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A centerpiece of this year's Cascade Festival of African Films will be the movie 'Nawara,' a story of a housemaid for a wealthy Egyptian family closely linked to the Mubarak regime. The sharp social commentary strongly questions the outcome of the country's 2011 revolution and the deeper class and cultural divisions that it brought to the surface.

## Cultural Bridges

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can plays: "Fishers of Hope/Tawaret," an examination of the prospects of hope and livelihood in Africa, and "Onions Make Us Cry," a look into the consequences of domestic abuse. Both readings will be paired with short films and take place in Moriarty Auditorium at 3 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 11.

Returning to the festival will be a documentary film series each Thursday evening focusing on the power of dissent, and offers Portland audiences a chance to witness how political and economic resistance can be a powerful force for social change. In addition, each Saturday screening during the festival is preceded by the popular "Saturday Social Hour," starting at 5:30 p.m. and features live music, food, and an African marketplace.

For more information on all the festival's screenings and filmmaker appearances, visit [africanfilmfestival.org](http://africanfilmfestival.org).



'Abounak,' a film made in collaboration between Portland director Christopher Kirley and actor and musician Mdou Moctar of Niger, will open the 27th Cascade Festival of African Films on Friday, Feb. 3 at the Hollywood Theater. Both Kirley and Moctar will be on hand to discuss the film following its second showing that evening.



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