

## The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Cascade Festival of African Films Schedule

This month of February is an exciting time for Portland Community College. A variety of cultural events are gracing PCC's campuses during the month to commemorate Black History Month.

All events are free and open to the public, including the cen-

terpiece of the celebration, the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Cascade Festival of African Films, which is showing more than 20 films.

The film festival will also pay tribute to the great Senegalese director Djibril Diop Mambety, who died in 1998. In a partial retrospective, the

# AFRICAN Films

films are "The Girl Who Sold the Sun," and two earlier festival favorites: "Touki Bouki" and "Hyenas".

There is a new element to the festival this year. On Thursday evenings, a series of documentary films from Cameroon, Sudan, Sierra Leone, and South Africa are planned.

As with the other evening film showings, a discussion will follow, generally by individuals from those countries. The film festival will continue to have Thursday afternoon matinees, beginning at noon. This will be a chance for the community to see the same films that will be shown on Friday and Saturday evenings. Finally, "Kirikou" and the "Sorceress" (now in English) will be shown for the Family Film Day at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 17. Bring the children for a time of storytelling, film and more.

McMenamins Kennedy School and the Oregon Council for the Humanities sponsor the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Cascade Festival of African Films. For more information, phone the information line at 503/244-6111 (ext. 3630).

**JIM COMES TO JO'BURG/African Jim** (1949, South Africa, 48 min.), directed by Donald Swanson. In English. / **DOLLY AND THE INKSPOTS** (1997, South Africa, 28 min.), directed by Peter Davis. In English.

Thursday, Feb. 15, noon, and Friday, Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m., Terrell Hall, Rm. 122, PCC Cascade Campus

When it appeared in 1949, *Jim Comes to Jo' Burg* was billed as "the first full-length entertainment film to be made in South Africa with an all native cast." It is a simple, familiar story, that of a young man who leaves his village to make it in the big city. It features a number of stars from the townships and was a sensation for Black audiences, who had never before seen their own heroes on screen. It is followed by a documentary by Peter Davis, which pays tribute to some of the stars of

*Jim*: the great blues singer Dolly Rachebe and the African Inkspots. We see them forty years later and learn of their reliance on music to carry them through the worst days of Apartheid.

**FINTARODESTINO/Dribbling Fate** (1998, Cape Verde/Portugal, 77 min.), directed by Fernando Vendrell. Thursday, Feb. 15, 2 p.m., and Saturday, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m., Terrell Hall, Rm. 122, PCC Cascade Campus.

Set in the Cape Verde Islands, this is a film about foolish dreams, missed opportunities, and reluctant understanding. Like all the men on the island, Mané dreamed of escaping to Portugal. He would do it through his prowess on the soccer field. But he gave up his dream in order to marry a local girl and settle down, and he has regretted it ever since. Fate, however, has some tricky moves in store for Mané. In Portuguese and Criolo with English subtitles.

**KIRIKOU AND THE SORCERESS** (1998, France/Belgium, 70 min.), directed by Michel Ocelot. Saturday, Feb. 17, 2 p.m., Terrell Hall, Room 122, PCC Cascade Campus.

For Family Film Day, there is this charming animated children's film based on a Congolese folk tale. It tells the story of Kirikou, a child born in a village upon which Karaba the sorceress has placed a terrible curse. Kirikou sets out on a quest to free his village of the curse and to find out the secret of why Karaba is so wicked. This is an English version to make it easier for young children to appreciate.

**YELLOW CARD** (2000, Zimbabwe, 90 min.), directed by John Riber. Thursday, Feb. 22, noon, and Friday, Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m., Terrell Hall, Room 122, PCC Cascade Campus.

A product of Media For Development (MFD), and is another film from Zimbabwe that openly probes contemporary issues. Seventeen-year-old Tiyane is a bright young man from Highfields Township, a good student, a star striker for the Highfields Hyenas soccer team, very attractive to the young women, but his world comes crashing down on him when he discovers that he has somehow become a father. A big hit in Zimbabwe, the film has an infectious soundtrack and characters we can all relate to in English.

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