

# FILMS FEMMES AFRIQUE FESTIVAL

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## EDITION 2026

April 10 - April 27



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above : *No simple way home* - by Akuol de Mabior - FFA2024



below : *Amchilini* - by Allamine Kader - FFA2024

above : *La promesse d'Imane* - by Nadia Zouaoui- FFA2024







# SUMMARY

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# PRESENTATION

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**FILMS FEMMES AFRIQUE (FFA)** is a women's association set up to promote African cinema. It runs film clubs in public secondary schools in Dakar and a free film festival, open to all, with professional training. FFA uses cinema as a means of informing, raising awareness and encouraging dialogue to combat gender inequality.

The films show African women and girls creating solutions for a better social, economic and environmental future. We are convinced that cinema offers a wide range of opportunities for expression, and that culture in general has the power **to mobilise citizens to defend the values of democracy, justice, solidarity and unity.**

Our festival is preparing its 7th edition, which will take place from **10 to 18 April 2026** in Dakar and from **22 to 27 April** in 12 regional cities, on the theme "**Women on the front lines**".

Since 2003, the Festival has been promoting African cinema and defending women's rights:

1st edition (2003): *Violence against Women*

2nd edition (2016): *Women, Work and Migration*

3rd edition (2018): *Women and Education*

4th edition (2020): *Women in Resistance*

5th edition (2022): *Women Creators of the Future*

6th edition (2024): *Climate Emergency and Peace*

In previous editions, our desire to reach out to the public has led us to hold screenings in **15 communes in Dakar**, where contacts have now been established and maintained.

FESTIVAL



In 2026, we plan to cover all **19 communes of the capital** and organise **100 screenings**. In all, **36 venues** (cinemas, socio-cultural centres, training centres, the festival village, neighbourhoods, women's detention centre) and 20 schools and universities in Dakar will be involved.

Over the last six editions of the festival, we have screened a total of **291 films** in cinemas, secondary schools and open-air evenings in local neighbourhoods. Over **45,000 people** attended.

Photographer Cheikh Oumar Diallo – FFA2024



The Festival is also a means of continuing and encouraging **the training of women directors**. In 2020 and 2022, 12 and 15 young women respectively were selected and given free training in filmmaking. In 2024, 14 of the young women trained in the previous edition were able to continue their training. **Two films have been made collectively**, one of which has already been selected for several festivals (Cotonou International Women's Film Festival – FIFF Cotonou, Clap Ivoire).

Around **twenty directors are invited** to each festival and take part in the debates. The festival has gained international recognition and contributes to the cultural and artistic influence of Dakar and Senegal. The screenings are free and are followed by debates between professionals and the public.

A big closing evening gives us the opportunity to award three prizes:

- the prize for the best feature-length film awarded by an international jury of film professionals,
- the prize for the best short fiction film awarded by a jury of Dakar secondary school girls,
- the critics' prize awarded by a jury of journalists.

We hope to be able to add new prizes for this new edition.

Closing ceremony of the festival at CanalOlympia Teranga - Photographer Cheikh Oumar Diallo - FFA2024.



The map below shows the **19 Senegalese towns** that have hosted the Films Femmes Afrique festival since 2003.







The map in green shows the **38 countries** from which the films selected for the African Women's Film Festival since 2003 have originated.

In addition, there are **19 countries of production and co-production** from the African diaspora: Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Haiti, Iran, Italy, Jordan, Norway, Qatar, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.



*Xalé* – by Moussa Sène Absa – FFA2024

# THEME

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## Women on the front lines :

*commitment, democracy and the fight for equality*

**Women play a leading role in all decision-making processes.**

Democracy cannot be fully achieved without the active involvement of women. Yet women are often under-represented, relegated to secondary roles, or marginalised because of their gender, appearance, religion, disability or origin. They demand equal, full and **fair participation of women in democratic processes**: freedom of expression, equality before the law, respect for fundamental rights, civic participation to ensure that decisions take account of women's realities and needs. Everywhere, women are raising their voices as leaders, activists, film-makers, intellectuals, housewives and craftswomen who are shaping the future of our societies.

**Women are at the forefront of the battle to reclaim their bodies.**

Women are fighting with determination to reclaim their bodies, which are inseparable from their emancipation and gender equality.

In Senegal, cases of sexual violence and rape, particularly of minors, are becoming increasingly alarming, as women's rights associations are pointing out. Faced with this reality, there is an urgent need to step up demands for **the strict application of the Maputo Protocol** on safe abortion in cases of rape and incest.



Women are no longer content just to demand their rights, they also aspire to **occupy positions in decision-making spheres**, so that they can play an active part in shaping public policies that protect women and young girls.

*Le spectre de Boko Haram – de Cyrielle Raingou – FFA2024*



**Women are at the forefront of the fight to [preserve the environment](#).**

Climate change particularly affects the poorest and most vulnerable populations, especially women and girls, who bear the brunt of environmental, economic and social shocks and are **exposed** to greater risks to their health and safety. It is vital that women continue to be great mobilisers. They are at the source of innovative actions for greater climate justice.

Through a selection of films and debates, the Films Femmes Afrique festival offers a **space for reflection and dialogue** to explore the many facets of women's democratic civic commitment. Women have always been on the front line: yesterday, today and tomorrow.



Cinéma Pathé Dakar - Photographer Cheikh Oumar Diallo - FFA2024

# GOALS

The festival aims to develop, train, educate, familiarise, raise awareness, initiate, acquire, deepen and pass on information and know-how about **democratic and civic action through film**.

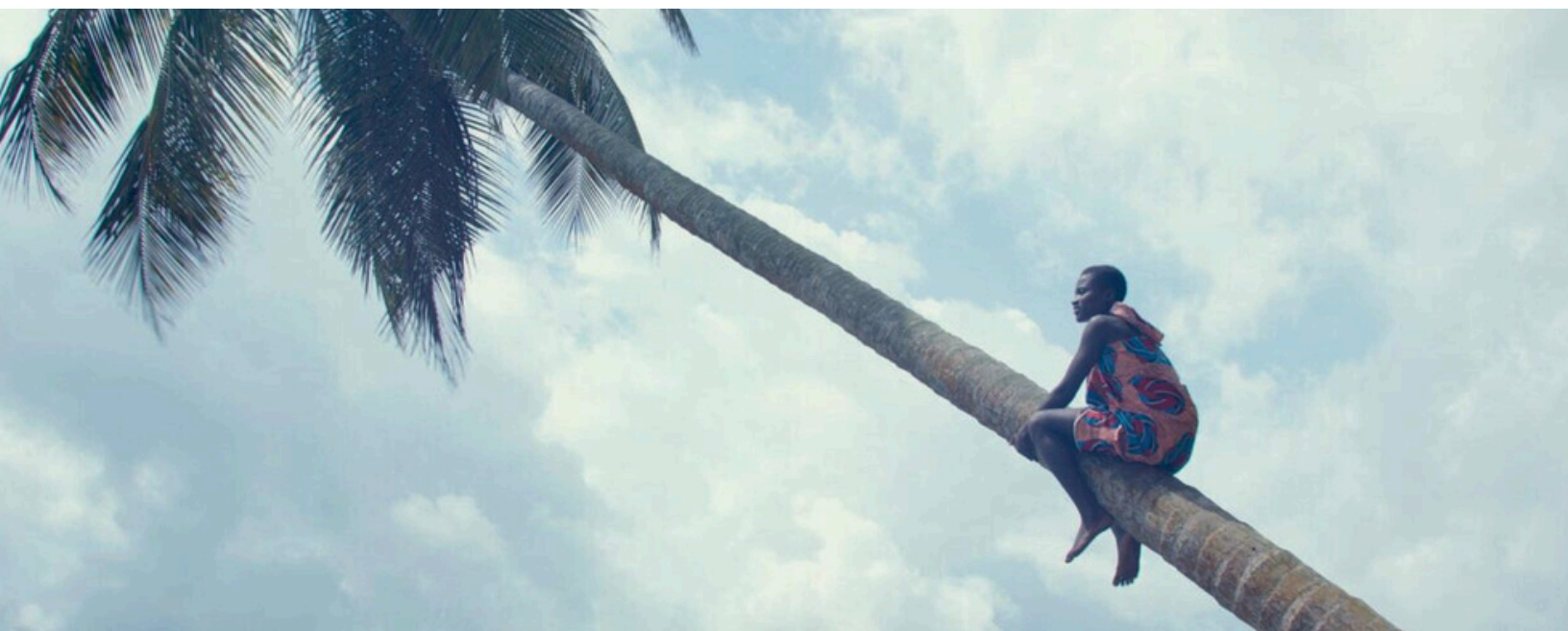
Its specific objectives are expressed through the following activities:

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Goal<br><b>01</b> | <b>Promoting African cinema</b><br><b>Activities:</b> African film screenings, networking between African professionals and between women's film festivals   |
| Goal<br><b>02</b> | <b>Defending women's rights through film</b><br><b>Activities :</b> Debates, Round tables/Panels, Civic actions  |
| Goal<br><b>03</b> | <b>Training women to work in the film industry</b><br><b>Activities :</b> Training (Kino Linguère), Masterclass, Workshops, Film lessons (Ndekkis des réals)   |
| Goal<br><b>04</b> | <b>Broaden young people's general knowledge and critical thinking through visual media education</b><br><b>Activities :</b> Jury of high school girls, 'Lycées au ciné' Highschools in theaters, film screenings in schools, Cinéclub (year-round activity outside the festival) |





above : *Amussu* – by Nadir Bouhmouch – FFA2024



below : *Queen of the sea* – by Kate Cox – FFA2024

above : *Aya* – by Simon Coulibaly Gilliard – FFA2024



# ACTIVITIES

01

## Screenings

Bringing culture to everyone through **free** screenings. Our approach is to reach out to the public: public and private schools, universities, social and cultural centres, cinemas, open-air cinemas, women's prisons, etc.

02

## Debates

Each screening is followed by a **debate with a member of the film crew** or with **experts** on the subject covered by the film (lawyers, health professionals, environmentalists, etc.).

03

## Mini Film Market

The first edition of the FFA Film Market: a unique opportunity for African filmmakers to showcase their work and for **international distributors** to engage in promoting these films worldwide. A space for networking, idea exchange, and business opportunities.

04

## Training

A training workshop called **Kino Linguère**, in partnership with Esprit Ciné, has been set up for 15 women. For 2 weeks, they attend free courses on various film-related professions with Senegalese professionals women, and then collectively make 2 short films.

05

## Masterclass

Masterclasses on **little-known film professions** are organised. They are very popular and have already covered a number of subjects: Casting Director, Assistant Director, Film Critic, Costume Designer, Set Designer and Prop Designer, Sound Engineer and Scriptwriter.

06

## Ndekii des réals

Two film directors who have had the opportunity to discover each other's work engage in a public conversation about their careers, creative processes and challenges. It's an opportunity for young filmmakers to **learn more about the art of directing**, and for the general public to get a glimpse behind the scenes.



07

## Round tables

This year, three recorded panel discussions will bring together experts and changemakers to discuss **eco-feminism, women's empowerment** in the cultural sector and women's voices for **democracy**.

A round table will bring together the **network of women's film festivals** to finalise the perspectives outlined for 2022 and the concrete actions to be taken.

08

## Research workshop

A research workshop aimed at raising awareness and combating violence against women by creating a **practical guide** (distributed free of charge during the festival) listing associations, support services and legal or social solutions according to the type of violence.

A **participatory workshop**, run by professionals, will also offer role-playing exercises and tools to help people recognise violence and find out about the remedies available.

09

## Tribute

Each edition is an opportunity to pay tribute to a great filmmaker who has left his or her mark on the history of cinema, to recall or publicise his or her works, career and struggles. In 2026 we are honouring **Laurence Gavron**.

10

## Jury of highschool girls

The prize for the best short fiction film is awarded by a jury of Dakar high school girls. Selected on the basis of a letter of motivation, the girls from different schools are **introduced to film criticism** by a professional.

11

## Exhibition

Ahead of the festival, we engage **young audiences** through a **drawing and poetry** competition based on the festival theme. The selected works will be exhibited in the Festival Village, and prizes are awarded by a jury of partners.

12

## Festival Village

The Festival Village is a place to **meet, share and exhibit**. It will host a number of round-table discussions, a participatory workshop, an exhibition, a temporary bookshop, etc.



J. F. Kennedy Highschool - Photographer Cheikh Oumar Diallo - FFA2024

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## Cinéclubs tout au long de l'année

Through its festival, the Films Femmes Afrique association has established lasting relationships with several public secondary schools in Dakar. In response to students' requests for more screenings and with a focus on continuity, the idea of a **monthly cinéclub** quickly emerged. Its aim is to **promote education in and through the visual media**, while contributing to the **preservation of Senegalese and African film heritage**.

Between 2022 and 2025, pupils from the Amath Dansokho public secondary school in Ouakam and the J.F Kennedy and Ousmane Sembène public secondary schools in Yoff watched **35 films** (feature films, shorts, dramas and documentaries).

In all, **32 screenings** were organised, with **over fifty pupils attending each session**. The varied programme ranged from classics of Senegalese cinema such as Mooladé by Ousmane Sembène to contemporary works such as La danse des béquilles by Yoro Lidel Niang. Each screening was followed by an **enriching debate** with directors, actors, crew members or specialists in the theme addressed by the film.

We are **actively seeking partners** to extend the project to a further **10 public secondary schools** in Dakar. We are specifically targeting public secondary schools because they have limited access to film screenings.

These screenings should enable secondary school students to develop their critical thinking, their image analysis and their writing and directing skills, while encouraging vocations in the audiovisual professions. The project also aims to **create an inclusive space for dialogue** and to **raise awareness of citizens' rights**.





Community centre Biscuiterie - Photographer Cheikh Oumar Diallo - FFA2024

# RETHINKING THE FUTURE

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01

## **Making Dakar an essential cultural hub**

with the biggest Women's Film Festival in West Africa, where every two years, for one week, committed women and professionals from the international film industry come together.

02

## **Promoting visual media education for young people in Dakar**

thanks to the high school girls' jury for the short fiction competition, and the film clubs project.

03

## **Implementing the cinema component of the twinning cities Dakar and the City of Marseille**

Films Femmes Afrique is keen to promote the mobility and exchange of cultural players through the links between the Rencontres cinématographiques Films Femmes Méditerranée (FFM) in Marseille and the Films Femmes Afrique festival (FFA).

04

## **Preserving the festival's independence while securing its funding and ensuring its long-term future**

- Building loyalty among our partners
- Establishing 3 or 5-year agreements with the majority of our funders
- Striking a balance between public and private funding
- Obtaining sufficiently spacious premises for the entire festival organising team
- Recruiting a permanent employee to support the volunteer team of organisers

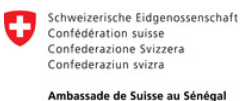


French Institute in Dakar - Photographer Cheikh Oumar Diallo - FFA2024

# THEY ALREADY SUPPORT US



Ministère de la Culture  
et du Patrimoine  
Historique







Photographers Cheikh Oumar Diallo and Fifi Bakhoum - FFA2024







Festival village – Photographer Cheikh Oumar Diallo – FFA2024

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You will find a set of resources below:

**Videos :**

- [Festival and training presentation](#) (French)
- [Festival presentation by Dr. Estrella Sendra](#) (English)

**Catalog :**

- [Catalog of the 2024 edition of the festival](#)

We would be delighted to discuss this further in person, and remain at your disposal for any further information you may require.

*The festival team*  
*Films Femmes Afrique*

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