

# European Cinema Days within the Juba Film Festival

9 to 12 December 2025, Juba, Notos

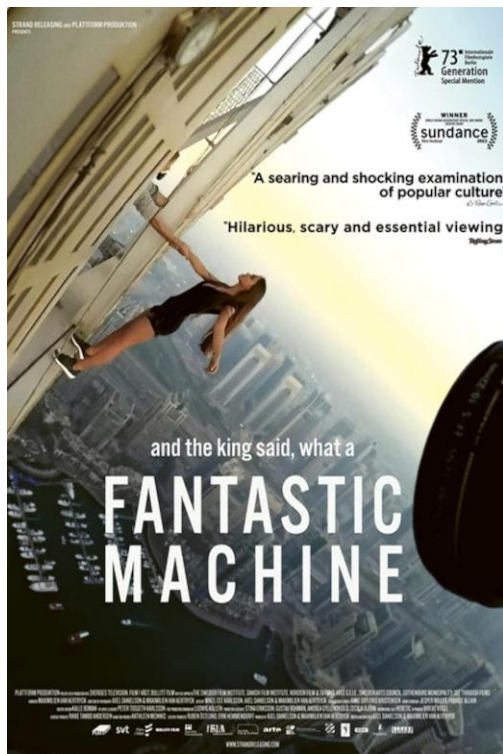
Several South Sudanese films will be screened on Monday, 8 December at Notos

	<b><u>Tuesday, 9 December</u></b>
16h30	Opening of the European Cinema Days by Ambassador Designate Pelle Enarsson and Director Simon Bingo of the Juba Film Festival
17h00	Screening of <i>and the king said what a Fantastic Machine</i> , - documentary by Axel Danielson and Maximilien Van Aertryck, Sweden, Denmark, 2023
18h45	Screening of <i>South Sudanese films</i> .
20h00	End of day one

	<b><u>Wednesday, 10 December</u></b>
17h00	Screening of <i>SIRA</i> , - drama film by Apolline Traore, Senegal, France, Germany, 2023,
19h15	Screening of <i>South Sudanese films</i>
20h00	End of day two

	<b><u>Thursday, 11 December</u></b>
16h30	Screening of <i>The Trap</i> , Nadejda Koseva, Bulgaria, Germany, 2024
18h15	Screening of <i>in the eye of the storm</i> , - drama film by Sekou Traore, France, Burkino Faso, 2015
20h00	End of day three

	<b><u>Friday, 12 December</u></b>
16h45	Screening of <i>Carmen</i> , drama film by Valerie Buhagiar, Malta, 2021
18h30	Screening of <i>Omen (Augure)</i> - film by Baloji, RDC, Belgium, Netherlands, 2023
20h00	End of the European Cinema Days 2025

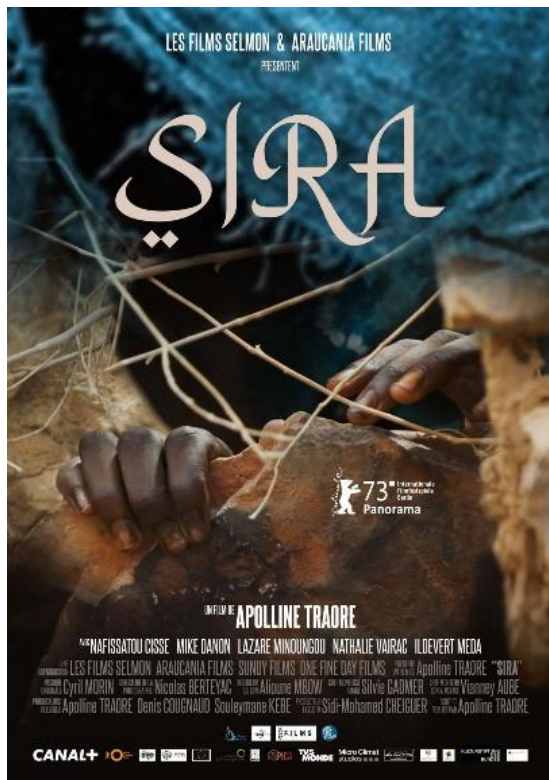


***And the king said what a Fantastic Machine*, documentary by Axel Danielson and Maximilien Van Aertryck, Sweden, Denmark, 2023, 1h32min**

"*That fantastic device*," dicit King Edward VII, "*is the film camera*". But this documentary shows that not every image is reality. A story about cunning manipulation and observant viewers. It is a video essay of humanity's obsession with cameras and imagery.

45 billion (!) cameras exist on Earth. Chances are you also own one (or more). The first moving pictures - these are the ones Swedish directing duo Axel Danielson and Maximilien Van Aertryck are interested in - date back to the late 19th century, when the camera was invented. *And the King Said, What a Fantastic Machine* is not a history lesson on how the movie camera evolved technically. The duo is mainly intrigued by how the camera has influenced our society since its invention. Clearly, the filmed image is fairly often a manipulation. And this is not typical of our times; viewers were already misled during the early beginnings of cinema - even though the Lumière brothers saw the camera primarily as a scientific instrument.

The film won a Special Jury Award for Creative Vision and a special mention Youth Jury Crystal Bear at the 73rd Berlin Film Festival. **The film will be screened on Tuesday, 9 December at 17h at Notos restaurant.**



**The film will be screened on Wednesday 10 December at 17h at Notos restaurant.**

**SIRA, dramatic film by Apolline Traoré. Burkino Faso, Senegal, France, Germany, 2023, 2h2min**

The film takes place in the Sahel. It tells the story of a young Fulani woman, Sira, traveling with her clan to reach the village where her fiancé, Sidi, awaits them to celebrate their wedding. Their hopes turn into a nightmare when they are attacked by Islamist terrorists. All the men are killed, and the gang leader, Yéré, captures Sira because of a humiliation he suffered. She is then assaulted and left for dead in the desert.

Alone, she finds refuge in a cave near their hideout, where she discovers that those responsible for the attack are Moustapha, a friend of her father, and Yéré, her attacker. Faced with loneliness and despair, and pregnant by her attacker, Sira decides to thwart the terrorists' plans. Meanwhile, Jean-Sidi, her fiancé, unaware of Sira's fate, embarks on a desperate quest to find her. Alongside Sira, other women join her struggle: her mother Aissatou, who provides her with support and wisdom, and Kemi, a kidnapped and exploited teenager who fights to regain her freedom.



**In the eye of the storm, Sekou Traore,  
France, Burkino Faso, 2015, 1h40min;  
Language: French, Subtitle: English**

This drama is a cinematic adaptation of the play of the same name by playwright and director Luis Marquès, starring Maimouna N'Diaye and Fargass Assandé. The film was selected for FESPACO 2015 and won the Africa Movie Academy Award for Best Film in 2016. Hemma Tou, a young lawyer and daughter of a prominent figure in the country, is assigned to defend a war criminal accused of carrying out attacks, looting, rape, and various other atrocities.

While the population demands revenge and political maneuvering seems to determine the outcome of the trial, Hemma Tou struggles with her professional conscience and the unique bond that develops between her and the prisoner.

**The film will be screened on Thursday  
11 December at 18h15 at Notos restaurant.**



**The Trap, Nadejda Koseva, Bulgaria,  
Germany, 2024, 1h35min; Language:  
Bulgarian, Subtitle: English.**

**The film will be screened on Thursday  
11 December at 16h30 at Notos restaurant.**

Koseva's film alludes to unresolved public affairs from the past, although its political stance is not its only merit. Main character Yovo is a proud man who doesn't bow to magnanimous mafia bosses, someone who is always ready to put up a fight but not to betray his dignity or homeland; but he is also a dreamy odd-ball and a taciturn, poetic contemplator of nature who gets along better with animals than with people. His stubbornly romantic essence sets the tone for the entire film.

Yoyo is living on the banks of the Danube. A wild boar is brought to the island near his house and trapped in a fenced area where it is to be killed in exchange for a bribe. An important foreign investor is due to arrive in Yovo's village to authorise a dump for highly radioactive nuclear waste. The boar turns out to be bigger and wilder than expected and kills the hunting dogs. The only option for the hunt to continue is the participation of Yovo's well-trained dog.





**Carmen, drama film by Valerie Buhagiar, Malta, 2021, 1h30min, Language: English.**

Inspired in part by the real experiences of Buhagiar's own aunt Rita, the film stars Natascha McElhone as Carmen, a Maltese spinster who has spent her adult life serving as a caretaker for her brother, who is a Roman Catholic priest, but who finds herself feeling free to explore her own desires and goals in life as she nears age 50. The cast also includes Steven Love, Michaela Farrugia, Peter Galea, Mikhail Basmadjian, Henry Zammit Cordina, and Richard Clarkin.

Shot in Malta in 2019, the film was screened at the Canadian Film Festival in Toronto, where it won the award for Best Film.

Valerie Buhagiar is a Maltese-Canadian actress, film director and television host.

**The film will be screened on Friday 12 December at 16h45 at Notos restaurant.**



**Omen, Baloji, RDC, Belgium, Netherlands, 2023, 1h32min;**

**Language: French, Subtitle: English**

Omen is a musician and film-maker's story about a Belgian-Congolese man who takes his white wife to DRC to meet the family. It is a complex, risky and bold film-making, directed by Congolese-born rapper, musician and film-maker Baloji. The concept of a culture-clash is questioned and undermined by Baloji; culture, heritage, nationality and identity are all shapeshifting concepts here.

**The film will be screened on Friday 12 December at 18h30 at Notos restaurant.**



A second section explains the life of a street kid called Paco, with whom Koffi and Alice cross paths and who is traumatised by the death of his kid sister at the hands of a rival gang who affect the leopard skin clothing and headgear of the late President Mobutu. Another segment explains the life of Koffi's equally alienated sister Tshala who is about to emigrate to South Africa with her husband; they have an open relationship, but what her sisters call "this polyamory weirdness" has given her an STD. Finally, Koffi and Tshala's mother takes centre stage.