



'Lamb' is a heartwarming film from Ethiopia that tackles poverty issues and screen Friday, Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. during the month long Cascade Festival of African Films at Portland Community College's Cascade Campus in north Portland.

Films of Africa

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Watch" after his film "Lamb," was selected as the first-ever Ethiopian work to be screened at Cannes. The film will be shown at noon, Feb. 25 and 7 p.m., Feb. 26 at the PCC Cascade Moriarty Auditorium.

In total, the films at this year's Cascade Festival of African films hail from 11 African countries: Algeria, Morocco, Egypt, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Sudan and Ethiopia.

In addition to welcoming directors Allouache and Zaleke in person, Portland audiences will have the chance to connect across continents through online video discussions with other directors in Africa following the local screenings.

In a time when most news stories about Africa fixate on war, famine, disease and corruption, the Cascade Festival of African Films presents a clear-eyed, authentic view of African life in its many diverse forms, said Tracy Francis, the film festival's coordinator.

This year the festival will also examine LGBTQ issues in Kenya with "Stories of our

Lives" (Kenya, 2014); gender issues in South Africa with a series of women-directed shorts; poverty in Ethiopia with the heartwarming story "Lamb"; and love in the romantic comedy "Flower Girl" (Nigeria, 2013).

Organizers say most feature films are not suitable for children, with the exceptions of "Kirikou and the Men and Women" (France/West Africa, 2012), showing on Feb. 27; and "Lamb," showing on Feb. 25 and 26.

A longtime fixture of the film festival is its Thursday evening documentary film series. This year's documentary series, "The Power of Music and the Arts," offers a chance to witness how the arts can be a powerful force for social change and expression through films from Rwanda, Egypt, Sudan, and Morocco.

More than 5,000 people attend the festival each year. Most screenings take place at the Moriarty Auditorium at Portland Community College's Cascade Campus, 735 N. Killingsworth St.

For complete screening information, visit africanfilmfestival.org.

The Law Offices of Patrick John Sweeney, P.C.

Patrick John Sweeney
Attorney at Law

1549 SE Ladd, Portland, Oregon

Portland: (503) 244-2080
Hillsboro: (503) 244-2081
Facsimile: (503) 244-2084
Email: Sweeney@PDXLawyer.com



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