genre: Women's Right

Award: David di Donatello Award

Synopsis: Shabnam was attacked with acid when she was a teenager. Today she is a Shero, a women's rights activist from India who is raising her daughter by teaching her the value of beauty and feminine strength, beyond social convention

2. Among Us Women



Screening @ Italian Cultural Institute on May 25th 6:00PM - 7:30PM

Opening

Director: Sarah Noa Bozenhardt

Production: Germany

Length: 90 Min

Genre: Health care, Maternity, Rural vs Urban, Family Ties

Award: Nominated for DEFA Sponsoring Prize, Goethe-Institut Documentary Film Prize, Prize of the Interreligious Jury, FIPRESCI Prize

Synopsis: Among Us Women is about Huluager Endeshaw (25), a young farmer who is expecting her fourth kid. Hulu finds herself caught between modern and traditional midwifery techniques in her rural community of Megendi, swimming in a torrent of change.

3. A Fire Within



Screening @ Italian Cultural Institute
on May 26th 5:39PM - 7:00PM

Director: Christopher Chambers

Production: United States

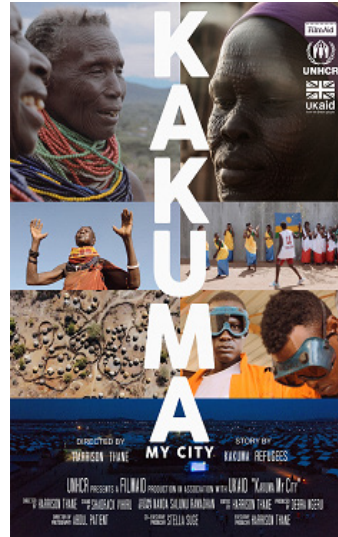
Length: 85 minutes

Genre: Immigration, politics, dictatorship,
torture, abuse, justice, human
right.

Award: Naples International Film
Festival 2021 - Winner -
Audience Award, Best
Documentary, The North Dakota
Human Rights Film Festival
2021 - Winner - Audience Award,
Best Documentary - Winner -
Audience Choice Award

Synopsis: A Fire Within chronicles
the incredible true story of
three Ethiopian women who
immigrate to the U.S. after
surviving torture in their home
country, only to discover that
the man responsible for their
torture is not only living in the
US but is employed at the
same midtown Atlanta hotel as
one of the women.

4. Kakuma My City



Screening @ Italian Cultural Institute on
May 26th 7:10PM - 8:00PM

Director: Harrison Thane

Production: Kenya

Length: 44 min

Genre: Refugees

Award: International Refugees
Festival - 2019 - Winner Hong Kong

Synopsis: A documentary about
Kenyans and refugees
building communities of
mutual support and respect,
as told by the communities
themselves. The film follows
Anne Nyandeng, a young
woman recently arrived
from South Sudan, and
Ignatius Lokitare, an older,
visually impaired man from
the Turkana community

5. Lock Down Lunch Club



Screening @ Hager Fiker Theater
on May 26th 5: 30PM -6:00PM

Director: Déwun Owusu

Production: United States

Length: 23 Min

Genre: COVID-19

Award: Documentaries Without Borders
Film Festival 2021

Synopsis: On March 26, 2020, South Africa was placed under one of the world's strictest Covid-19 lock downs. Among the hardest hit during these times were the poverty stricken townships of the country. In Langa, the country's first planned township, a group of unlikely heroes stepped up to sustain their community and show them that the future is in your hands, you just have to build it.

6. A Thousand Cuts



Screening @ Hager Fiker Theater
on May 26th 6:10PM - 8:00PM

Director: Ramona Diaz,

Production: Philippines: 2020

Length: 98 min

Genre: Philippines, journalism, war on drugs, freedom of press, political killings, and disappearances

Award: Cinema Eye Honors Awards 2021, Documentary Edge Festival 2020, Gawad Urian Awards 2021, Gold List 2021, Gotham Awards 2021, Millennium Docs Against Gravity 2021, Montclair Film Festival (MFF) 2020

Synopsis: Portrait of independent Philippine news website Rappler and its brave founder, journalist Maria Ressa. And showing how the populist government of President Rodrigo Duterte uses of tough talk, lies, oppression

7. Heloise



Screening @ Alliance Ethio Francaise
on May 26th 2:00PM - 2:20PM

Director: Heloise Peleato Sellas

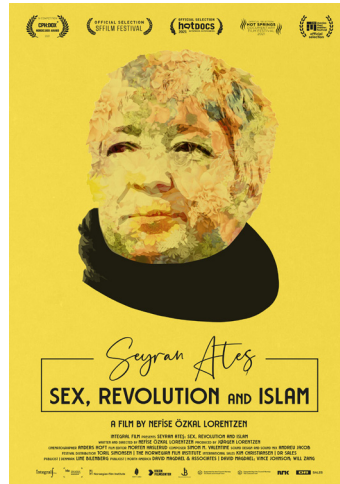
Production: Philippines: 2020

Length: 15 min

Genre: Gender Equality, Women

Synopsis: As a female narrator evokes the mysterious disappearance of her mother in Haiti in 1957, shortly before the dictatorship takes hold, her introspective monologue, interspersed with documentary footage, flows filled with thoughts and memories of her childhood in Algeria, her arrival in France and her adult life

8. Seyran Ates: Sex, Revolution and Islam



Screening @ Alliance Ethio Francaise
on May 26th 2 30PM -4:30PM

Director: Nefise Özkal Lorentzen

Production: Norway

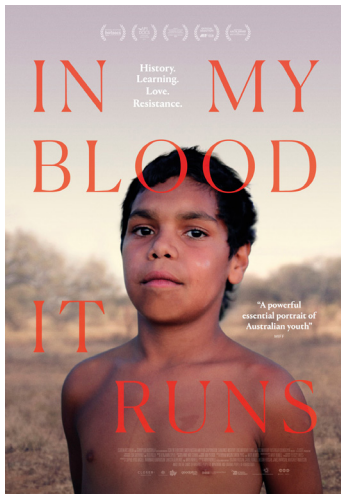
Length: 55 Min

Genre: Feminism, religion, freedom of speech and expression, Islam

Award: Winner Jury Prize - Merlinka festival
2021 Nominee Checkpoints Award
- Bergen International Film Festival
2021 Nominee Right to Know
Competition - One World International
Human Rights Documentary Film
Festival 2021 Nominee Grand Jury
Award For Best Documentary - United
Nations Association Film Festival
2021

Synopsis: On March 26, 2020, South Africa was Personal portrait of Seyran Ateş, a brave and inspiring woman working for the modernization of Islam. Although she is under great pressure and needs permanent police protection, her optimism and love overcome many obstacles.

9. In my Blood it runs



Screening @ Italian Cultural Institute
on May 26th 5: 30PM -7:00PM

Director: Maya Newell

Production: Mparntwe (Alice Springs), Sandy Bore Homeland and Borroloola Community, Australia

Length: 90 min

Genre: Child, Intelligence, Languages, Travels, Family

Award: - Australian Directors Guild Awards 2020 – Winner - ADG Award, Durban International Film Festival 2019 – Nominee - Best Documentary, Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival 2019 – Nominee - Best International Documentary,

Synopsis: A Ten-year-old Djujan is a child-healer, a good hunter and speaks three languages. As he shares his wisdom of history and the complex world around him we see his spark and intelligence. Yet Djujan is 'failing' in school and facing increasing scrutiny from welfare and the

10. Mai Khoi and The Dissidents



Screening @ Hager Fiker Theater
on May 27th 7:10PM - 8: 20PM

Director: Joe Piscatella

Production: Vietnam

Length: 60 min

Genre: Music, freedom of press, political refugee

Synopsis: Vietnamese pop star, Mai Khoi, had it all – money, fame and the blessing of the Vietnamese Communist Party. But when the government cracks down on those who oppose them, Khoi turns her back on stardom and risks everything to stand up against the oppression of Communist control and inspire others to join her.

11. The Pink Cup



Screening @ Alliance Ethio Francaise
on May 27th 5: 30PM -6:00PM

Director: Antonio Lopez Diaz

Production: Spain

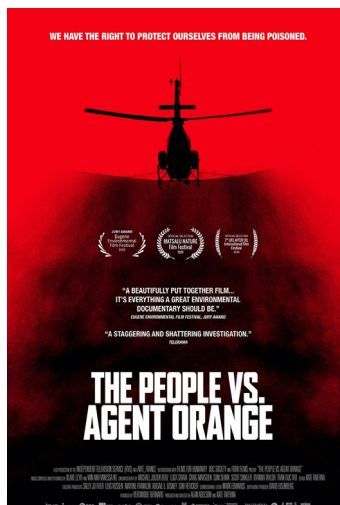
Length: 30 min

Genre: Adolescence, Social Issues, Inequalities, Gender Equality and Youth Women

Award: Nominated

Synopsis: Menstruation remains a cultural stigma in Africa. In countries like Chad, during the period, women are prohibited from cooking and in rural areas; girls cannot go to school during those days. There are many who drop out of classes during their menstruation and those who come to leave their studies completely, conditioning their possibilities for personal development

12. The People vs. Agent Orange



Screening @ Alliance Ethio Francaise
on May 27th 6: 10PM -7:40PM

Director: Kate Taverna, Alan Adelson

Production: France, United States

Length: 88 min

Genre: Activism and human rights defenders, crimes against humanity and war crimes, ecology and climate

Award: Winner PBS Independent Lens Broadcast & JURY AWARD - Eugene Environmental Film Festival 2020 Erik Barnouw Award 2021 - for "outstanding programming in documentary film concerned with American history"

Synopsis: After decades of devastation caused by the poisonous herbicide Agent Orange, two heroic women are holding those responsible to account. Tran To Nga from Vietnam and Carol Van Strum from Oregon both seek justice after great personal loss. But their battle is a long, hard one, and not without danger.

13. Rift Finfinnee



*Screening @ Italian Cultural Institute
on May 28th 4:00 PM -6:00PM*

Live Q&A with Director Daniel Kötter

Director: Daniel Kötter

Production: Ethiopia

Length: 80 min

Genre: Urbanization

Award: - DOK Leipzig – DEFA Award, Ji.hlava IDFF, Doclisboa, Pravo Ljudski Sarajevo, Ecrans Urbains Lausanne, FIPADOC Biarritz, Duisburg Film Week, Kassel Dokfest, Signos da Noite Lisboa, HotDocs Toronto, Attention Berlin, Docs Against Gravityq

Synopsis: Rift Finfinnee takes us on a journey through the periphery of the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa (oromo: Finfinnee). In recent years, urbanization has taken place on a scale representative of an entire continent in a dimension that also calls into question the ratio.

Director's Statement RIFT FINFINNEE

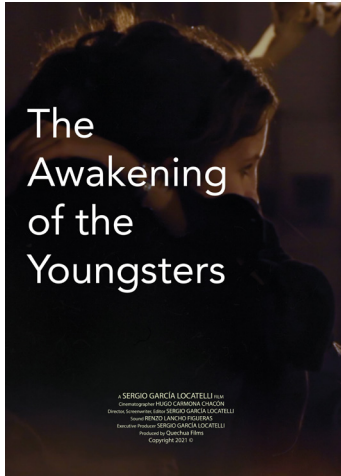
At the end of my film "state-theatre #5 BEIRUT" (2014) the architect and artist Maxime Hourani asks why people so often and exclusively deal with the symbolically charged and defined places in the centers of our cities. The future of our coexistence is much more likely to be at stake in those places where cities must constantly reinvent and redefine their boundaries, where cities grow and where countryside is turned into city.

Rift Finfinnee, the third part of a trilogy on the peripheries following Hashti Tehran (2017) and Desert View Cairo (2018), is dedicated to the eastern outskirts of the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa (oromo: Finfinnee). In recent years, urbanization has been initiated here on behalf of an entire continent in a dimension that will also call into question Europe's relationship to this continent. In the eastern periphery, the geographical, economic, political and - as the renewed bloody riots of recent months unfortunately show - also the politically constructed ethnic dividing lines clash in a confined space.

I am aware that even after the most careful research, a European filmmaker will always have an outside view of these places, and there is no question that more institutions are needed for African filmmakers who want to document and artistically shape the realities of their lives. Cinematographically and dramaturgically, the film therefore chooses the distanced view of a journey through the various forms of housing on the periphery.

The soundtrack, on the other hand, is based on numerous separately recorded everyday conversations between Ethiopians, in the fields, on the street, between farmers and settlers, between day laborers and urbanists, between Oromo and Amhara. The film thus wanders along the psycho- and socio-geological rift between rich and poor, between rural and urban, between image and sound. However, right at the beginning of the film, which is also allegorical, a small

14. The Awakening of the Youngsters



*Screening @ Italian Cultural Institute
on May 28th 3:30 PM -3:15PM*

Director: Sergio García Locatelli

Production: Peru

Length: 15 min

Genre: Direct Cinema, Economic Crisis, Politics, Poverty, Social Issues, Youth

Synopsis: On May 16, 2011, the most romantic way of exercising democracy in the hands of the people was experienced in the Spanish streets. It is in this context that the generations that are now resting speak to young people, inviting them to take charge of their lives and be an active part of society in crisis.

15. Nasrin



*Screening @ Hager Fiker Theater
on May 28th 3::30 PM -4:00PM*

Director: Jeff Kaufman

Production: United States

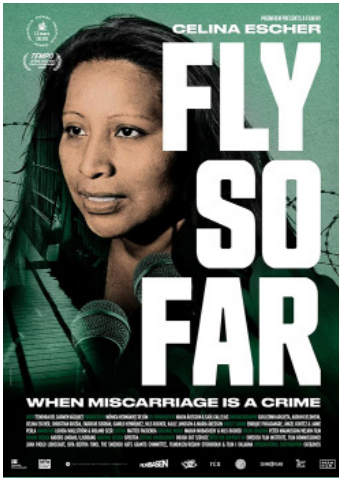
Length: 91 min

Genre: Human rights lawyer, courts & tribunals, women's rights, identity, freedom of speech and expression

Award: - Nasrin Sotoudeh has been chosen as one of this years' TIME 100 – Time Magazine's "Most Influential People of 2021"

Synopsis: Filmed in secret, Jeff Kaufman's portrait of the Iranian lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh captures her ongoing battles for the rights of women, children and minoritie

16. Fly so Far



*Screening @ Hager Fiker Theater
on May 28th 4: 10PM -5:40PM*

Director: Celina Escher

Production: El Salvador, Sweden: 2020

Length: 89 min

Genre: Women's rights, sexual and reproductive rights, prison & detention, crime

Award: - Activist Documentary Award 2021
- Movies that Matter Festival 2021
The Ibero-American Cinema Competition Grand Jury Prize - Seattle International Film Festival 2021
The Václav Havel Special Jury Prize – One World Festival 2021:

Synopsis: Inspiring portrait of Teodora del Carmen Vásquez from El Salvador. After her baby was born dead, she was convicted to thirty years imprisonment for aggravated homicide. In prison she finds out that she is not the only one. Together, the women decide to take a stand.

Q&A with Director Celina Escher

Q1. Tell us a little bit about you and the documentary?

Answer: My name is Celina Escher the Director of Fly so Far, and I am Swiss Salvadorian film maker and director. I would love to say that I am so happy that fly so far is part of your festival and fly so far was an intense journey and I am so happy to talk about it.

Q2. Can you tell us a little bit about your journey as a film maker?

Answer: I went to Cuba and started to study at International School of Film and TV as documentary director and it made me broad my perspective and I made short movies on women in Cuba on racism, sexism and protest. Then I heard about women's in Salvador that abortion is not option even if their lives is in danger, and I wanted to do something about it. First I contacted feminist organization and told them about the film and everything and they were happy about it. And we started this journey that took 6 years.

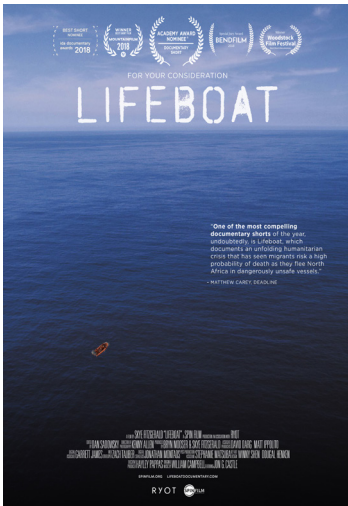
Q3. What more do you want to do with this documentary?

Answer: We had the premium last month and we have been in many film festivals in Seattle and we made a short version on the movie and was released on Aljazeera, many things are happening but we have big goals that is to change the abortion and to get international support also to force Salvadorian government to make change in law.

Q4: As a director and film maker, what is your plan for your future works?

Answer: With the film we are still working on it and we have tried to find more support for them. I am working on to many projects some are about women in violence, women who are survivor of torture and state violence. Some who are working with are activists and some are artistes and I have other big projects I have which will take some time for me.

17. Life Boat



*Screening @ Italian Cultural Institute
on May 29th 3:00 PM -3:30PM*

Director: Skye Fitzgerald

Production: South Africa

Length: 23 min

Genre: Immigrants and Refugee

Award: Arlington International Film Festival 2019 – Winner Best of Festival, BendFilm Festival 2018 – Winner Special Jury Prize, Crested Butte Film Festival 2018 – Winner ActNow Award, Portland International Film Festival 2019 – Winner Audience Award

Synopsis: Lifeboat bears witness to refugees desperate enough to risk their lives in rubber boats leaving Libya in the middle of the night, despite a high probability of drowning.

18. The Ins and Outs



*Screening @ Italian Cultural Institute
on May 29th 3:40PM -6:20PM*

Closing

Director: Yoannes Feleke

Production: United States

Length: 41 min

Genre: Immigration, Film Production

Synopsis: This 40 minutes per formative mode documentary movie is about a filmmaker's journey as an African immigrant with the hope of becoming an international Filmmaker faced with the industry's boundaries and the reality of an immigrant's life in developed countries. The interest in the success or representation of immigrants in the US, which has massive appeal to all Diaspora, will enhance the film's commercial value

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BGI Ethiopia



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