The African film library is opening to the world

Created in 1989 at the instance of African film makers, the African film library of Ouagadougou assure the patrimony of African cinema for the collect, the inventory, the cataloging and conservation of films. It provides a great database for African cinema. The African film library of Ouagadougou which rich of more than 2000 films, and 1000s film documents and archives on cinema in Africa has almost disappeared with the floods of 1st September 2009 which affected seriously Ouagadougou. Two years after the disaster, the film library has been risen from the ashes.

Opening film
« Un pas en avant - les dessous de la corruption », at Ciné Burkina

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After rehabilitation, the film library can own more than 1500 films (fictional short and feature films). The archive is opened to students, teachers, researchers, professionals of cinema and organization of cultural vocation, social or educative.

The African film library of Ouagadougou must assure a permanent visibility to the continent and enable reflection and research on cinema in Africa. Besides, it contributes to a better knowledge about the contemporary history of Africa and remains a source of inspiration for film and audio-visual professionals.

“The next day after the floods of the 1st September, a huge work was done to save the 2/3 of the films which were saved at the African film library.

We have been able to save the film library with the support of the government and partners. The work was about the rebuilding of the formal building with a concrete belt around it. The whole inside was renovated including electricity and air conditioned. The level of the building was raised by one meter”, said Mr Soma Ardiouma, Director of Ouagadougou’s African film library.

The official launching of the film library is due the 1st March 2011.

Oumarou MOGMENGA

A press briefing that reassures

On February 24, 2011 the National Organizing Committee met the press at FESPACO Headquarters for a briefing on the preparations couple of days prior to the festival’s opening.

“The 22nd edition of FESPACO promises to be wonderful”, the Chairperson of the National Organizing Committee, Mr. Stanislas Meda, said during the press briefing. “Out of the 111 films selected for competition, approximately 95% were direct submissions”, Mr. Meda said pleasingly. 48 hours before D-Day, the preparations at this stage are believed to be satisfactory compared to previous editions. In light of the event significance, specific attention was given to safety on the various festival’s venues.

Mariam Ouédraogo

According to the Organizing Committee, preparations are believed to be satisfactory 48 hours before the event.
Making the festival organization more credible

By Gervais Hien

Hoping that it continues! Anticipating brings good results! FESPACO is amerecing this dynamic system in the view to have better results in terms of organization. We can not hope better because the recognition of the organizers as well as professionals is to be showed up at the next level.

From now on the satisfaction of film fans should not be bargained. We also hope that the programming department will schedule very great films.

Talking about that, we can assure that the awards for the best ones are there and ready to be giving to those who are passionate of the African cinema.

This anticipation into the organization has enable us to get at the right time the materials in terms of communication and promotion (official and MICA catalogues; programme schedules, festival guides and so on).

This anticipation has been notified in the management of accreditations which has been well done. At times, it was difficult but the result was wonderful. Also satisfied were the film and media professionals who have so much wished for coordination and cooperation of the various departments.

The efforts made so far are quite encouraging at the point that we will be admiring greater editions to come. This is definitely what we should be working towards.

Let’s begin the party hoping that FESPACO 2011 will leave its marks on this 21st century.

Flash Back

Winners of the Etalons de Yennenga

1972 = Oumarou Ganda from Niger with, “Le Wazou polygame”
1973 = Souheil Ben Barka from Morocco, with “Les milles et une mains”
1976 = Dikongué Pipa from Cameroun, with “Muna Moto”

To be continued
The red carpet at FESPACO

To acknowledge and promote the nobleness of the genius of cinema

For the second time, the red carpet will be rolled out to give value to the 22nd edition of FESPACO and magnify the courage of African professionals in the film industry. They all deserve to be honored for conveying the emotions of Africa through images and sounds.

The red carpet has been initiated to meet the urgent need ‘to professionalize the organization of FESPACO’.

FESPACO reflects African culture throughout the world and exists through the image and sound of the African professionals. These professionals deserve recognition, respect and encouragement not only from FESPACO but from general public. In this regard, since the 21st edition, FESPACO took the initiative to roll out a red carpet for professionals of African cinema. It is a unique way to honor them. Far from being a poor imitation, the red carpet has its due place at FESPACO.

The red carpet is about a hundred meter-walk during which each film crew will be receiving standing ovations from the public up to the stage. Afterwards, each director and the crew will get into the room for introduction which is followed by the screening of the film.

Hermann GOUMBRI

FESPACO Badges

A satisfactory distribution

Badges have been made on time this year and their distribution is going on smoothly. The commission of accreditation has started working since October 2010 to live up to the expectations of film fans. Badges for national media and film fans that registered for accreditation on time are available since. More than 5800 badges have already been delivered.

According to Mrs Lucie Tiendrebeogo, responsible for the commission of accreditation, ‘Few problems still remain because of some film fans, especially journalists from international media who apply for the accreditation during or after the opening of the festival.

In general, such difficulties are handled one after the other. Briefly, we have four main types of badges for film directors, and all those working in the movie industry, for journalists and the national organizing committee.

The stallion card which is a season ticket of CFA F 25,000, gives access to all screening rooms during the whole festival. Initiated since the previous edition, the PASS is still compulsory for the press to have access to screening rooms.

For the opening and closing ceremony, the perimeter track badge is required for cameramen, photographers and other sound operators.

Badges are delivered at the headquarters of FESPACO. They can still be made and collected to enable all those coming to FESPACO to fully enjoy the festival.

Jim M. OUATTARA
Opening film

« Un pas en avant - les dessous de la corruption », at Ciné Burkina

“Un pas en avant - les dessous de la corruption” by director Sylvestre Amoussou, from Benin, is showing today, February 26, 2011 at Ciné Burkina as opening film for the 22nd edition of FESPACO. The film touches among others on the issue of humanitarian aid diversion in Africa.

As the director himself put it, the film is “a pedagogical document to trigger societal debate” but “not an accusing film”. It primarily aims at creating awareness among people about the democratic system by making them understand the merit of governance.

The opening film touches on the realities in a particular country in Africa, and the world at large, rotten with corruption and poor governance where some individuals shamelessly divert the humanitarian aid to the detriment of the destitute.

According to the director, this film is the first to have received financial support to the tune of 20 million FCFA from the Government of Benin. It was co-produced by the Moroccan Film Centre. 1,350,000,000 FCFA was required to complete the film, basically generated from private funds. It was pre-purchased by Canal + Horizons.

The film is 1 hour 45 minute fictional with well-articulated plot, based on the reality, produced by Tchoko Tchoko 7th art and Koffi productions and shot in Benin.

It is a good piece of work which involved a team of several nationalities, Benin, Guadeloupe, France, and so on. The film is hoping to be part of the official prize-list on the 5th March in the afternoon.

Hermann GOUMBRI

A tactful safety for the peace of mind of film fans

For a great event which is FESPACO where thousands of film fans come from a lot of places, it is obvious that significant safety measures must be taken in order to ensure the peace of mind of the public.

According to the president of the national organizing committee of this 22nd edition, the commission in charge of safety has deployed a couple of days ago some security staff in the premises of FESPACO.

During this period, two security systems which are one tactful and one deterrent will be deployed. The tactful system will be the favored. Briefly, the committee in charge of safety will ensure that film fans, the public and also goods and properties are safe during this period.

The hot line which is 1010 is available to the public.

KABORE Patrice
The Panafrican film and television festival of Ouagadougou (FESPACO) expresses gratitude to the following institutions and countries for their contribution to the holding and the success of the 22nd edition:

- L’UNION EUROPEENNE
- L’ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE
- LE MINISTÈRE FRANÇAIS DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES, LA REPUBLIQUE DE CHINE
- L’UNESCO
- UNICEF
- RHÔNES ALPES, TV5
- RFI
- LA RADIO TELEVISION DU BURKINA
- SIDWAYA
- L’OBSERVATEUR PAALGA
- LE PAYS
- NOTRE AFRIQUE
- ARTE
- FASO-PLAST
- AIR BURKINA
- SODIBO
- SONABEL
- LONAB
- AIRTEL
- TELECEL


An opening ceremony full of light and sound effects

FESPACO 2011 is officially opening today in the afternoon at the Stade du 4 août. Thousand of film fans are expected in the country’s largest stadium. The show promises to be full of light and sound effects.

“YOUTH IN DREAM” is the title of the inaugural show of the 22nd edition of FESPACO. Staged by well-known choreographer Salia Sanou, a model set of the show was presented to First Lady Chantal Compaoré, sponsor of FESPACO, on the 14th February as she came to take stock of the preparation progress.

The preamble of the show will be led by 300 youth performing a choreography that retraces the dignity and happiness of the Burkinabé people. The Stade du 4 août will provide a good platform for all artistic expressions in the country to converge.

Film fans will thus have an opportunity to experience creative show with traditional dancers. Modern music will also be part of this large scale cultural show.

The cream of Burkinabé music will be represented by Alif Naaba, Sissao, Wendy and Floby winner of the Koundé d’or 2010 (music awards) in Burkina Faso.

Toofan from Togo will also be there to warm cinema lovers. There will equally be some humorous performances with Gombo.com, His Excellency Gerard and Mahamane from the highly Democratic Gondouana Republic (from RFI); it will certainly be a hoot. With such a menu for the opening of FESPACO 2011, the Stade du 4 août will undoubtedly be jam-packed.

Thierry Rolland OUEDRAOGO

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**General programme of Saturday, 26th February, 2011**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00</td>
<td>Parade of the artery of the city</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>Opening of MICA at SIAO</td>
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<tr>
<td>06:00 pm</td>
<td>Official opening of the FESPACO at the Stade du 4 août</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:00 pm</td>
<td>Tribute to Sotigui at Cine Burkina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:00 pm</td>
<td>Screening of films in homage to film makers that passed away in the cinema halls.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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- AIR BURKINA
- SODIBO
- SONABEL
- LONAB
- AIRTEL
- TELECEL
- BAND OF AFRICA