

***The E. Desmond Lee Africa World Documentary Film Festival  
at the  
University of the Western Cape, Bellville, South Africa. 2013***

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

The University of the Western Cape was established under the apartheid regime in South Africa, and thus it was not allowed to offer courses and training in the Performing or Media Arts. Today, the institution is actively engaged in an effort to establish a Performing arts culture on its campus. The English Department is creating a Media Studies component to its graduate degree program, and there is now a small Performing Arts Centre with a charismatic and energetic director who is enthused about offering other aspects of the Performing Arts beyond the study of Music. To this end, the Africa World Documentary Film Festival (AWDFF) achieved its goals and objectives.

This first-rate award winning documentary film festival was introduced and offered on the UWC campus for free to both students and public. It exposed the community to the recent work of reputable documentary filmmakers whose works AWDFF has previewed at other festival locations in Jamaica, Barbados, St Louis, Philadelphia and London.

Part of AWDFF's goal was to encourage and attract filmmakers to the UWC campus to participate in the festival with the community, but at the filmmakers' expense. AWDFF succeeded in getting commitments from three filmmakers, to attend previews at UWC. Two of film makers (Mr. Joachim Landau – director of "Voices") arrived from France and (Mr. Ashley Morrison – director of "Standing at the touchlines") from Australia, with 3 members of his film crew. They came at their own expense to attend the preview of their films at this AWDFF-UWC event, and to speak to the community about filmmaking. This afforded students and the community, first-rate access and opportunity for networking with professional filmmakers. A third filmmaker, Tariq Richards, director of "The Drum", was unable to make his flight from London to attend the preview of his film as planned at the closing session.

A second objective was to expose students to the craft of filmmaking.

I conducted 14 hours of workshop over a 3-day period for 12 students on "Basic Film making". I provided three High Definition Cameras, Lighting equipment, and all editing of projects was accomplished on a Mac laptop I brought with the film equipment. All completed projects were burned to DVD disks for each student in the workshop. None of the students attending the session has worked on a HD camera previously, but by the end of the session they had become familiar with using the equipment along with basic dynamics involved in the making of a documentary film.

This workshop session combined with participation at the festival has created the ambition to produce short documentary films by students at UWC for submission to AWDFF's 2015 festival.



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# AFRICA WORLD DOCUMENTARY F UNIVERSITY OF THE WESTERN CAPE CAPE TOWN

24 July – 1 August 2013

<http://www.uwc.ac.za/Events/Pages/Africa-Doc-Film-Fe>

## Eight days of Africa-related Documentary Films, Seminars and Workshops

Programme for Prof Niyi Coker, University of Missouri, St Louis

**Hosts:**

Dr Roger Field, English Department  
Mr Mark Espin, English Department  
Mr Leolyn Jackson, International Relations &  
SANORD

**Guest:**

Prof Niyi Coker, African/African-American  
Theatre, Cinema, Directing, Playwriting, &  
Acting, Center for International Studies Fellow

Date	Venue	Time	Event	Description
		18.00	Opening Ceremony	
		18.30	FILM 1: <i>Voices</i> 52m Joachim Landau (France)	The new voices of South African cinema speak about the future of their industry. The documentary focuses on the renewal of the sector, the South African style and identity, issues and goals.
		19.30-20.00	Discussant: Joachim Landau	

Date	Venue	Time	Event	Description
Thursday 25 July	CPA	09.00-12.00	Film-making workshop	
	LA	14.00-14.15	FILM 2: <i>Wolf Call</i> 12m - Rob Underhill (USA)	'It is 1956. In the previous year, 14-year old Emmett Till from Chicago went missing in Money, Mississippi. Later, his mutilated body was found in a river'. William Bradford Huie of <i>Look</i> magazine sits down with the two men acquitted for the boy's murder, Roy Bryant Jr. and J.W. Milam, to discuss the trial. Not a word had been uttered outside a courtroom by them or their kin, until now. <i>Wolf Call</i> (12 Best Film Awards) is the true story crafted from public record that became a lightning rod for moral outrage, inspiring a whole generation to commit to social change in the 1950s. 'His death ignited the Civil Rights Movement in America'.

		14.15-14.25	Discussant: Fiona Moolla	
		14.30-16.00	FILM 3: <i>Dear Mandela</i> 93m - CREW (SA, USA)	When the South African government promises to eradicate slums and evicts shack dwellers far outside the city, three young friends from Durban's informal settlements refuse to be moved and decide to stand up for their rights. <i>Dear Mandela</i> follows their journey, from their shacks to the highest court in the land, as they invoke Nelson Mandela's example and become leaders in a growing social movement. Inspiring, devastating and funny, the film offers a new perspective on the role young people can play in political change. A fascinating portrait of South Africa's coming of age.
		16.00-16.30	Discussant: Esley Philander	

Date	Venue	Time	Event	Description
Friday 26 July	LA	14.00-14.15	FILM 4: <i>Shokran, Toni</i> 12m - Nahid Toubia (Sudan)	In September 2011 the African-American novelist and Nobel Laureate for literature, Toni Morrison published a letter addressed to a Sudanese woman, in which she expresses her thoughts and feelings about the violations of women. This was in response to a Youtube video of a Sudanese woman being lashed for an unknown moral crime. A young Sudanese woman and her friends gather together to read Toni's letter and decided to respond to Toni Morrison. They say ' <i>Shokran Toni</i> ,' which means 'Thank You Toni' in Arabic, for bringing the attention of the world to their plight under the fundamentalist Islamic military rule. They take Morrison (and the viewers) on a journey around Sudan telling the history of the country and its people, including the recent events of civil war and genocide committed by the regime which caused the country to divide.
		14.15-14.30	Discussant: Jacolien Volschenk	
		14.40-16.00	FILM 5: <i>Guerrilla Grannies</i> 80m - Ike Bertels (Belgium, Mozambique, Netherlands)	For ten years, three guerrilla girls fought for freedom in Mozambique against Portuguese rule. Years ago, director Ike Bertels saw a BBC film about the liberation army - FRELIMO. She was touched by Monica, Maria and Amelia who had made the choice to fight. Ike found them, learned Portuguese and filmed throughout the years of 1984 to 1994, right up until the present. She reveals to what extent ideals from the revolution shaped Mozambique, how today the grandmothers struggle with their children and grandchildren and how to mix ideals about education or the role of women in society against the backdrop of a globalized world.

Date	Venue	Time	Event	Description
Saturday 27 July	LA	12.00-13.15	FILM 6: <i>Words of Witness</i> 71m - Mai Iskander (USA)	Every time 22-year-old Heba Afify heads out to co country's future, her mother is compelled to remind <i>you're still a girl!</i> Defying cultural norms and fam to report on an Egypt in turmoil, using tweets, text awakening and the disillusionment that follows, m to shape its own destiny and democracy.
		13.15-13.30	Discussant:	
		16.00-17.00	FILM 7: <i>I am Gay and Muslim</i> 59m - Chris Belloni (Netherlands)	This intimate documentary follows a number of yo exploration of their religious and sexual identity. T acknowledge their sexual orientation, sharing their ambiguity and secretiveness of the life they feel co to raise awareness and break the taboo surrounding spectrum of dilemmas with which these gay men s
		17.00-17.30	Discussant: Kenneth Goodman	

Date	Venue	Time	Event	Description
Monday 29 July	CPA	09.00-1.30	Film-making workshop	
	LA	16.00-17.30	FILM 8: <i>Mama Africa</i> 88m - Mika Kaurismaki (South Africa)	A documentary about world famous South African singe century travelling the world spreading her political mess promote Justice and Peace. It is a tribute to a woman wh of Africa as no other. Miriam Makeba (1932-2008) was the world and was a delight for international audiences a South African musical roots. She was forced into early e result of her involvement in a documentary indicting Ap attention in the USA through her collaboration with Har sights of the FBI following her marriage to Black Panthe Carmichael in 1968. She decided to live and settle in Gu continued to fight the minority white Apartheid regime. documentary footage and a plethora of interviews, this f exceptional artist and her music. A performer who, for m create a stir wherever she went.
		17.30-18.00	Discussant: Niyi Coker, Jr.	

Date	Venue	Time	Event	Description
Tuesday 30 July	CPA	09.00-2.00	Film-making workshop	
	LA	14.00-15.00	FILM 9: <i>Standing at the Touchlines</i> 52m - Ashley Morrison (Australia)	<i>'The blacks are tired of standing at the touchlines to wit wrote activist Steve Biko before his death in 1977. He w in South Africa, but the statement was also true when it part of African life. Would South Africa hosting the Wo at the Touchlines' travels through Africa during the Wor</i>
		15.00-15.20	Discussant: Mark Espin ( Ashley Morrison will be present for Q and A.	

Date	Venue	Time	Event	Description
Wednesday 31 July	LA	16.00-16.45	FILM 10: <i>On the Edge</i> 44m - Isy India Geronimo (South Africa)	There are nights when those who sleep on the streets of inner city Johannesburg, fear nothing more than having a South African police officer take their blankets. The homeless community in inner city Johannesburg has endured xenophobia

			and continuous police harassment in a supposedly 'post-racial', progressive South Africa. This documentary explores how the legacy of Apartheid lingers in the midst of a police force renowned for violence and Human Rights abuses. Unfortunately, the most vulnerable sections of the population suffer the brunt of this condition – the homeless and immigrant communities.
		16.45-17.00	Discussant:
		17.00-17.50	<p>FILM 11:  <i>African Drum, Beyond the Beat</i>  48m - Tariq Richards (SA, USA)</p> <p><i>African Drum, Beyond the Beat</i> is a portrait of the various social functions of the drum in West African society. The film uses a famous ode to the African drum to demonstrate its pervasive role in society over time. The drum's social functions range from use in work songs, to communication, to religious rituals, through to one of its more contemporary uses, by fans at football games. 'African Drum, Beyond the Beat' takes a special interest in the conception and nature of rhythm and, in dance, the inter-dependent relationship between the drummer and dancer by exploring the effects of drum rhythms on both. It also looks at the different elements required for manufacturing a drum, from the physical to the social. The film ends with a postulate that the democratic nature of African music, where instruments in an ensemble are equally important, makes it a paradigm for the modern age compared to Western classical music, where strict hierarchical structures reflect an outdated mechanistic view of the world.</p>
		17.50-18.10	Discussant: Tariq Richards

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[http://www.capetownmagazine.com/events/africa-world-documentary-film-festival/11\\_37\\_55200](http://www.capetownmagazine.com/events/africa-world-documentary-film-festival/11_37_55200)

<http://www.africaworldfilmfestival.com/2013/schedule>

<http://www.fmr.co.za/component/eventix/?view=eventdetails&id=1293&Itemid=>

**Follow up:**

At the conclusion of the festival an evaluation meeting was held with Mr. Leolyn Jackson, Mr. Mark Espin and Dr. Roger Field. The consensus was that they would like to have a continuation and repeat of the AWDFFF at the University of Western Cape in 2014 and beyond to stimulate the Film making culture of the campus and community. I did have the privilege of meeting the University Rector who also officially opened the AWDFFF festival and welcomed Filmmaker from France Mr. Joachim Landau. The Rector also indicated that he would like to see the Festival continue at the University. During the festival other faculty from nearby Stellenbosch University attended the events and immediately indicated interest in hosting the festival at their university. A request I immediately forwarded to Mr. Jackson.

**Related Development:**

Mr. Leolyn Jackson set up a meeting with Ms. Henriette Weber – Director of the Performing Arts Centre at UWC. Ms. Weber is very intent on developing the Performing Arts fully to encompass Theatre and Dance to compliment the fledgling Music Program at the Performing Arts Centre. This afforded me opportunity to discuss my latest musical theatre project titled “Mama Africa”- the life and story of legendary South African singer, Miriam Makeba. Ms. Weber indicated a great interest in this project and the possibility of creating the Musical at UWC, as this is the story of a South African artist. To this end, Ms. Weber set up an appointment for me with Mr. Phumi a notable South African Choral director. We visited his group at rehearsal in the Guguletu Township on the afternoon of Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> of July. Following this meeting Ms. Weber organized a dinner meeting with Mr. Phumi and myself to further discuss the realization of the “Mama Africa” project. We anticipate working on the project and initiating it at the University of Western Cape before premiering it in St Louis and then New York City in 2015.

In all, it was a very successful outing for the AWDFFF and the University of Western Cape, with a promise for future engagements.

Submitted by:

‘Niyi Coker, Jr.  
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August 9, 2013