

Barbican Cinema, Barbican Centre
Returning the Colonial Gaze
 2 - 30 May, Cinema 3
barbican.org.uk/whats-on/cinema

Focusing on Francophone African and French cinema, the Barbican presents *Returning the Colonial Gaze* showcasing works by bold filmmakers who, in the 50s, 60s, and 70s, reversed the "colonial gaze" to interrogate the former occupying nation from the perspective of their own countries.

The five-part season features films by directors from Mauritania, Senegal, Morocco, and Niger, using their art to reclaim the right to represent their cultures and histories, which had been undermined by years of colonial rule - helping to shape the national identities of their countries in the process. Also included are works by French directors who challenged and critiqued colonial narratives.

Returning the Colonial Gaze is part of the Barbican's 2018 **The Art of Change** season, which explores how the arts respond to, reflect and potentially effect change in the social and political landscape.



PETIT À PETIT

Soleil O (18*)

Wed 2 May 8.45pm

Mauritania 1970 Dir Med Hondo 105 min Digital presentation

A key work of postcolonial cinema, this film follows the experiences of Mauritanian-born accountant Jean, who arrives in Paris to pursue his dreams. Told with caustic humor in a non-linear style, inspired by the European avant-garde as much as by West African oral traditions, his story explores many of the challenges facing immigrants in France: menial jobs, unacceptable living conditions, naked racism and bureaucratic indifference. The accumulation of injustices finally breaks his composure and leads to a political awakening.

Restored by Cineteca di Bologna at L'Immagine Ritrovata laboratory in collaboration with Med Hondo. Restoration funded by the George Lucas Family Foundation and The Film Foundation's World Cinema Project.

Afrique 50 (18*)

France 1950 Dir René Vautier 17 min Digital presentation

Film restored by the Cinémathèque de Bretagne

+ *To Be 20 in the Aurès (18*)*

France 1972 Dir René Vautier 93 min Digital presentation

Film restored by La Cinémathèque française

Wed 9 May 8.45pm

This double bill presents two anticolonial films by French activist filmmaker **René Vautier**, the self-described "most censored director in France". *Afrique 50* is a scathing expose of French rule in West Africa. Censored for over 40 years in France and even landing its director in jail, the short work is paired with *To Be 20 in the Aurès*. This is a searing critique of the Algerian War, which follows seven days in the life of a military unit composed of young French conscripts. Held first at a harsh training camp then sent off to fight in the desolate Aurès Mountains, they become ruthless killing machines.

Afrique sur Seine (15*)

France 1955 Dirs Paulin Soumanou Vieyra, Mamadou Sarr 21 mins Digital presentation

+ *Little By Little (15*)*

France 1970 Dir Jean Rouch 96 min Digital presentation

And introduction by Barbara Knorrp

Tue 15 May 6.15pm

In this double bill, France, its inhabitants and traditions are discovered by visitors from Senegal and Niger. *Afrique sur Seine*, by Senegalese directors **Paulin Soumanou Vieyra** and **Mamadou Sarr**, adopts the style of contemporary ethnographic documentaries to lead us on a tour of Paris, investigating the customs of the local tribe - the Parisians. The second film in the double bill is part comedy, part docu-fiction *Little by Little* by French director **Jean Rouch**. Featuring Nigerien film stars **Damouré Zika** and **Lam Ibrahim**, it follows an African man as he travels to Paris to learn about the construction of tall buildings, only to be taken up by the oddities of French life. Introducing the double bill is anthropologist **Barbara Knorrp**.

Si Moh, The Unlucky Man (18*)

France 1971 Dir Moumen Smihi 17 min Video presentation

+ *The East Wind (18*)*

Morocco 1975 Dir Moumen Smihi 80 min 35mm presentation

Wed 23 May 6.30pm

The Barbican presents two attempts by Moroccan director **Moumen Smihi** to make films in a new way, closer to the local culture, and more distant from the Western tradition. *Si Moh, The Unlucky Man* depicts the lives of migrant workers in France, as Si Moh lives in the industrialised suburbs of Paris while longing for Maghreb and sharing experiences of alienation with his fellow migrants.

Following *Si Moh, The Unlucky Man* is *The East Wind*. Set in Tangier in the mid-50s, when the city was still an International Zone, the film portrays a place at the eve of its independence, as Aïcha resorts to magic to try to prevent her husband from taking a second spouse. Around her, a society of women creates its own form of active resistance as the larger independence movement grows around it.

Screening materials courtesy of the director, subtitles with thanks to Peter Limbrick of University of California Santa Cruz

An Adventurer's Homecoming (18*)

Niger 1966 Dir Moustapha Alassane 34 min Video presentation

+ *Touki Bouki* (18*)

Senegal 1973 Dir Djibril Diop Mambety 85 min Digital presentation

Restored in 2008 by The World Cinema Foundation at Cineteca di Bologna/L'Immagine

Ritrovata in association with the family of Djibril Diop Mambéty. Restoration funding provided by Armani, Cartier, Qatar Airways and Qatar Museum Authority.

Wed 30 May 8.45pm

This double bill includes works from directors from Senegal and Niger focusing on alienated young protagonists in thrall to Western pop culture. In *An Adventurer's Homecoming*, a young man returns from a trip to the US with a suitcase full of cowboy outfits for himself and his friends. In their new get-up, they transform into a gang of swaggering bandits: barroom brawls and shoot-em-ups ensue. In *Touki-Bouki*, two young lovers, Mory and Anta, wander the streets of Dakar hatching wild schemes to raise money for their escape to Paris, the city of their dreams.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

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Ticket prices:

barbican.org.uk/film Box Office: 0845 120 7527

Standard: £10.50

Members: £8.40

Young Barbican: £5 unlimited allocation

Concessions: £9.50

* Local Classification

Certificate to be confirmed

About the Barbican

A world-class arts and learning organisation, the [Barbican](#) pushes the boundaries of all major art forms including dance, film, music, theatre and visual arts. Its creative learning programme further underpins everything it does. Over 1.1 million people attend events annually, hundreds of artists and performers are featured, and more than 300 [staff](#) work onsite. The architecturally renowned centre opened in 1982 and comprises the Barbican Hall, the Barbican Theatre, The Pit, Cinemas 1, 2 and 3, Barbican Art Gallery, a second gallery the Curve, foyers and public spaces, a library, Lakeside Terrace, [a glasshouse conservatory](#), conference facilities and three restaurants. The City of London Corporation is the founder and principal funder of the Barbican Centre.

The Barbican is home to Resident Orchestra, [London Symphony Orchestra](#); Associate Orchestra, [BBC Symphony Orchestra](#); Associate Ensembles the [Academy of Ancient Music](#) and [Britten Sinfonia](#), Associate Producer [Serious](#), and Artistic Partner [Create](#). Our Artistic Associates include [Boy Blue](#), [Cheek by Jowl](#), Deborah Warner, [Drum Works](#) and [Michael Clark Company](#). The [Los Angeles Philharmonic](#) are the Barbican's International Orchestral Partner, the [Australian Chamber Orchestra](#) are International Associate Ensemble at Milton Court and [Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra](#) are International Associate Ensemble.

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