

Son of Man (DVD-foreign-XHO-S)

Mark Dornford-May, Director, South Africa/English/Xhosa, 2006, 90 min.

The story of Jesus Christ relocated to a fictional modern day African city. In a state plagued by corruption and massacres, a humble woman gives birth to a prophesized child. As a young man, Jesus embarks on a journey towards the capital to nonviolently protest for peace.

Tasuma (DVD-foreign-BAM-G)

Daniel Kollo Sanou, Director, Burkina Faso/French/Moore, 2003, 90 min.

Tasuma is a winner, an utterly charming rumination on French colonialism and the role of elders, women, and children in small African communities.

Tsotsi (DVD-foreign-ZUL-T)

Gavin Hood, Director, South Africa/Zulu, 2005, 94 min.

An Oscar-winner for Best Foreign Language film, Gavin Hood's powerful adaptation of Athol Fugard's novel, Tsotsi. Tsotsi is an impoverished and abused teen struggling to survive on the streets of Johannesburg.

U-Carmen (DVD-foreign-XHO-U)

Mark Dornford-May, Director, South Africa/Xhosa, 2004, 122 min.

U-Carmen, was the result of British stage director Mark Dornford-May traveling to South Africa to mount a film version of Bizet's opera. The setting brims over with the same wicked froth of danger, exoticism, and passion in 19th Century Seville.

The Wooden Camera (DVD-DRAMA-W)

Ntshaveni Wa Luruli, Director, South Africa/UK, 2003, 90 min.

In a South African township, two thirteen-year-old boys, come across an attache case holding a gun and a video camera. One takes the gun and the other takes the camera. Director Ntshaveni Wa Luruli follows their respective journeys in this bittersweet and poignant coming-of-age parable.

World Unseen (DVD-DRAMA-W)

Director, Shamim Sarif, South Africa/Great Britain, 2007, 94 min.

Shamim Sarif and lead actress Lisa Ray team up for this subtle tale of same-sex lust set in 1950s apartheid Cape Town. Ray plays a controlled housewife who secretly pines for the unconventional woman who runs the local cafe.

Yesterday (DVD-foreign-ZUL-Y)

Darrell James Roodt, Director, South Africa/USA, 2004, 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.

Common Ground: International Film Festival

is made possible by a grant from the Middletown Commission on the Arts, donations from The Friends of the Russell Library and individual donors.

Co-sponsored by Middlesex Community College, Russell Library, and Wesleyan University.



Russell Library
123 Broad Street
Middletown, Connecticut 06457
(860) 347-2528
www.russelllibrary.org

COMMON GROUND IV: African Cinema

Russell Library

Middletown, Connecticut

Adanggaman (DVD- foreign-BAM-A)

Roger Gnoan M'Bala, Director, Ivory Coast/ Switzerland, 2000, 85 min.

An unblinking look at a rarely acknowledged underside of African American history: the active role that black Africans play in supplying human cargo for the European slave trade.

Another Man's Garden (DVD-foreign-POR-A)

Joao Luis Sol de Carvalho, Director, Mozambique, 2006, 80 min.

Sofia, a young girl studying to be a doctor, finds that her professor wants more from her than hard work. Highlighting corruption and misogynistic attitudes in a society devastated by the AIDS virus, Sofia's opportunities may depend on her willingness to compromise her values and even her health.

Bamako (DVD-foreign-FRE-B)

Abderrahmane Sissako, Director, Mali, 2006, 117 min.

An extraordinary trial is taking place in a residential courtyard in Bamako. African citizens have taken proceedings against international financial institutions, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), whom civil society blames for perpetuating Africa's debt crisis, at the heart of so many of the continent's woes.

Black and White in Color (DVD-foreign-FRE-B)

Jean-Jacques Annaud, Director, Ivory Coast, 1976, 88 min.

Winner of the 1976 Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film, is a voracious and timely satire on racism, colonialism, and war. Set in the Ivory Coast during the First World War, a group of bungling French colonials learn that their country is at war with Germany. Spurred on by a capricious moment of patriotism, the Frenchmen decide to attack their German neighbors.

Cape of Good Hope (DVD-foreign-AFR-C)

Mark Bamford, Director, South Africa/Afrikaans/ English, 2004, 107 min.

Contemporary South Africa, with its attendant

racial, economic, and religious strife, provides the setting for this vibrant and meaningful comedy about lives that intersect at a Cape Town animal rescue shelter.

Disgrace (DVD-DRAMA-D)

Steve Jacobs, Director, Australia/South Africa, 2008, 118 mins.

Steve Jacobs directs this gripping adaptation of J.M. Coetzee's novel about a depraved literature professor (John Malkovich) in Cape Town, South Africa.

Dreams of Dust (DVD-foreign-FRE-D)

Laurent Salgues, Director, France/Burkina Faso, 2006, 86 min.

A Nigerian peasant with a haunted past, travels to Burkina Faso in search of a job at a goldmine. Sadly, the gold rush ended long ago, and the population of this ghost town has all but given up on life. Except for Coumba, a beautiful woman who wants to give her daughter a better future.

Faraw! (DVD-foreign-BAM-G)

Abdoulaye Ascofare, Director, Mali/Songhay, 1997, 90 min.

The story of Zamiatou, a Songhai woman, in North Eastern Mali, with two young sons, a pretty daughter and a handicapped husband.

Genesis (DVD-foreign-BAM-G)

Cheick Ouman Sissoko, Director, Mali, 1999, 102 min.

A visually retelling of the biblical story of the house of Abraham from an african perspective the film portrays the bitter rivalry between brothers Jacob and Esau which threatens to engulf both clans in a never ending cycle of violence.

The Gods Must Be Crazy (DVD-COMEDY-G)

Jamie Uys, Director, South Africa/English, 1984, 109 mins.

Jamie Uys' unlikely comedy is the story of an African bushman who discovers a discarded Coke bottle which ultimately brings him face to face with modern man for the first time.

Hyenas (DVD-foreign-WOL-H)

Djibril Diop Mambety, Director, Senegal/Wolof, 1992, 113 min.

A rich woman agrees to share her wealth with the people in her poor village in return for the life of the man who ruined her reputation when she was young.

Karmen Gei (DVD-foreign-FRE-K)

Joseph Gai Ramaka, Director, Senegal, 2001, 82 min.

A bold reworking of Bizet's Carmen. The first movie musical produced in sub-Saharan Africa, fuses the throbbing rhythms of West African dance, soaring Sengalese pop music and vanguard jazz saxophone.

Land of Thirst (DVD-DRAMA-L)

Meg Rickards, Director, South Africa/English, 2008, 98 min.

This film is an unforgettable story of forbidden love set against the majestic backdrop of South Africa at the start of the 20th Century.

Masai; the Rain Warriors (DVD-foreign-MAS-M)

Pascal Plisson, Director, Kenya/France, 2005, 94 min.

This arrestingly beautiful adventure shot on the savannahs of Kenya depicts a community's quest to bring rain to their land and ensure their survival. It is the first film to be solely populated by real-life Masai and spoken entirely in their native tongue.

Max and Mona (DVD-foreign-TSW-M)

Teddy Mattered, Director, South Africa/Tswana, Afrikaans, Zulu, 2004, 98 min.

A sweet and engaging comedy from South Africa about a boy named Max who leaves his village to one day pursue medicine in Johannesburg. This mythic road movie has plenty of clever narrative twists and turns.

Maybe God is III (DVD-foreign-ITA-M)

Franco Brogi Taviani, Director, Italy, 2007, 88 min.

An Italian documentary on the wars, famines, and diseases that continue to plague parts of Africa. Filmed in Senegal, Uganda, Angola, Mozambique and South Africa. In Italian with English subtitles.

Moolaade (DVD-foreign-FRE-M)

Ousmane Sembene, Director, Senegal/French/Jula, 2004, 124 min.

Set in Burkina Faso, an inspiring story about a group of women who stand up for their rights against the traditions of their village. When a woman shelters a group of girls from suffering female circumcision, she starts a conflict that tears her village apart.

Munyurangabo (DVD-foreign-KIN-M)

Lee Isaac Chung, Director, Rwanda/Kintarwanda, 2009, 93 min.

An orphan of the Rwandan genocide travels from Kigali to the countryside on a quest for justice.

My Voice (Nha Fala) (DVD-foreign-FRE-M)

Flora Gomes, Director, Cape Verde/Portugal, 2002, 82 min.

It is believed that any woman who sings in Vita's family will die, which causes a problem when Vita becomes an international singing star in France. Now she must return to Africa to stage her own death and resurrection.

A Small Act (DVD-361.7-SMA)

Jennifer Arnold, Director, Kenya, USA, 2010, 88 min.

Explores the effects of Hilde Back's sponsorship of a Chris Mburu, a Kenyan child, and documents his education and efforts to provide scholarships for other Kenyan students after he graduates from Harvard Law School.

Sia (The Dream of the Python)

(DVD-foreign-BAM-G)

Dani Kouyate, Director, Burkina Faso/Bambara, 2001, 87 min.

Every year the most beautiful girl will be sacrificed to the Python God. But that is not what really happens. This year something very different happens to the sacrificial, Sia.