

21ST SOUTH AFRICAN INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL

ENCOUNTERS

6-16 JUNE 2019

FRIDAY 7 JUNE

Beyond the Frontlines: Resistance and Resilience in Palestine

Dir. ALEXANDRA DOLS
2017 | France/Palestine | 114min

Through the work of Dr Samah Jabr, a psychiatrist and writer at the An-Najah University in Nablus Palestine we view the appalling conditions suffered by the inhabitants of Palestine from an analysis of constant containment, uncertainty and violence.

R'BANK Fri 7 June|7pm

My Friend Fela

Dir. JOEL ZITO AROÚJO
2019 | Brazil | 94min

Locating Fela's story firmly within the Black Consciousness movement *My Friend Fela* explores the life of legendary Nigerian musician Fela Kuti from the perspective of his long-time friend Carlos Moore.

BIO Fri 7 June|7pm

Film Festival Film

Dirs. PERIVI KATJAVIVI & MPUMELELO MCATA
2019 | Germany/South Africa | 48min

Shot over the course of a weekend at last year's Durban International Film Festival, this documentary parody follows a young black woman filmmaker named Fanon as she prepares herself for her first pitch.

Screens with

My Culture My Music

Dir. FANNEY TSIMONG
2019 | South Africa | 48min

This soulful documentary illustrates how music has always been a powerful tool within South African culture. The artists featured in the film express their cultural heritage through their music.

BIO Fri 7 June|8.45pm + Q&A

Cold Case Hammarskjöld

Dir. MADS BRÜGGER
2018 | Denmark/Norway/Sweden | 128min

Danish investigative journalist, filmmaker and TV host, Mads Brügger is infamous for his ironic and incisive trawling of the dirtiest of the tainted and the corrupt. Here he is in Africa with guns blazing on the trail of the plotters and murderers of UN Secretary Dag Hammarskjöld in 1961.

Courtesy of the Danish Film Institute

R'BANK Fri 7 June|9pm

SATURDAY 8 JUNE

OR Tambo: The Jewel of our Crown

Dir. DALI TAMBO
2019 | South Africa | 78min

This wide-ranging documentary about the life of revered ANC leader Oliver Tambo blends a wealth of archival footage with contemporary interviews with key political figures. The key focus is on Tambo's role as the "architect of our freedom".

Screens with

Hidden Queens

Dir. OKHULE DYOSOPU
2018 | South Africa | 4min

Thandokazi plays the role of a "well behaved", submissive domestic worker named Patricia.

R'BANK Sat 8 June|5.30pm + Q&A

My story is yet to be written

Dir. JACQUELINE GOZLAND
2017 | France/Algeria | 76min

Africa's most impressive centre of film, the Algerian Cinematheque, attracted filmmakers such as Costa

Gavras and Werner Herzog to the vibrant atmosphere and the development of Pan African cinema. A love letter to a truly divine centre of cinema worship.

Screens with

Like the sun

Dir. HANA MAHMOUD
2018 | Egypt | 23min

A fractured meditation on friendship, love, loneliness, and the creative process, as a film student remembers her mentor.

BIO Sat 8 June|5.30pm

Breakfast in Kisumu

Dir. REBECCA ACHIENG AJULU-BUSHELL
2019 | UK/South Africa | 37min

An intimately rendered tribute to renowned Kenyan academic and political activist Rok Ajulu, husband of Lindiwe Sisulu which takes the form of a conversation with his daughter.

Screens with

Tracing Addai

Dir. ESTHER NIEMEIER
2018 | Germany/30min

When 22-year-old Addai leaves Germany for Syria, his mother is devastated.

And

If we say that we are friends

Dir. YAARA SUMERUK
2019 | South Africa/USA | 17min

The class and race divisions still very explicit and prominent in South Africa

BIO Sat 8 June|7.30pm

McQueen

Dirs. IAN BONHOTE & PETER ETTEDEGUI
2018 | USA | 111min

Fascinating profile, delivered in rococo fashion of the ill-fated British fashion designer Alexander McQueen. A Fellini-like journey into the dark side of fashion. His story is as much about class and aspiration as it is about fashion. Fascinating!

R'BANK Sat 8 June|8pm

SUNDAY 9 JUNE

Stroop: Journey into the Rhino Horn War

Dir. SUSAN SCOTT
2018 | South Africa/USA | 134min

As gripping and gruelling as the best of thrillers, two inexperienced female filmmakers go in search of answers to the random slaughter of the world's diminishing rhino population. A monumental work by a very brave pair.

R'BANK Sun 9 June|5pm + Q&A tbc

Billy Monk: Shot in the Dark

Dir. CRAIG CAMERON-MACKINTOSH
2019 | South Africa | 37min

Street wise photographer and bouncer in Cape Town's infamous sailor's clubs Billy Monk was killed just as he was finding fame. A delightful tribute to him and the Cape Town underworld of the sixties.

Screens with

Scenes from a Dry City

Dirs. FRANCOIS VERSTER & SIMON WOOD
2018 | South Africa | 13min

The Cape Town water crisis from the perspective of racial inequality and income disparity.

And

Johannesburg, California

Dir. BEN STILLERMAN
2018 | South Africa/USA | 20min

A town in the Mojave Desert called Johannesburg.

BIO Sun 9 June|5.30pm

The State Against Mandela and the Others

Dirs. NICOLAS CHAMPEAUX & GILLES PORTE
2018 | France | 105min

This remarkable documentary provides an engaging account of the Rivonia Freedom trial, allowing viewers access to an event that took place more than 50 years ago. The resulting film provides a history lesson that could never be learned inside a classroom.

Courtesy of IFAS - The French Institute of South Africa

BIO Sun 9 June|7.30pm

Jozi Gold

Dirs. SYLVIA VOLLENHOVEN & FREDRIK GERTTEN
2019 | South Africa/Sweden | 74min

A grim environmental and political picture of South Africa's abandoned mines which are in disarray, with toxicity levels that are harming communities. Follow Mariette Liefferink, as she tries to pressure government and mining companies to confront and fix what they're responsible for.

R'BANK Sun 9 June|8pm + PANEL

MONDAY 10 JUNE

Fanon Yesterday, Today

Dir. HASSANE MEZINE
2018 | France/Algeria | 86min

Rebuking the claim that Africa and Africans have yet to insert themselves into world history, we embark on a journey exploring the memory and legacy of Martiniquean psychiatrist, author and anti-colonial activist Frantz Fanon.

BIO Mon 10 June|7pm

RBG

Dir. JULIE COHEN & BETSY WEST
2018 | USA | 93min

Premiering at Sundance, this Oscar and BAFTA nominated documentary chronicles the life of legal pioneer and pop culture phenomenon Ruth Bader Ginsburg. "I ask no favour for my sex. All I ask of our brethren is that they take their feet off our necks". Featuring Gloria Steinem and Nina Totenberg.

R'BANK Mon 10 June|7pm

Talking About Trees

Dir. SUHAIB GASMALBARI
2019 | France/Sudan/Chad | 90 min

Charming and sad in equal measure is this paean to the love of cinema as two of the one-time luminaries of Sudanese cinema - attempt to revive a cinema in a country where movies have been banned for years.

BIO Mon 10 June|8.45pm

Beyond the Frontlines: Resistance and Resilience in Palestine

See Friday 7 June for summaries.

R'BANK Mon 10 June|9pm

TUESDAY 11 JUNE

Shorts Programme

Please go to www.encounters.co.za for Shorts Programme film synopses.

BIO Tue 11 June|6.45pm

#Female Pleasure

Dir. BARBARA MILLER
2018 | Switzerland/Germany | 97min

The Great Controversy of Male domination and Female compliance, as acted out in communities employing quasi-religious reasoning. 5 women from very different backgrounds - Hassidic, Muslim, Shinto, Hindu and Catholic - confront the tenets of their paternalistic societies.

Courtesy of SWISS Films & the Embassy of Switzerland in South Africa Consulate General of Switzerland in Cape Town.

R'BANK Tue 11|7pm

For our film programmes, trailers and special events visit: www.encounters.co.za

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Booking details: ROSEBANK CINEMA NOUVEAU: sterkinekor.com | Rosebank Nouveau, Johannesburg | TicketLine on 0861 MOVIES (0861 668 437)
The Bioscope Independent Cinema: thebioscope.co.za | 286 Fox St, City and Suburban, Johannesburg | 087 094 4195 (from 11am)

A Bright Light: Karen and The Process

Dir. EMMANUELLE ANTILLE
2018 | Switzerland | 93min

The self-effacing, painfully shy folk singer Karen Dalton was for a brief period the musical queen of Greenwich village in the sixties, inspiring Bob Dylan and Joan Baez. A journey along the lonesome road suffused with doom and beauty.

Courtesy of SWISS Films & the Embassy of Switzerland in South Africa
Consulate General of Switzerland in Cape Town.

R'BANK Tue 11 June | 9pm

Zulu Return

Dir. GUGULETHU
2019 | South Africa | 92min

We see American music artist Afrika Bambaataa search for his ancestral roots to help him grapple with his personal claims of injustice. He visits a Sangoma and sacrifices a goat to the ancestors from whom his forebears have been exiled through slavery.

Screens with

Fall into the Sky

Dir. AKUOL DE MABIOR
2018 | South Africa | 9min

Black women narrate their experiences of race, colourism, Afrophobia and Xenophobia.

BIO Tue 11 June | 9pm

WEDNESDAY 12 JUNE

Miles Davis: Birth of the Cool

Dir. STANLEY NELSON
2019 | USA | 115min

Nelson provides a broad but detailed account of the man who changed the shape of jazz and defined the very notion of cool. The film's key focus is on how Davis, both in his music and his life, was fueled by a restless determination to break boundaries and live on his own terms.

R'BANK Wed 12 June | 6.45pm

Village Versus Empire

Dir. MARK J KAPLAN
2018 | SA/Norway/South Korea | 68min

An island off the Korean coast – both one of the seven wonders of nature and under threat from devastation by a resident American naval installation. A performance artist seeks to exorcise the demons.

Screens with

Tidal

Dir. TRYGVE HEIDE
2018 | South Africa | 27min

Diver Lisa Beasley feels free and limitless as she tries to conserve marine life.

BIO Wed 12 June | 7pm

Meeting Gorbachev

Dirs. WERNER HERZOG & ANDRE SINGER
2018 | United Kingdom/USA/Germany | 91min

With the diffident but incisive charm that we have grown to love from Herzog this almost one on one meeting between a giant of cinema and a giant of the Soviet Union cannot fail to glue one to one's seat.

BIO Wed 12 June | 9pm

The State Against Mandela and the Others

See Sunday 9 June for summaries.

R'BANK Wed 12 June | 9pm



THURSDAY 13 JUNE

Mother, I Am Suffocating. This Is My Last Film About You

Dir. LEMOHANG JEREMIAH MOSESE
2019 | Lesotho/Germany/Qatar | 76min

On the dusty streets of Lesotho, people stare inquisitively at a young woman who carries a wooden cross on her back. Midway between documentary, fiction, and experimental film that speaks to the diasporic experience of time and space.

Screens with

Election Day

Dir. NEREU AFONSO DA SILVA
2018 | Brazil | 8min

A powerful 8-minutes provides a devastating perspective on the 2018 electoral campaign in Brazil.

R'BANK Thu 13 June | 7pm

Talking About Trees

See Monday 10 June for summaries.

BIO Thu 13 June | 7pm



On Her Shoulders

Dir. ALEXANDRIA BOMBACH
2018 | USA | 97min

Nadia Murad, a 23-year-old Yazidi, survived genocide and sexual slavery committed by ISIS. Repeating her story to the world, this ordinary girl finds herself thrust onto the international stage as the voice of her people.

R'BANK Thu 13 June | 8.45pm

Fanon Yesterday, Today

See Monday 10 June for summaries.

BIO Thu 13 June | 8.45pm

FRIDAY 14 JUNE

Dying for Gold

Dirs. CATHERINE MEYBURGH & RICHARD PAKLEPPA
2018 | South Africa | 99min

Billed as "the untold story of the making of South Africa", this devastating documentary explores the numerous ways in which the mining industry was a key force in shaping apartheid South Africa.

R'BANK Fri 14 June | 7pm

The Sound of Masks

Dir. SARA CF DE GOUVEIA
2018 | Mozambique | 70min

Mapiko is a traditional masked dance from northern Mozambique that was used as a powerful tool to challenge colonisation and celebrate the victories of the liberation movement, as the country struggles to exorcise the multiple ghosts of its past.

Screens with

Tabu

Dir. NELSON MAKENGO
2017 | DRC | 15min

Freewheeling Tabu, is an itinerant salesman of aphrodisiacs in Kinshasa.

BIO Fri 14 June | 7pm

OR Tambo: The Jewel of our Crown

Screens with

Hidden Queens

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BIO Fri 14 June | 8.45pm + Q&A

Cold Case Hammarskjöld

See Friday 7 June for summaries.

R'BANK Fri 14 June | 9pm

SATURDAY 15 JUNE

RBG

See Monday 10 June for summaries.

BIO Sat 15 June | 5.30pm

My Friend Fela

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R'BANK Sat 15 June | 5.30pm

Billy Monk: Shot in the Dark

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Scenes from a Dry City

And

Johannesburg, California

See Sunday 9 June for summaries.

BIO Sat 15 June | 8pm + Q&A



Three Identical Strangers

Dir. TIM WARDLE
2018 | USA/UK | 96min

Set in the 1980s, *Three Identical Strangers* chronicles the story of three men who were reunited through a series of astonishing coincidences after being born identical triplets, separated at birth, and adopted by three different families.

R'BANK Sat 15 June | 8pm

SUNDAY 16 JUNE

Buddha in Africa

Dir. NICOLE SCHAFER
2019 | South Africa/Sweden/Malawi | 90min

A Chinese Buddhist orphanage in Malawi poses complex questions about race, imperialism, faith and culture. Set against the backdrop of China's growing influence on the African continent.

R'BANK Sun 16 June | 5.30pm



The Silence of Others

Dirs. ALMUDENA CARRACEDO & ROBERT BAHAR
2018 | Spain/USA | 93min

After 40 years of Franco's rule, the Spanish government still imposes an amnesia on the past, making it impossible to prosecute historical abuses. The film follows the participants in the historic Argentine Lawsuit who prosecute the abuses in Spain from beyond the borders.

Screens with

A Night at the Garden

Dir. MARSHALL CURRY
2017 | USA | 7min

Shocking archive footage of 20 000 American Nazis filling Madison Square Gardens in New York in 1939.

BIO Sun 16 June | 5.30pm

Meeting Gorbachev

See Wednesday 12 June for summaries.

R'BANK Sun 16 June | 8pm

The Space – Theatre of Survival

Dirs. MARK STREET & DAN POOLE
2019 | South Africa/United Kingdom | 87min

The Space tells the story of the theatre and community that gave birth to some of South Africa's most important writing and acting talents and its most significant works of protest theatre. Beginning in 1972, at the height of the apartheid struggle.

BIO Sun 16 June | 8pm

