African Cinema

Titles available as of May 15, 2009

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Feature Films

**Abouna.** Chad. 2002. (84 min.). After two young Chadian boys discover their father has abandoned them, they embark on a desperate quest to bring him home.
HOME USE COLLECTION DVD 1270

**Adanggaman.** Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast. 2000. (85 min.). Ossei is a strong-willed young man who sets out to rescue his mother when their village is raided. His quest leads him to the stronghold of the dreaded King Adanggaman, an arrogant despot who thrives on the slave trade and uses fierce female warriors to enforce his power. One of these Amazons, herself a former slave, falls in love with Ossei, and they escape to the bush.
DVD 4850

**Africa dreaming.** Shorts from Namibia, Tunisia, Sengal, Mozambique. 1997. (109 min.). Sophia's homecoming: A Namibian woman who has worked as a domestic for 12 years in the city comes home to her husband, children and sister and to a terrible discovery. She realizes that the ruptures caused by apartheid can never be repaired. -- Sabriyah: Film shows how a modern, free-spirited woman disrupts the exquisitely patterned mosaic of male Maghrebi society as represented by two Tunisian chess fanatics. So be it: Follows the destruction of a well intentioned foreign doctor confronting primal fear, rage and powerlessness in a remove Senegalese village and in himself. -- The gaze of the stars: Story about machismo in Mozambique - so powerful that it drives away whatever it loves by trying to control it. In Nama; Arabic; French and Wolof; and Portuguese with English subtitles.
VHS 6018

**African Jim.** South Africa. 1949. (58 min.). Jim leaves rural South Africa to find work in Johannesburg. He takes some knocks while adjusting to city life, but comes out on top when his singing talent is discovered.
VHS 5759

**Bamako.** Mali. 2006. (117 min.). Set against the backdrop of overwhelming economic strife, a couple fights to save their relationship. While they are struggling to keep the peace in their marriage, their neighbors are holding a mock trial in the town courtyard to hold the IMF and the World Bank accountable for creating such hardship in Africa. Bambara; Home Use Collection DVD 4195

**Barakat! = Enough!** Algeria. 2006. (94 min.). The story of two women. Emel is a Westerner whose husband, a journalist, is missing - perhaps kidnapped or even killed. Khadija is an older woman who has lived through the country's decades-long struggle. Together they search for Emel's husband. In French and Arabic.
DVD 1975
Ça twiste à Poponguine = Rocking Poponguine. Senegal. 1993. (90 min.). A comedy set during the last week before Christmas, 1964, in a remote beachside village, where the local teenagers are divided into rival cultural camps. French; VHS 3646

Camp de Thiaroye = Camp Thiaroye. Algeria, Senegal, Tunisia. 1987. (152 min.). African soldiers, returning home after fighting in World War II, are massacred in a dispute over pay. In French and Wolof. VHS 7222

Ceddo. Senegal. 1977. (112 min.). An historical epic set loosely in the 19th century, the film examines the confrontation between opposing forces in the face of Moslem expansion in Africa. Wolof; VHS 7220

Chef! Chief. La tête dans les nuages = Head in the clouds. Cameroon. 1994. (96 min.). "In ... Chef!, Teno locates the roots of Africa's authoritarian regimes in the patriarchal family, reinforced by traditional kingship and the colonial experience. Teno insists that this film was not planned but imposed itself on him during a visit to his ancestral village, Bandjoun, in the Ghomala speaking region of Western Cameroon. He had gone to film dances dedicating a monument to King Kamga Joseph II, the filmmakers' great grand uncle, but the ceremony soon turned into a celebration of one-man rule, in particular Cameroonian President Paul Biya's"--From the California Newsreel Web site. "Teno investigates the ties between unaccountable government and an unproductive economy in La tête dans les nuages. Kleptocracy has become an accepted fact of Cameroonian life described by the proverb: "The goat grazes where it is tied." The government controlled formal sector, like its colonial predecessor, is essentially parasitical. An informal sector has emerged parallel to it which increasingly supplies the daily subsistence needs of the people. Irene, for example, works at the Ministry of Education for an unreliable and inadequate salary; she earns the money she needs to eat from selling beignets in the market. She also belongs to a tontine or "credit union" which offers its members a pool of capital to draw on for business ventures. Such clubs, ubiquitous among African market women, help fill the economic and social vacuum left by the decay of traditional society and the unresponsiveness of the formal banking sector"--From the California Newsreel Web site; VHS 5943

Daresalam. Burkina Faso, Chad. 2000. (100 min.). This feature film focuses on two young men caught up in the Civil War in Chad. It begins in the 1970s with the story of Koni and Djimi as the central government invades their village and insists on buying the farmer's millet at below market and then browbeats the villagers into paying taxes to help fight the war. When they resist the government burns the village and massacres the inhabitants. Djimi, wounded, remains behind with the hard-liners, while Koni joins a faction which supports compromise with the government, VHS 7213

Dôlè. Gabon. 2000. (ca. 80 min.). "The action takes place in Libreville, the capital of Gabon. This is where Mougler and his friends Baby Lee, Joker, Akson and Bezingo, four fifteen-year-old boys, live. These boys have to fend for themselves, except for Mougler who lives with Maradou, his mother. The gang is tired of
thieving and is full of dreams of more ambitious jobs. The opportunity is given to them with the extremely popular betting kiosks in Dôlë. The temptation is great, and so are the risks."--http://www.france.diplomatie.fr; VHS 7215

**Un été à La Goulette = A summer in La Goulette.** Tunisia. 1996. (100 min.). Youssef is a Muslim, Jojo is Jewish and Giuseppi is an Italian Catholic, and they are best of friends until each of their daughters swears to lose their virginity by a certain date. To make matters worse, each daughter sets her sights on a boy of a different religion, thus challenging an inviolable taboo and causing a rift between their fathers. As the families resolve their differences, the Six Day War breaks out in the Middle East, which will divide Jews and Arabs the world over. In French, Arabic and Italian. HOME USE COLLECTION DVD 3887

**Ezra.** Nigeria. 2007. (110 min.). Tells the story of Ezra, a young boy kidnapped and forced to become a soldier with a rebel faction in the Sierra Leone civil war. Ten years later, he is brought before a truth and reconciliation commission and made to revisit and understand his crimes so as to begin the process of psychological healing. DVD 3610


**Fathers.** Shorts from Tanzania, Nigeria, Ethiopia. 2000. (87 min.). Each of these three films offers a critical look at the relationships between fathers and their children in contemporary Africa. In The father, the patriarch in question is ultimately the military dictatorship which terrorized Ethiopia in the '70s and '80s. Surrender shows the traditional face of paternal tyranny, a father controlling his son's life. A Barber's Wisdom shows a modern father who compromises his children in his relentless pursuit of money. VHS 7211

**Femmes aux yeux ouverts = Women with open eyes.** Togo. 1994. (52 min.). Profiles contemporary African women in four West African countries: Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal and Benin. We meet a woman active in the movement against female genital mutilation, a health care worker educating women about sexually transmitted diseases, and businesswomen who describe how they have set up an association to share expertise and provide mutual assistance, VHS 3649

**La fille de Keltoum = Keltoum's daughter.** Tunisia. 2001. (101 min.). "A young Swiss woman travels to her birthplace - an isolated, barren Berber settlement in the mountainous desert landscape of Algeria - to find her biological mother, who she has never met. The perilous journey immerses her in a world virtually untouched by contemporary society, one that still clings to tribal mores and strict religious codes of conduct" -- Container. In Arabic and French. HOME USE COLLECTION DVD 5608.

**Finzan.** Mali. 1989. (107 min.). Film illustrates the subjugation of women with the story of two women who rebel against village customs. Nanyuma, a young widow,
refuses her brother-in-law, the village fool, when he asserts his traditional right to "inherit" her. Fili, a young girl sent from the city by her conservative father, is brutally circumcised by the village women who are scandalized that she resists the age-old custom. Bambara, VHS 1398

**Forgiveness.** South Africa. 2004. (113 min.). A white former South African policeman who tortured and killed a black anti-apartheid activists seeks forgiveness from the victim's family. Afrikaans; DVD 4930

**The gods must be crazy.** South Africa, Botswana. 1980. (109 min.). Technology in the form of an empty Coke bottle drops from the sky near an African San hunter who brings it into his camp and finds many uses for it. However when its presence begins to cause much trouble and conflict to the group, he tries to return the bottle to the gods who must have dropped it. Afrikaans & Ungwatsi; Home use collection DVD 2195, VHS 2935

**Guelwaar.** Senegal. 1992. (115 min.). When Guelwaar, a political activist and a Christian, is mistakenly buried in a Muslim cemetery, family members, political and religious leaders become embroiled in the dispute. Wolof, VHS 7219

**Guimba un tyrant, une époque = [Guimba the Tyrant] = [Guimba, a tyrant and his era].** Mali, Burkina Faso. 1995. (93 min.). Told in a traditional oral presentation, Sissoko frames his film with the appearance of a griot, a traditional African storyteller who passes down the "wisdom of the ancestors," looking to the values and legends of the African past for inspiration and guidance in reconstructing well-governed, self-sufficient nations. Here the legendary past of Mali (West Africa) provides an allegory of present-day African politics as it tells the story of the downfall of Guimba the tyrant. Guimba throws his city into conflict and chaos when he allows his randy, dwarf son to reject an arranged marriage to the slim local beauty in order for him to pursue the girl's larger, married mother. The tyrant then sets his own eyes on the girl, making the situation even worse. Peul, Bambara; VHS 4003

**Halfaouine = child of the terraces.** Tunisia. 1990. (98 min.). Named after the small Tunisian town where it takes place, this coming-of-age film is a sensitive, comical look at growing up under the puritanical codes of Islam. It also offers a rich, vibrant portrait of a 12-year-old boy's life, family and community living in the Arab neighborhood of Halfaouine. In Arabic. VHS 4454, HOME USE COLLECTION DVD 732.

**Hyenes = Hyenas.** Senegal. 1992. (113 min.). An old woman returns to her native village after she becomes rich to seeks revenge against the lover of her youth. Eventually she turns the village into a notorious black market, catering to the pleasures of the consumer society. The film represents filmmaker Djibril Diop Mambety's pessimistic look at the fate of his continent, Africa. Wolof; HOME USE COLLECTION DVD 738, VHS 4331

American University Subject Filmographies are available online at http://www.library.american.edu/subject/media/index.html
In a time of violence. South Africa. 1994. (150 min.). Political thriller (set in days before South Africa's first free elections) concerning changing values, violent cultural/political clashes and conflict among black families in Johannesburg, South Africa. Bongani and Mpho are two young ANC comrades and lovers from Soweto. When Bongani is the sole witness to a train massacre by Duma, a militant with the Zulu-supported Inkatha Freedom Party, the couple hides and plans a retaliatory raid. Bongani is kidnapped and held by the renegade white policeman Lt. Vissers who hopes to get information on the ANC from him. VHS 4332 (3 Parts)

Indigènes = Days of glory. Algeria, Morocco. 2006. (120 min.). The tale of a 1943 WWII French Algerian Unit facing discrimination by its European counterparts due to prejudice and ignorance. The French armed forces are preparing to land troops in Europe to win back their homeland from the Axis Powers, but they cannot accomplish their task without recruiting men from their African colonies. The Africans themselves start their long journey full of hope and anticipation, but as they get closer to their goal they realize that their enemy is not necessarily the Germans. In French and Arabic. HOME USE COLLECTION DVD 2907

Jaguar. Ghana. 1967. (93 min.). Part documentary, part fiction and part reflective commentary. Three young men from the savannah of Niger (Lam the herdsman, Illo the fisherman and their friend Damoure) leave their homeland to seek wealth and adventure on the coast and in the cities of Ghana. This is the story of their travels, their encounters along the way, their experiences in Accra and Kumasi, and after three months, their return to their families and friends at home. French; VHS 5558

Karmen Gei. Senegal. 2001. (83 min.). Karmen escapes prison through her lesbian relationship with the warden. She then wrecks the marriage and career of a police corporal by making him her lover and co-conspirator in a smuggling ring. She abandons the corporal who, in a fit of jealous rage, stabs her. Contains much singing and dancing. Wolof; VHS 7214

Keïta! l'héritage du griot = Keita! the heritage of the griot. Burkina Faso. 1994. (94 min.). Based on one of the most important works of African oral literature, the Sundjata epic. When a djéliba, a master griot or bard, arrives mysteriously at the home of Mabo Keïta to teach him "the meaning of his name," the boy and griot are inevitably brought into conflict with his Westernized mother and schoolteacher, who have rejected African tradition. The griot reveals to Mabo the story of his distant ancestor, Sundjata Keïta, the 13th century founder of the great Malian trading empire. French; VHS 4333

The magic garden. South Africa. 1960. (63 min.). A story set near Johannesburg, South Africa, about a sum of £40, which was stolen as it was being given to charity, and how it affects the lives of those it touches. This was the first all black South African film. VHS 7002

Mandabi. Senegal. 1968. (90 min.). Sembene's second feature looks at the problems of modern Africa as a civilization struggling to recapture its own rich
heritage after colonial corruption. Film is a deceptively simple story about a man who receives a money order and, in his attempts to cash it, encounters an intimidating Third World bureaucracy that threatens to destroy the traditional fabric of his life. A story about a man who receives a money order that threatens to destroy the traditional fabric of his life is used to point out the problems of modern Africa as a civilization struggling to recapture its own rich heritage after colonial corruption. Wolof; VHS 6002; HOME USE COLLECTION DVD 1287

**Mapantsula.** South Africa. 1988. (102 min.). Panic is a "mapantsula," a Zulu term for a petty crook. Set in South Africa, he is imprisoned with Anti-apartheid activists. There he is transformed into a man willing to become involved with social change. Zulu, Sotho, Afrikaans; DVD 1976, VHS 961

**Monday's girls.** Nigeria. 1993. (49 min.). A grandmother named Monday Moses in Ogoloma, Nigeria is responsible for taking the young girls of the village through the rites of passage into womanhood so that they will be ready for marriage. When a tribal chieftain's daughter who has lived in a large city for some time agrees to return to her native village for traditional pre-marital ceremonies involving body painting, public breast examination and five-weeks' confinement to "fattening rooms," her refusal to fully participate in the ritual sparks a crisis underlining the conflict between traditional and modern African lifestyles. English; VHS 3655

**Moolaadé.** Senegal, Burkina Faso Cameroon, Morocco, Tunisia. 2004. (124 min.). Set in a small village, four young girls face ritual "purification" decide to flee to the household of Collâe Ardo Gallo Sy, a strong-willed woman who has managed to shield her own teenage daughter from the mutilation. Collâe invokes the time-honored custom of moolaadâe (sanctuary) to protect the fugitives, and tension mounts as the ensuing stand-off pits Collâe against village traditionalists. This endangers the prospective marriage of her daughter to the heir-apparent to the tribal throne. Bambara; Home Use Collection DVD 3862

**Neria.** Zimbabwe. 1993. (ca. 100 min.). Patrick and Neria, through shared hard work and resourcefulness, built a comfortable home, a good life and family in the city. But when their loving and equal partnership suddenly ends with the tragic death of Patrick, Neria's nightmare begins. VHS 3579

**La noire de = Black girl.** Senegal. 1966. (80 min.). In La noire de ..., a Senegalese maid goes to the Riviera with her employers and gains a new perspective on what it means to be African outside of Africa. A story of exile and despair. Borom Sarret follows a cart driver as he meets an unfortunate array of people in Dakar. French; VHS 7221; HOME USE COLLECTION DVD 1953

**Not the numbers game.** Includes shorts from Uganda and Kenya. (43 min.). Looks at how several developing countries have progressed in meeting the agreements signed at the Cairo Conference on Population and Development in which peoples' needs rather than population numbers were emphasized in discussions. Six short films were edited into a single film that examines the conditions of women in these countries and their efforts to attain their dreams while
dealing with problems that make their lives difficult. The stories include: women in India who are demanding the basic services they need for a dignified life; women in Uganda who are calling for a halt to the barbaric practice of female genital mutilation; an unsupported second wife working endless jobs in Kenya to afford school and hope for her children; teenage pregnancy and machismo in Peru; industrial employment in Indonesia; and the status of women on postwar Cambodia. VHS 5379

**Pieces d'identites.** Democratic Republic of the Congo. 1998. (93 min.). Modern day fairy tale. Mani Kongo, a venerable but naive Congolese king, searches for his daughter in Brussels where she went to study medicine. He is victimized by the locals and finds himself penniless, homeless and forced to pawn his royal regalia (literally his "pieces of identify"). Meanwhile his daughter has also become a victim and is working as an "exotic" dancer. He meets a dashing mulatto cabdriver with the secret identity of "Savior of Humanity" -- a name he uses when robbing bars like Robin Hood. With his help and a chain of coincidence (it must be destined), Mani Kongo is reunited with his daughter and his regalia and returns to Africa to live "happily ever after."; DVD 5966, VHS 6098

**Rachida.** Algeria. 2002. (100 min.). Rachida lives and teaches in an old neighborhood in Algeria. Like most Algerians, she thinks she is far removed from the bloody conflict the country is in, until one day she is attacked by a terrorist group. The terrorists ask her to plant a bomb in her school. After refusing, they shoot her in cold blood. Miraculously, she lives and seeks refuge in a neighboring village. In Arabic and French. HOME USE COLLECTION DVD 795

**Rãeves de poussiáere = Dreams of dust.** Burkina Faso. 2006. (86 min.). A Nigerien peasant comes looking for work in Essakane, a dusty gold mine in NE Burkina Faso, Africa. He quickly finds out the gold rush ended twenty years before and the inhabitants of this wasteland manage to exist simply from force of habit. French; DVD 3059

**Red dust.** South Africa. 2004. (111 min.). A political thriller set in a small South African town during the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings. Human rights lawyer Sarah Barcant must represent Alex Mpondo, a former political activist, who was held captive and sadistically tortured by a police officer under the apartheid regime in South Africa. Xhosa, Afrikaans; Home Use Collection DVD 2240

**Rostov-Luanda.** Angola, Mauritania. 1998. (60 min.). Sissako spent a year in Rostov on the Don and there became friends with a young man from Angola. This film chronicles the director's search for a friend of the past. In this personal retrospective, Sissako encounters present-day Angola and traces the great lines of Africa's recent history. VHS 7216

**Saaraba.** Senegal & France. 1988. (81 min.). A young man returns to his homeland after spending many years in Europe. He and his homeland have changed in the interval and he is caught between his simple upbringing, the
Western influence he was exposed to, and the corruption existing around him.
Wolof VHS 1401

**Samt al-qusur = The silences of the palace = Les silences du palais = Saimt el qusur.** Tunisia. 1994. (127 min.). Set in the 1950s at the end of the French colonial rule in Tunisia. Alia (Lacroix) is born to a servant girl in the palace of the Beys who expect their servants to be sexually available. The adult Alia is now living outside the palace but returns when she learns the Prince she believes is her father has died. The return triggers memories of her youth while also forcing her to confront the problems of her present. In French and Arabic. VHS 6096

**Sango Malo.** Cameroon, Burkina Faso. 1990. (95 min.). Sango Malo is a portrait of the complex social dynamic underlying the economic and political development of a typical African village. Sango Malo, a young teacher, who favors a practical education designed to make the villagers the focus of rural development clashes with the strict headmaster who insists on a conventional French-style curriculum. Malo's reforms challenge the local power structure and his impatience with local customs alienates many of his supporters. He is arrested but his reforms go on without him. VHS 4334

**Sarafina!** South Africa. 1992. (98 min.). In a world where truth is forbidden, an inspiring teacher dares to instill in her students lessons not found in schoolbooks. In doing so, she challenges their freedom and hers. VHS 6566

**Ta Dona.** Mali, France. 1991. (102 min.). Ta Dona blends traditional and modern ways of seeing into a film about regeneration - about a new Africa being born from the old. Sidy, a young Bambara man, goes on a quest for secret knowledge. While working in a peasant village, he searches for the "seventh canari," a forgotten, secret Bambara herbal remedy used in childbirth. Despite a scorching drought and a corrupt government, Sidy saves the village, rediscover the seventh canari and achieves a new identify reconciling Africa's present and its past. Bambara. VHS 4335

**Three tales from Senegal.** Senegal. (82 min.). Le franc, 1994. : is a parable about the plight of everyday Africans buffeted by the changing winds of the international monetary system. The hero is an "Everyman" whose dreams of being a musician help him survive in a world of bureaucratic red-tape, urban decay and economic chaos. -- Picc mi, 1992. : (Little bird) is a story of two destitute boys who escape the predatory demands of adults to spend one day of freedom together. -- Fary l'anesse, 1990. (Fary, the donkey) is a tale of a man led into folly by his pursuit of the perfect woman. When he thinks he has finally found her, she turns out to be a donkey. In Wolof. VHS 4339

**Touki-Bouki = The journey of the hyena.** Senegal. 1973. (85 min.). Mory and Anta, desperate to escape the shanty town where they live, dream of winning wealth and power in France. They go on an exhilarating chase through Dakar as they try gambling, stealing and prostitution to get the money for their passage. At the last moment; Mory bolts from the ship, suddenly aware that Western consumer

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culture is just another trap. Wolof, Arabic and French. HOME USE COLLECTION DVD 1489; VHS 4309

**Tsotsi = Thug.** South Africa. 2005. (ca. 94 min.). Tsotsi - a nickname meaning thug - is a young man running with a criminal gang on the streets of Johannesburg. He is immersed in a world of violence that seems to leave him unaffected, until he discovers an infant in the backseat of a car he has stolen. Zulu, Xhosa; Home Use Collection DVD Home Use Collection DVD 2154

**U-Carmen e-Khayelitsha.** South Africa. 2005. (122 min.). Acted and sung by the internationally acclaimed South African theater company Dimpho Di Kopane (DDK), this film is a stunning adaptation of perhaps the world's best-loved opera, Carmen. Re-imagined in the modern world of South African pool halls, bars, courtyards and barracks, this film tells the story of a cigarette factory worker, Carmen, and her doomed love affair with a police sergeant. As the two grow more emotionally connected, their relationship escalates violently, culminating in a tragic conclusion of revenge and madness. Xhosa; Home Use Collection DVD 3852

**A walk in the night.** South Africa. 1998. (ca. 78 min.). Recounts a single terrible night when the fragile world of Mikey Adonis, a young colored steel worker, disintegrates; illustrates how a decent man can be driven to an act of brutality by a racist society which humiliates him at every turn. VHS 7217

**Wend Kuuni Le don de dieu = God's gift.** Burkina Faso. 1982. (70 min.). Set in Burkino Faso on the West African savannah in pre-colonial times, film, in the literary tradition of an African tale, is a story of a little boy whose traumatic experiences cause him to lose one family and find another. A mute foundling is raised in an African village by a weaver and his family. The mute regains his powers of speech only after a shock, then reveals his origins and reasons for his loss of speech. Dialogue in More. VHS 1402

**A wife for my son.** Algeria. 1982. (90 min.). At age 18, Fatiha divides her time between home and school. But when her parents decide to marry her to Hussein, her only choice is to submit to their wishes. The film profiles the psychology of the "married wife" in modern Algeria. Based on his acclaimed novel of the same title, Ali Ghalem directs this beautifully photographed story of an arranged marriage. In Arabic. VHS 6754

**Woza Albert!** South Africa. (55 min.). Percy Mtwa and Mbongeni Ngena, two black former music hall performers, have crafted a series of sketches organized around the premise that Jesus Christ returns to the self-proclaimed "Christian" nation of South Africa. The Albert of the title refers to Albert Luthuli, one of many martyred South African freedom fighters, and at one point the actors cry out "Woza, Albert! Rise up, Albert!" summoning back to life his spirit as well as that of other martyred South African freedom fighters. Film examines the life experiences of the writer-actors, the humiliation and terror suffered, as well as the resiliency of Blacks in South Africa today. Also includes historical footage of Albert Luthuli. VHS 562
**Xala Curse.** Senegal. 1974. (127 min.). In a mythical African country, a rich, self-made businessman and member of the post-colonial ruling elite takes on a third wife to show the world his wealth, only to be stricken by a curse resulting in impotency. His efforts at getting cured lead to disastrous yet comical results. Dialogue in French and Wolof. Home Use Collection DVD 1286

**Yeelen Brightness.** Mali, Burkina Faso. 1987. (105 min.). A film adaptation of one of the great oral epics of the Bambara people, set during the powerful Mali Empire of the 13th century. Tells the story of Nianankoro, a young Bambara warrior destined to destroy a corrupt older society, the secret Komo cult, and with it his father, and, inevitably, himself. The climactic flash of light which floods the screen at the film's end ushers in a new purified world order and captures the Bambara belief in time as circular, not linear, always returning to that initial "brightness" which created the world. Dialogue in French and Bambara. HOME USE COLLECTION DVD 728; VHS 1399

**Yesterday.** South Africa. 2004. (ca. 95 min.). After falling ill, Yesterday learns that she is HIV positive. With her husband in denial and a young daughter to tend to, Yesterday's one goal is to live long enough to see her child go to school. Set against the awesome, harsh landscapes of South Africa. Zulu; HOME USE COLLECTION DVD 2166

**Zan Boko.** Burkina Faso. 1988. (92 min.). Zan boko means "the place where the placenta is buried" and symbolizes the continuity between past and present in African village societies. A rural family's world is brutally disrupted when their ancestral village is absorbed by the expanding boundaries of their country's largest city. A crusading journalist takes up their case against the powerful interests whose policies overwhelm traditional African society. Dialogue in the More Language. VHS 964; DVD 5126

**Documentary Film**

**21 up South Africa Mandela's children.** South Africa. 2007. (70 min.). In South Africa a group of children, first filmed in 1992 at the age of 7, are now 21. Rich and poor, black, white and mixed race, these fascinating and revealing portraits offer unique insights into the social and political upheavals that have occurred throughout South Africa since the crumbling of apartheid. From township slums to apartheid-era mansions to the bushveldt, these children, now young adults, have experienced a multitude of change. See them age from 7 to 21 and learn that AIDS has claimed the lives of three of these children. DVD 1929

**Africa's search for common ground.** South Africa. 1998. (270 min.). Filmed in various countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, this series profiles a wide variety of formal efforts to resolve contemporary conflicts without resorting to violence. VHS7931-7939

*American University Subject Filmographies are available online at http://www.library.american.edu/subject/media/index.html*
Afrique, je te plumerai = Africa, I'm going to fleece you. Cameroon. 1993. (89 min.). An overview of 100 years of cultural imperialism in Africa that makes the cultural and intellectual conflicts of present-day Africa easier to understand. Director Jean-Marie Teno uses Cameroon, the only African country colonized by three European powers, for a case study of the devastation of traditional African societies by imposed colonial cultures. Focuses on historical as well as contemporary European cultural domination, particularly in the publishing and media industry. VHS 3629

Afro@digital. Democratic Republic of the Congo. (53 min.). Looks as the information technology revolution which has become a daily reality in many African countries where the Internet, mobile telephones and digital video cameras are being used with extraordinary creativity. Visits a marabout who explains he no longer replies by letter to questions but uses his mobile phone and email to transmit his advice. Another illustration of the digital revolution in Africa is the rise of internet cafes and cyber teahouses. In some towns in Senegal and the Congo, increasing numbers are connecting to internet using a laptop computer with a mobile phone. VHS 7722

All about Darfur. Sudan. 2005. (82 min.). "Up until now the perilous situation in Sudan has been seen only from outside the country. All About Darfur offers an opportunity to hear it explained by eloquent, diverse, even contradictory voices from within Sudan. The director talks to ordinary Sudanese in outdoor tea shops, markets, refugee camps and living rooms about how deeply rooted prejudices could suddenly burst into a wild fire of ethnic violence."--www.newsreel.org. DVD 2006

Allah Tantou A la grace de Dieu = God's will. Guinea. 1991. (62 min.). Through home movies, old newsreels, letters and fictional reconstruction of imprisonment, this film examines the life of Marof Achkar, the filmmaker's father, a diplomat under the Sekou Toure regime, who later disappeared into the Guinean gulag. The film re-evaluates the turbulent decade of African independence and discusses its relevance to the new political order on the continent. VHS 4261

Amandla! a revolution in four part harmony. South Africa. 2002. (103 min.). Tells the story of black South African freedom music and the central role it played against apartheid. Specifically considers the music that sustained and galvanized blacks for more than 40 years. Focuses on the struggle's spiritual dimension named for the Xhosa word for "power". An uplifting story of human courage, resolve and triumph. DVD 1326

Angano-Angano Tales from Madagascar. Madagascar. 1989. (64 min.). Storytellers narrate the ancient tales of Madagascar including the creation myth, the origin of rice cultivation, the reason for animal sacrifice, and others. In brief interviews at the end, the narrators discuss the role of tales in transmitting cultural inheritance to children. Tales end with: "Tales - tales - nothing but a tale. It's not me telling lies, but the people of long ago -- and that's how they heard it." VHS 1400
**Between Joyce and remembrance.** South Africa. (68 min.). This video tells the story of one family, the Mtimkulu family, stretching back over two decades. Through the unfolding of personal narratives, this film raises far reaching questions about the nature of truth, forgiveness and reconciliation. It illustrates the ripple effect of an injustice, the disappearance and murder of Siphiwo Mtimkulu, twenty years ago to show how fragile the 'miracle' of South Africa's transition really is. HOME USE COLLECTION DVD 2243

**Bye bye Africa.** Chad. 1998. (86 min.). In this reflexive docu-drama about the difficulties of making films in Africa, an exiled film director returns to Chad after the death of his mother. There he discovers, as a result of wars, that motion picture theaters have been abandoned in favor of makeshift video theaters often in private homes. Haroun visits a producer who suggests that he make a film using a video camera and concludes that the important thing is to continue to produce films no matter what the circumstances. VHS 7212

**Gardiens de la mâemoire = Keepers of memory.** Rwanda. 2004. (52 min.). Through eyewitness accounts and gripping footage, acclaimed director Eric Kabera takes a heartfelt look at the 1994 Rwandan genocide, its survivors, the memorials created in the victims' honor, and those who keep the memories alive. DVD 2548

**Kumekucha From sunup.** Tanzania. (28 min.). Documents the daily life of Tanzanian women as they seek to take their place in their society, as it is influenced through education and the impact of Western civilization. VHS 456

**Kuxa kanema la naissance de cinema = Kuxa kanema : the birth of cinema.** Mozambique. 2003. (52 min.). Discusses the history of Mozambique's National Institute of Cinema's weekly newsreel entitled Kuxa kanema. Shows the relationship between the films and President Samora Machel and FRELIMO (Mozambique Liberation Front). The original filmmakers discuss their work as a testimonial to the country, its struggles and wars. VHS 7750

**Quartier Mozart.** Cameroon. 1992. (80 min.). Film uses traditional Cameroonian folk beliefs to explore the sexual politics of an urban neighborhood. Covering 48 hours in a working class neighborhood in Yaounde, Cameroon's capital, it recounts the education of a young schoolgirl. Queen of the 'Hood is a proud young girl who doesn't want to be taken advantage of by men. She befriends a local sorceress who helps her enter the body of a young man, My Guy, so she can discover for herself the real "sexual politics" of the quarter. Meanwhile, the sorceress assumes the shape of Panka, a familiar comic figure in Cameroonian folklore with sexual powers. Traditional wit and music-video style are used to create an imaginary world where women's wisdom and witchcraft help them achieve a balance of power with the men they both love and struggle against. VHS 4325

**The rise of nationalism/The legacy.** Presented in association with the Nigerian Television Authority. 1984. (114 min.). The rise of nationalism: Follows the course of the major independence struggles beginning with the situation in the Gold Coast and concluding with the fight for majority rule in Zimbabwe and South Africa. The
legacy: Explores the problems and successes of the newly liberated African states during the aftermath of colonial rule. Deals with racism, other social and economic problems, technological growth and the associated problems of over-population, crime and poor living conditions. VHS 591 Part 1

**State of denial.** South Africa. 2003. (83 min.). South Africa is the country with the highest number of HIV+ people in the world. This video puts a human face on the millions affected by introducing six South Africans involved with the AIDS epidemic. It shows how they must fight not only the disease but the greed of the drug cartels and the incomprehensible inactivity of their own government to get treatment. VHS 7457

**Sisters in law.** Cameroon. 2005. (104 min.). A documentary record of a courtroom in Kumba, Cameroon, where a female prosecutor and judge work to put an end to their community's tacit acceptance of child abuse, wife beating and rape. DVD 2599

**Taafe fanga Pouvoir de pagne = Skirt power.** Mali. 1997. (95 min.). Film is structured around the core Dogon belief that cosmogeny, myth, history and the present interpenetrate or repeat themselves continually to bring primal forces back into proper balance. A griot in present day Mali tells a story about women in an 18th century village. Fed up with male arrogance, they capture the powerful "Albarga" mask and terrorize the men into assuming traditional women's roles. The results convince everyone that women's roles should be respected as complementary, yet equal, to those of men if society as a whole is to advance. VHS 6097

**Udju azul di Yonta = The blue eyes of Yonta.** Guinea-Bissau. 1992. (90 min.). Udju Azul di Yonta offers a portrait of the disillusionment of the revolutionary generation in Guinea-Bissau and the vibrant, if unintended society that developed after independence in 1973. It tells the story of three people so in love with their dreams that they miss the real opportunities which life offers. VHS 4338

**La vie sur terre = Life on Earth.** Mali, Mauritania, France. 1998. (ca. 60 min.). La vie sur terre is a "poetic meditations on Africa at the beginning of a new millennium." Sissako's "challenge ... was to make a film about the significance of the start of the 21st century for people still struggling to enter the 20th; in other words, to show Africa's simultaneous connection to and isolation from modernity, our so-called Information Age. His solution ... was to improvise a 'fictional documentary' out of daily life in Sokolo, his father's village in Mali near the southeastern corner of Mauritania. He then overlaid these vignettes with readings from Aim Cesaire, locating them within the poet's critique of the relationship between metropole and periphery. Behind all of this, he weaves the melancholy tones of the great Malian tenor, Salif Keita. (Summary taken from California Newsreel website: http://www.newsreel.org). VHS 6001

**Visages de femmes = Faces of women.** Ivory Coast, France. 1985. (103 min.). Politically and stylistically adventurous film exploring the links between feminism, economics and tradition in modern-day Africa. African women, who daily face

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hardship and obstacles, mainly as a result of traditional social mores, explore ways to better their lot, to gain a measure of commercial and cultural freedom and equality. VHS 3402

**Woubi chéri.** Ivory Coast. 1998. (62 min.). "Woubi Chéri is the first film to give African homosexuals a chance to describe their world in their own words. Often funny, sometimes ribald, but always real, this documentary introduces us to gender pioneers demanding their right to construct a distinct African homosexuality"-- California Newsreel Web site. VHS 5940