

# BLACK EUROPE FILM FESTIVAL

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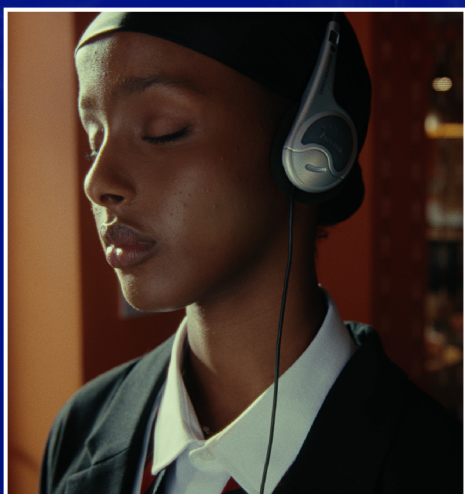
MINNEAPOLIS / SAINT PAUL 1/30-2/2



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[mspfilm.org/black-europe-film-festival/](https://mspfilm.org/black-europe-film-festival/)





**The Black Europe Film Festival of Minneapolis/St. Paul** is a groundbreaking celebration of Afrodescendant cinema in Europe, debuting in the Twin Cities from January 30 to February 2, 2025. Screenings will take place at prestigious venues, including the Main Cinema, the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, the Capri Theater, and the Cedar Cultural Center. Rooted in community collaboration and anti-racist organizing, BEFF MSP showcases a dynamic lineup of documentaries, fiction films, and shorts by Europe's most innovative Black filmmakers. This festival serves as a platform for artists to present their work and foster connections across the global African diaspora and the international film community.

At its core, BEFF MSP acknowledges the intertwined legacies of racism, colonialism, and displacement while celebrating the vibrancy, creativity, and resilience of global Black filmmakers. The festival experience is enriched with masterclasses, virtual and in-person conversations with filmmakers, workshops, and artist residencies, offering diverse opportunities for learning, connection, and Black joy.

Join us in celebrating the transformative power of storytelling and the boundless creativity of Black diaspora cinema in Europe!

**The Black Europe Film Festival** is made possible by a generous grant from the University of Minnesota Imagine Fund and a residency at the Liberal Arts Engagement Hub.

## FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

- ★ 24 countries represented
- ★ 9 films
- ★ 22 short films
- ★ 10 visiting directors
- ★ 3 workshops
- ★ 4 receptions

Date	Time	Venue	Event
1/18	1 PM	Minnesota History Center	<b>MONUMENTS AND MEMORIES AFTER GEORGE FLOYD:</b> Free Film Screening + Community Discussion
1/23	7 PM	The Main Cinema	<b>ASMARINA</b> (Italy, 2015) + Virtual Q&A with director Medhin Paolos
1/30	4:30 PM	The Main Cinema	<b>FREE SHORT FILM PROGRAM ON THE AFRO-CARIBBEAN</b> + Q&A with directors Julien Béramis and Daniela Yohannes
	6:30 PM	The Main Cinema	Opening Reception
	7:30 PM	The Main Cinema	<b>EDELWEISS</b> (Austria, 2023) + Q&A with director Anna Gaberscik
1/31	2 PM	The Main Cinema	<b>FREE SHORT FILM PROGRAM ON BLACK DIASPORIC LIVING</b> + Virtual Q&A with directors
	5 PM	The Main Cinema	<b>AFTER THE LONG RAINS</b> (Switzerland/Kenya, 2024) + Q&A with director Damien Hauser



	6:30 PM	The Main Cinema	Community Happy Hour
	7:30 PM	The Main Cinema	<b>THE GRAVITY</b> (France, 2022) + Q&A with director Cedric Ido
2/1	11 AM	The Main Cinema	<b>FREE SHORT FILM PROGRAM ON GLOBAL QUEER BLACKNESS</b> + Virtual Q&A with directors Lamin Leroy Gibba, Jordan Anderson, and Simi Akande
	2 PM	The Capri Theater	<b>GIRL</b> (U.K., 2023) + Virtual Q&A with director Adura Onashile
	4:30 PM	The Capri Theater	<b>FREE SHORT FILM PROGRAM</b> + Virtual Q&A
	6:30 PM	The Capri Theater	Reception
	7:30 PM	The Capri Theater	<b>THE BLACK SEA</b> (USA/Bulgaria, 2024) + Q&A with co-director and lead actor Derrick B. Harden
2/2	11 AM	The Cedar Cultural Center	<b>SHORT FILM PROGRAM ON SOMALI DIASPORIC CINEMA</b> + Q&A with directors Abdulkadir Ahmed Said, Warda Mohamed, and Salad Hilowle
	2 PM	The Minneapolis Institute of Art	<b>FREE FILM PROGRAM ON BLACK LIVES IN PAINTING</b> + Q&A with directors Fred Kuwornu and Salad Hilowle
	6 PM	The Main Cinema	Closing Round-Table and Wrap Celebration
	7:30 PM	The Main Cinema	<b>DARK SKIN</b> (USSR, 1931) with original live music accompaniment by Dameun Strange



## WORKSHOPS

- ★ **1/25 11 AM:** “Low-Budget High-Impact Documentary” with Fred Kuwornu
- ★ **1/29 6:30 PM:** “Art, Identity, and Memory” with Salad Hilowle
- ★ **1/31 2 PM:** “Documentary Storytelling across Borders” with Anna Gaberscik

## WHY MINNESOTA?

**Minnesota**, with its vibrant Afrodescendant scene, is the ideal host for the African Europe Film Festival. The Twin Cities’ deep connections to African communities across Europe—particularly East African communities—and their prominence as hub for the global African diaspora make this location uniquely compelling. The killing of George Floyd across Minneapolis and the protests that followed not only heightened African consciousness across Europe but also ignited a moment of global reckoning and solidarity. By hosting our festival here, we aim to amplify the ongoing dialogue between Minnesota’s African communities and the global African diaspora, creating an event that is deeply rooted in the state’s rich African histories while resonating far beyond its borders.

## WHO ARE WE?

**Fred Kudjo Kuwornu** (Founding Director) is a Ghanaian Italian filmmaker, producer, civil rights activist, and educator. The founder of the independent production company DoTheRightFilms, Fred is best known for award-winning documentaries *Inside Buffalo* (2010), *18 IUS SOLI* (2011), *Blaxploitalian: 100 Years of Blackness in Italian Cinema* (2016), and *We Were Here: The Untold History of Black Africans in Renaissance Europe* (2024).

**Lorenzo Fabbri** (Founding Director & Curator) is a professor, film curator, and producer based in Minneapolis. Lorenzo teaches film media at the University of Minnesota. An active member of the Twin Cities film community, Lorenzo curated the Italian Film Festival of Minneapolis/Saint Paul for many years.

**Kirsten Smith** (Associate Curator)

is a doctoral candidate in the Department of French and Italian at the University of Minnesota, specializing in Québécois cinema. Kirsten is invested in exploring and programming films that represent diverse communities from around the world and transnational and multinational narratives.

**Iman Mohamoud** (Outreach Director)

is a Somali American English teacher at Eden Prairie High School, a graduate student at the University of Minnesota studying Education Policy & Leadership, and a passionate advocate for art and literature. Iman is dedicated to representing African youth in a joyful and empowering way, highlighting their talents and contributions to society.

**Sara Osman** (Director of Programming)

is a documentary filmmaker from Minneapolis. Her passion lies in storytelling around memory, place, and identity, specifically focusing on the unique and evolving Somali identity within the Minnesota landscape. Sara is deep believer art as a tool for social change and for fostering meaningful connections within the community.

## PARTNERS



## SPONSORS



We are always looking for collaborations and new partners. Reach out to explore partnership or sponsorship opportunities



To get in touch or involved, to bring our program to your cinema, city, or university, or for press inquiries:

✉ [beffmsp@gmail.com](mailto:beffmsp@gmail.com)  
📷 @blackeuropefilmfestival

For tickets and full program:

[mspfilm.org/black-europe-film-festival/](https://mspfilm.org/black-europe-film-festival/)