

# Critically acclaimed Sotho and Swazi films to be shown at European Film Festival

Critically acclaimed films from Lesotho and eSwatini will be part of the programme at the European Film Festival.



Source: Supplied.

The screenings which now include the two Southern African countries will be shown between 21 and 23 October in Mbanene, and at the Alliance Française in Maseru between 28 and 30 October.

## Films for eSwatini and Lesotho

Organisers said this year's extension to Lesotho and eSwatini is an opportunity for new audiences to see award-winning films that are unlikely to reach local screens in these countries. Due to technical conditions, the Alliance Française line-up is different from that in South Africa.

A cornerstone of the programme is the presentation of two landmark films that have emerged in both countries in recent years. The multi-award-winning Sotho film, *This Is Not A Burial, It's a Resurrection* is the only film ever submitted to the Academy Awards by Lesotho. Directed by Lemohang Jeremiah Mosese, it is the story of an 80-year-old widow who ignites the spirit of resilience within her community when her village is threatened with forced resettlement due to the building of a dam.



## European Film Festival returns in hybrid form

20 Sep 2022



In the Swazi story *Liyana*, five orphaned children under the guidance of story-teller Gcina Mhlophe, transform past personal trauma into an original tale about a girl named Liyana. Directed by Aaron and Amanda Kopp, this well-crafted mix of animation and documentary has won awards all over the world for *Liyana*. *This Is Not A Burial, It's a Resurrection* and *Liyana* demonstrate the exciting potential for filmmaking that exists in Lesotho and eSwatini.

## Migrants and Refugees a burning topic

Migration is a way of life for many in Lesotho and eSwatini who travel to South Africa and other destinations searching for work or a new life. Three of the films in the festival look at migration from different perspectives. *As Far As I Can Walk*, the Serbian/ French/ Luxembourgian/ Bulgarian/ Lithuanian co-production directed by Stefan Arsenijević, highlights that it's not just securing a roof over one's head but also the challenges of emotional and intellectual deprivation that young migrants in Europe face today.



## Report: Black women, young people still excluded from meaningful ownership in film and TV

14 Sep 2022



The Oscar-nominated film *The Man Who Sold His Skin* directed by Kaouther Ben Hania is a unique co-production between Tunisia, France, Germany, Belgium, Sweden, Turkey and Cyprus that uses the tension between art and commerce as fuel for a sobering story about a Syrian refugee who allows his back to become a canvas for a famous tattoo artist. Austrian Arash T. Riahi's *Oskar and Lilli: Where No-one Knows Us* focuses on two Chechen refugee children living in Austria who are separated from their mother and how their hopes of being reunited with her sustain their lives in challenging circumstances.

Completing the programme at the Alliance Française, in both eSwatini and Lesotho, are the films *France* and *Supa Modo*. The high-paced *France* by French filmmaker Bruno Dumont takes a satirical look at modern media through the life of a celebrity journalist who loses confidence as she experiences an identity crisis. A choice for families and younger audiences alike is Likarion Wainaina's German-Kenyan production *Supa Modo*, the heart-warming story of a young girl

whose dream of becoming a superhero is threatened by terminal illness, and how her village rallies together to make her dream come true.

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