

New Nigeria Cinema Day at BFI Southbank: A day of film and discussion



Nigeria today is in the midst of a new wave of filmmaking that marks a dramatic departure from the Nollywood phenomenon and which the new generation of film-makers have coined **New Nigeria Cinema**.

With sophisticated production techniques, stories that hold international appeal and themes reflecting contemporary African culture, Nigeria's national cinema is rising.

Nollywood, Nigeria's video industry has grown rapidly over the past two decades to become the second largest moving image industry in the world; in terms of number of output, second only to Bollywood. With an estimated 200 titles produced every month, the films which are largely shot on video find mass distribution throughout Africa and its disparate communities around the world but rarely gets the attention of the industry and international festival circuit. Today's new generation of filmmakers' demand to be taken seriously. Utilising professional production methods, they believe that their work deserves an international audience.

In support of these young guns of cinema leading the trail to be appreciated on the global platform and to mark Nigeria's 50th anniversary, **BFI Southbank**, in association with the **Virgo foundation**, will present a day dedicated to **New Nigerian cinema on Saturday October 30th from 11:00 – 17.30..** The day will include a screening of **Kunle Afolayan's** acclaimed new film, **The Figurine** (2009), a current hit on Nigeria's film circuit and is a perfect example of the emerging talent that will be accompanied by selected shorts and trailers. **Archive Nigeria: The History of Nigeria on Film** will also be a highlight of the day and will feature **NAIJ** (2008) by **Jide Olanrewaju** which, through two and a half hours of rare archival footage, tells the political history of Nigeria from British colony to the oil state of today.

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Notes to Editors

New Nigeria Cinema Day at BFI Southbank: will take place on October 30 at **BFI Southbank**

Naij

Nigeria 2008. Dir Jide Olanrewaju. 150 mins. EST

Tickets £3. Free for ticket holders of *The Figurine*.

Sat 30 Oct 11:00-13.30 NFT1

The Figurine (Araromire)

This thriller follows three people who discover a charm that brings them seven years of good luck. Nigeria 2009. Dir Kunle Afolayan. 120min. EST

Plus

Screening with selected shorts from new Nigerian filmmakers, plus a wider discussion about new Nigerian cinema.

Tickets £5

Sat 30 Oct 14:00 NFT1

About The Virgo foundation

The Virgo Foundation is a charity committed to the promotion of African arts, culture, and heritage headed by actor **Wale Ojo**. www.virgofoundation.org

About the BFI

Booking information The BFI Southbank is open to all. BFI members are entitled to a discount on all tickets. BFI Southbank Box Office tel: 020 7928 3232. Website www.bfi.org.uk/southbank _

Tickets for ALL FREE screenings and events but must be booked in advance by calling the Box Office to avoid disappointment

The BFI Filmstore is stocked and staffed by BFI experts with over 1,200 book titles and 1,000 DVDs to choose from, including hundreds of acclaimed books and DVDs produced by the BFI.

The benugo bar & kitchen

Eat, drink and be merry in panoramic daylight. benugo's décor is contemporary, brightly lit and playful with a lounge space, bar and dining area. The place to network, hang out, unpack a film, savour the best of Modern British or sip on a cocktail.

There's more to discover about film and television through the BFI. Our world-renowned archival collections, cinemas, festivals, films, publications and learning resources are here to inspire you.

***** PICTURE DESK *****

A selection of images for journalistic use in promoting BFI Southbank screenings can be found at www.image.net under BFI / BFI Southbank