



A Friday, Feb. 2 showing of The Oscar award-winning film "Tsotsi" at McMenamins Kennedy School, opens the 17th Annual Cascade Festival of African Films. "Tsotsi," the first South African film to win an Oscar for Best Foreign Film, is a story of hope and the triumph of love over rage and violence.



An African mother and daughter are caught in crises that force them to face their lot as women in a rural village in "Delwende," one of the feature attractions during Portland Community College's 17th annual Cascade Festival of African Films.

## Cascade Festival of African Films

A litany of hope, clashes and love

Five weeks of films at Portland Community College's 17th Annual Cascade Festival of African Films will honor both Black History and Women's History months from Friday, Feb. 2 through March 3.

"This year's films cover a wide range of themes and topics, including the quest for freedom and justice, the clash between tradition and modernity, love across class lines, the importance of preserving Africa's artistic and cultural heritage, the exploration of identity, culture, and sexuality, and women's ongoing, inspiring struggle for equality and independence," said Mary Holmstrom, film festival co-director.

The film festival held mostly on PCC Cascade Campus in north Portland attracts more than 4,000 attendees annually, offering films from the African continent and the African Diaspora.

Since its inception in 1991, the festival has been organized and run by volunteers, and offered to the public free of charge.

The festival will open with the award-winning South African film, "Tsotsi," directed by Gavin Hood, on Friday, Feb. 2 at McMenamins Kennedy School,

5736 N.E. 33rd Ave. There will be two screenings at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. "Tsotsi," the first South African film to win an Oscar for Best Foreign Film, is a story of hope and the triumph of love over rage and violence.

A special festival highlight will be the celebration of Ghana's 50th anniversary of its independence with the renowned Ghanaian film director Kwaw P. Ansah on Saturday, Feb. 3.

Ansah will show several of his recent films as well as two of his classics, "Love Brewed in the African Pot," one of Africa's best loved comedies, and his highly praised documentary, "Crossroads of People, Crossroads of Trade."

The spotlight will also be on the African-American director Thomas Allen Harris and his film, "Twelve Disciples of Nelson Mandela: A Son's Tribute to Unsung Heroes," on Thursday, Feb. 15. "Twelve Disciples" honors Harris' stepfather, Benjamin "Lee" Pule Leinaeng, and 11 of Lee's boyhood friends who were among the first wave of anti-Apartheid exiles from South Africa in the 1960s. Harris' earlier film, "That's My Face/É Minha Cara," set in Brazil, will be shown at Portland State University on Friday, Feb. 16.

Kirikou, Africa's bravest and littlest hero, returns

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