

Black History Month
25 October – 3 November 2024
at the French Institute in London



The French Institute is pleased to present a series of film screenings and discussions to celebrate **Black History Month** from **25 October** to **3 November**, in collaboration with **The Royal African Society, Film Africa and SOAS**.

Mati Diop's documentary *Dahomey*, Golden Bear at the 2024 Berlin Film Festival, will kick off the series from 25 October.

Highlights include an **onstage discussion** with acclaimed filmmaker and artist **Sir John Akomfrah**, who represents the UK at this year's Venice Biennale, and celebrated Malian director **Abderrahmane Sissako** who won the Palme d'Or in 2014 for *Timbuktu* on **2 November**. The discussion, moderated by film curator **June Givanni**, will explore their impactful careers and artistic journeys as they discuss identity, migration, and cultural clash in cinema.

As part of Film Africa, a **symposium on 26 October** will address **film restoration and restitution**. Key participants include **Didi Cheeka (Nigeria)**, an archivist and researcher known for his work on African film archives; **Pedro Pimenta (Mozambique)**, a renowned producer and archivist; **Cecilia Cenciarelli** from the **Cineteca di Bologna**, who has overseen major restoration projects of African films; and **Aboubakar Sanogo**, an expert on African film heritage and a key figure in the **African Film Heritage Project (AFHP)** and **FEPACI**, archivist and filmmaker **Mohamed Challouf (Tunisia)**. The symposium will be moderated by **June Givanni**, a pioneering international film curator and founder of the **June Givanni PanAfrican Cinema Archive**.

Organised in collaboration with SOAS, two panel discussions will explore the **African European experience** in the UK and France. The roundtable discussion *Words and People* (26 Oct) will critically examine the history and significance of the terminology used to describe the diasporic condition in France and the UK. The panel will be chaired by **Olivette Otele**, professor at SOAS, and include award-winning Nigerian-British writer **Irenosen Okojie** and **Hélène Neveu Kringelbach**, a social anthropologist at UCL.

The *Words and Objects* roundtable discussion (2 Nov) will gather **Eliya Kandot**, director and curator of Boulogne-sur-Mer's museums, **Jacqueline Roberts**, Chief Executive and co-founder of SV2G, an African and Caribbean Heritage organisation, and **Dr Renie Chow Choy**, historian and expert in heritage and colonial history. They will explore the concept of a 'circulation of worlds' (Achille Mbembe), which fosters a cosmopolitan consciousness and a vibrant cultural imagination, alongside Françoise Vergès's notion of a 'programme of absolute disorder', which critically examines the Universal Museum model.

The French Institute and Film Africa have teamed up to present **Film Africa Classics**, a unique opportunity for audiences to watch digitally restored gems of African cinema at Ciné Lumière. Several films have been restored thanks to the support of the **Africa Film Heritage Project**, a partnership between the **Federation of Pan African Filmmakers (FEPACI)**, Martin Scorsese's **The Film Foundation's World Cinema Project** along with its affiliate archive, the Cineteca di Bologna, and **UNESCO and the Cycle Cinemateque Africa**.

[Programme](#) | [Film Africa Classics](#) | [Worlds in Movement](#) | [Dahomey](#)

Venue: Institut français, 17 Queensberry Place, London, SW7 2DT

Press enquiries: Natacha Antolini: natacha.antolini@institutfrancais.org.uk | 020 7871 3520