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PRESS RELEASE

THE 4TH EDITION OF THE KENYA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2009

The Kenya International film Festival has gradually grown of age, attracting international participation of films and filmmakers from all over the world.

The festival is aimed at challenging local filmmakers to contribute films which are indeed truly of African identity and which can traverse international borders.

The festival is scheduled to take place from **Wednesday 21st to Saturday 31st October 2009** in Nairobi, Kenya.

We have received and continue receiving films from across the continent and around the world.

Some of Africa's best Award winning films like "Jerusalema," and "A Rebel missionary in South Africa" have been submitted for the competition. We have also received, for the first time, Hollywood productions like "Gospel Hill" and "Patterns of Passion" and other great productions from Africans in the Diaspora.

The theme of this year's festival "Africa and the Diaspora" has attracted a lot of films from the Diaspora making this year's festival very unique and competitive.

The deadline for film submissions is 30th of July 2009. No late entries will be accepted.

Only films made between 2007 and 2009 will be eligible for competition.

Confirmed festival will include activities;

- *Regular film screenings*- this will be held at different venues to allow a wider audience within Nairobi and its environs. Professional screening halls will be used for maximum comfort and proper sound and lighting unlike at the previous editions.
- *International film premieres*- we have already received some of the films that will be premiered during the festival among them is a Ugandan film and Tanzanian Film.
- *Outreach program (community screening in Kibera, Mathare, Kangemi)*. The previous editions have promoted a cinema culture in the crowded informal settlements where most people can not afford to go the cinema halls.
- *Students Forum, Training, debates, Q&A with international filmmakers*. Kenya has over 20 colleges training in mass communication and other media related studies. The student population adds up to over 1000 students who are keen to learn more about filmmaking from the professionals. The festival offers an excellent opportunity for the students to interact with the professionals.
- *Capacity building workshops* (script writing, Actors Lab, Film critic, production). The festival will offer a series of training workshops to both the professionals and the young and budding filmmakers. This program is intended to build capacity in the industry and in particular the Kenyan film industry.

- *Eastern African filmmakers' forum*. The forum brings together filmmakers from the region to engage in positive discussions on ways of improving the industry and creating lobby groups that can engage their respective governments to support the industry like has been the recent case of tax reductions in Kenya and Tanzania.
- *Women Panorama*. The East African region has nurtured a lot of women in the film industry. Why is this case?
- *Presentations by audiovisual practitioners*. The industrial players in the film sector especially the broadcasters and the equipment suppliers will engage the participants with presentations on their roles and the current status of the industry.
- *Theme nights*- film screenings followed by a taste of culture through music and food. The theme night was introduced last year to allow different countries to screen their best film in the presence of the director and host the delegates to a taste of their culture.
- *Exhibitions, Nollywood against Riverwood, and history of the National Broadcaster*. The exhibition will allow delegates to gather information on the key players in the industry.
- *Maisha Film Lab* will once again be at the festival holding an 8 day screenwriting Lab. The Maisha project has over the year trained and equipped over 200 East African filmmakers with practical skills in film making.

Applications for the workshop can be obtained from; maishafilmlab@infocom.co.ug

- *Intellectual property and other related rights*. KIFF in collaboration with the Kenya Copy right board and the World Intellectual Property Organization will hold a workshop on intellectual property and fighting piracy in the region.
- *Award ceremony*
- *Artist cafeteria at alliance Francaise*. Film business involves a lot of professionals, the cafeteria will have a forum where the stakeholder can engage with the like minded people on issues affecting the industry.
- *Festival within festival*, a special presentation by ZIFF, Lola Kenya screen and Amakula- Kampala.
- *Presentation of academic papers on festival theme "Africa and Diaspora"*. Expected are academician and historians from the universities in America and Europe and the local special groups with special interest in African history especial relating to arts and culture.

The Festival Competition;

The competition is open to all making it one of the most competitive on the African continent. Apart from the wining films, we will have a special category for Kenyan films to be awarded for; the best Kenyan film, Best director, Best cinematography, Best Actor/Actress, Best editing, Best sound, and Best art director.

The Categories in Competition are;

Long features, short features, Documentaries, Animation, Best East African film, Best Students' film and the audience award

The Festival is supported by; The Embassy of France in Kenya, Government of Kenya, Kenya Film Commission, Department of Film Services, Embassy of Mexico, Kenya Censorship Board,

Kind regards,

Charles Peter ASIBA
Festival Director
Kenya International Film Festival