

# WOMEN TAKE CENTRAL STAGE IN THE 18TH ANNUAL AFRICAN DIASPORA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL - CHICAGO June 18-24, 2021

*ADIFF spotlights culturally and socially meaningful feature and documentary films about the human experience of people of color all over the world.*

NEW YORK, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES, May 28, 2021

/EINPresswire.com/ -- The African

Diaspora International Film Festival -

Chicago (ADIFF Chicago), in collaboration with Chicago based longtime partner Facets

Cinémathèque, will celebrate its 18th anniversary virtually exclusively in the Midwest from June 18 to 24, 2021 with 14 narratives and documentaries from 13 countries, all Chicago premieres.



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The films in the African Diaspora International Film Festival – Chicago do what much media and even the public school system fail to do: educate.”

*ADIFF Chicago 2019, film critic Kathleen Sachs of the Chicago Readers.*

Since its inception, ADIFF has spotlighted culturally and socially meaningful feature and documentary films about the human experience of people of color all over the world. The films in ADIFF Chicago 2021 explore the full humanity and range of the Black and Indigenous experience, giving a multidimensional voice to often misrepresented and misunderstood realities and peoples. Titles in ADIFF Chicago 2021 come directly from important domestic and international film festivals such as Tribeca, Toronto, Berlinale, Durban, the Pan African Film Festival and The Trinidad and Tobago film festival. Others are

independent productions made by filmmakers eager to share their message with an audience.

Special events in ADIFF Chicago 2021 will spotlight the work of women filmmakers of color.

OPENING NIGHT – [BETRAYAL OF A NATION](#) is an experimental documentary that indicts the U.S. Government on 18 charges, for crimes committed against Black and Brown citizens. The Opening Night virtual screening to be held on Friday, June 18 @ 7PM CDT will be followed by live Zoom Q&A with director Brandi Webb.

CENTERPIECE – [2 WEEKS IN LAGOS](#) is romantic comedy drama that captures the excitement, vibrancy, and complexity of everyday life in Lagos, Nigeria, a dynamic city where anything is possible in 2 weeks. The screening at 3PM CDT on Sunday, June 20 will be followed by a live Zoom Q&A with director Kathryn Fasegha.



In CLOSING NIGHT romantic comedy *MAYA AND HER LOVER*, the mundane life of a 39-year-old introvert is disrupted when she begins a steamy but contentious affair with a much younger man. The 7PM CDT screening on Thursday, June 24 will be followed by live Zoom Q&A with director Nicole Sylvester.



Two other films directed by women of color in the festival are *SHE HAD A DREAM* by Raja Amari, about a young black Tunisian woman who decides to go into politics to fight against sexism and racism in today's Tunisia and *MIOPYA*, a beautifully observed meditation on faith, perseverance, and integrity by Moroccan director Sanaa Akroud. "The impressive richness of this simple yet subtle film is thought-provoking" ~ Oliver Barlet - Africultures

OTHER [FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS](#) INCLUDE:

*The Cuba-Mali Connection / Africa Mia* by Richard Minier and Edouard Salieris, a musical documentary about ten young promising musicians from Mali sent to Cuba in 1964 to study music who developed a revolutionary new sound mixing Afro-Cuban rhythms with traditional African music.

*The Esmeraldas Beach* by Patrice Raynal, a documentary that sets out to expose the invisibility of Afro-Ecuadorians and rectify the narrative of the country's history. Among other stories is that of the 1999 assassination of Prime Minister Jaime Hurtado, the first Black to hold that office.

*Kuessipan* by Myriam Verreault tells the story of two young women from the same Quebec Innu community find who they have less in common the older they become. *Kuessipan* had its world premiere in the Discovery category at the 2019 Toronto International Film Festival.

Lil' Buck, Real Swan by Louis Wallecan, is a comprehensive documentary about Charles "Lil Buck" Riley who learned the smooth art of Memphis jookin and transformed it through his experience in the ballet world to become one of the greatest contemporary dancers in the world.

Wagner Moura's Marighella - which had its world premiere at the Berlinale 2019 - is a Brazilian action drama set in 1969 based on the life of Afro-Brazilian politician and guerrilla fighter Carlos Marighella. Facing a violent military dictatorship and with little support from a timid opposition, writer-turned-politician Carlos Marighella organizes a resistance movement.

A Taste of our Land by Yuhi Amuli (Rwanda) is a film about greed told against the backdrop of the current Chinese influence in African countries. Winner, Best First Feature Film, 2020 Africa Movie Academy Awards; Winner, Best First Feature Narrative, 2020 Pan African Film Festival.

For a full schedule and to order advance tickets online please call 773-281-4114 or 212-864-1760 or visit <http://www.facets.org> or <http://www.NYADIFF.org>. Tickets are \$15 for Opening Night, the Centerpiece, and Closing Night; \$10 general admission. ADIFF Chicago All Access Pass is \$95.

The 18th Annual African Diaspora Film Festival-Chicago is made possible thanks to the generous support of Facets Cinemateque and ArtMattan Productions. The African Diaspora International Film Festival is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization.

For screeners, press information, and interviews for the 18th Annual African Diaspora Film Festival- Chicago, contact ArtMattan Productions at (212) 864-1760 / Fax (212) 316-6020 or E-mail PR@NYADIFF.org. Festival web site: [www.NYADIFF.org](http://www.NYADIFF.org).

## 18th ANNUAL ADIFF CHICAGO FACT SHEET

WHAT: ADIFF CHICAGO 2021

WHERE: Going 100% online in the following states: WI, IA, MO, IL, MI, IN, KY

WHEN: From June 18 to 24, 2021

TICKETS: Opening, Centerpiece, Closing Night: \$15; Regular Screenings: \$10. All Access Festival pass \$95

14 FILMS – 13 COUNTRIES:

USA, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Ecuador, France, Mali, Morocco, Namibia, Tunisia, Rwanda, Nigeria, Panama

<http://www.NYADIFF.org>

## ABOUT THE AFRICAN DIASPORA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Described by film critic Armond White as “a festival that symbolizes diaspora as more than just anthropology,” ADIFF has managed to increase the presence of independent Afrocentric films from all over the world in the general American specialty movie scene by launching films such as *The Tracker* by Rolf de Heer (Australia), *Kirikou and the Sorceress* by Michel Ocelot (France), *Gospel Hill* by Giancarlo Esposito (USA), *Darrat/Dry Season* by Mahamat-Saleh Haroun (Chad), *Scheherazade, Tell Me a Story* by Yousry Nasrallah (Egypt), *The Pirogue* by Moussa Touré (Senegal), *White Lies* by Dana Rotberg (New Zealand), and *The Citizen* by Roland Vranik (Hungary), among others.

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