

Friday, March 22 7 PM

Mulika

In Swahili with English subtitles
Maisha Maene, Democratic Republic of Congo, 2022, 14 minutes

An "afonaut" emerges from the wreckage of his spaceship in the volcanic crater of Mount Nyiragongo and begins to understand how to change the future for his people.

Omen

In French with English subtitles
Baloji, Democratic Republic of Congo, 2023, 91 minutes
After spending years in Belgium, Koffi, a young Congolese man, returns to his birthplace of Kinshasa to confront his family and homeland culture. Using magical realism to paint a portrait of "undesirables" and "sorcerers," the film delves into the intricacies of identity, culture, and belief systems through a deeply rich and visually captivating lens.

Un Certain Regard – New Voice Prize, Cannes Film Festival, 2023

CineRebels Award, Munich Film Festival, 2023

Best African Feature Film, Durban Film Festival, 2023

Saturday, March 23 7 PM

Father's Day

In Zulu and English with English subtitles
Tumelo Lukena, South Africa, 2023, 26 minutes
Alakhe, a 12-year-old boy, is selected to give a speech for a Father's Day school event. He decides to go against his mother's wishes and sets out to find the father he's never met, which opens a can of worms.

Best Short Film, Chicago International Children's Festival, 2023

Banel and Adama

In Fulani and French with English subtitles
Ramata-Toulaye Sy, Senegal, 2019, 87 minutes
Banel and Adama are fiercely in love. Longing for a home of their own, they have decided that they will live apart from their families and that Adama will not accept his blood duty as future chief. When Adama informs the village council of his intention, the whole community is disrupted. Banel and Adama will learn that where they live, there is no room for passions, let alone chaos.

Bright Horizons Award, Melbourne International Film Festival, 2023

Sunday, March 24 7 PM

On the Surface

Fan Sissoko, Iceland/Mali, 2021, 4 minutes
A young Black woman goes swimming in the Iceland Sea and meditates on raising a child in a country where she remains a foreigner. As she enters the icy waters, she relives periods of her traumatic pregnancy and postnatal depression before her swimming becomes more fluid. Surrounded by nature where she faces her fears, she can now embark on a process of healing her wounds.

Special Mention of the Jury, Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival, 2021

Grâce

In French with English subtitles
Johanna Makabi, France/Senegal/Congo, 2022, 14 minutes
Grace, 8, hates her neighborhood, she hates cheerleading, and, today, she decided to join her father in space.

Dent Pour Dent / A Tooth for a tooth

In French and Wolof with English subtitles
Ottis Ba Mamadou, Senegal, 2022, 84 minutes
Idrissa, civil servant, lives in the suburbs of Dakar, Senegal. Due to IMF budgetary restriction measures he loses his job. When his wages dry up, he is forced to live at the expense of his wife. He strives to regain his manly pride.

18th Annual AFRICAN Film Festival

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Youth Matinee

Saturday, March 23 3 PM
Gugu naGogo

In English
Taku Mbudzi, Australia/Zimbabwe, 2022, 19 minutes
When a lunar eclipse stops her late-night letter exchanges, 12-year-old astronomer Gugu must find a way to reconnect with her beloved Gogo (grandmother) who lives far away in Zimbabwe.

Ibdelela Yokuphila

In Zulu with English subtitles
Dylan McGarry, South Africa, 2023, 6 minutes
Nowandle, a Zulu storyteller, tells an ancient Zulu myth of a soul's journey from river to deep sea. Moving through magical worlds, a water spirit undertakes an epic journey to be reunited with her ancestors who dwell in the deep sea.

Golden Zebu, Madagascourt Film Festival, 2023

Honorable Mention, Ottawa International Animation Festival, 2023

Three Shorts from the Kizazi Moto: Generation First Series

This animated anthology brings together a new wave of animation stars to take you on a wildly entertaining ride into Africa's future. Inspired by the continent's diverse histories and cultures, these stories present bold visions of advanced technology from uniquely African perspectives.

Mukedzei

In English
Pious Nyenyewa and Tafadzwa Hove, Zimbabwe/South Africa, 15 minutes
After defacing and destroying a sacred monument, rebellious teenage influencer Mukudzei emerges from the ruins into an alternate future where Zimbabwe was never colonized and developed into a technologically advanced utopian society.

Moremi

In English
Shofela Coker, Nigeria/South Africa, 2023, 12 minutes
Lonely spirit boy Luo is trapped in the realm of the gods and haunted by terrifying giants until he is suddenly rescued by Moremi, a daring scientist from future Nigeria.

Enkai

In English
Ng'endo Mukii, Kenya/South Africa, 2023, 15 minutes
Floating through the universe in her gourd-shaped home, young Enkai just wants to spend time with her single mother, Shiro, a cosmic deity who works all the time in the stressful and demanding job of saving the Earth from man-made destruction.

Ng'endo Mukii and Shofela Coker will be present for a post-show discussion following the screenings.

Sponsored by African & African American Studies and Film & Media Studies in Arts & Sciences and the African Students Association of Washington University. It is funded in part by a grant from the Women's Society of Washington University. Financial assistance for this project also has been provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency, and an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. The event is also supported by the Saint Louis Art Museum. Saturday's films are co-presented with the St. Louis Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



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