

**Venue:** Mannenburg (Fife Avenue Mall, Corner 6th Street, Harare)

**Dates:** October 3 – 7th, 2011

The purpose of the Film Forum is to run seminars, workshops and master classes with the objective of raising and nurturing the level of knowledge and awareness of the film medium in Zimbabwe.

**(1) How to Make an Episodic Series on a Social Justice Issue (October 3-5, 2011)**

With the growth of the episodic series sector in Africa and the many social issues facing Zimbabwe, ZIFFT feels that it is important for Zimbabwean scriptwriters, actors, actresses, directors and producers to not only gain an understanding of what it takes to put together a high quality episodic series but also one on a social justice issue.

This workshop will be facilitated by the writers, actors, an actress, director, production manager, artistic director and editor who worked on the recently completed episodic series *The Team – Zimbabwe*. This series uses soccer to address issues of post-conflict reconciliation and healing which is an issue that is very relevant to Zimbabwe.

*The Team – Zimbabwe* was produced by **Search for Common Ground (SFCG)**, an organization that works to transform the way the world deals with conflict - away from adversarial approaches and towards collaborative problem solving. SFCG works with local partners to find culturally appropriate means to strengthen societies' capacity to deal with conflicts constructively: to understand the differences and act on the commonalities. This workshop will be divided into five sessions:

- Writing an Episodic Series on a Social Justice Issue  
**Facilitators:** Elton Mujanana, Mandisi Gobodi
- Acting in an Episodic Series on a Social Justice Issue  
**Facilitators:** Elijah Madzikatire, Stewart Sakarombe, Gladys Tsikwa
- Directing Master Class  
**Facilitator:** Rumbi Katedza
- Production Management of a Episodic Series  
**Facilitators:** Shuvai Chikombah-Zodetsa, Blessing Hungwe, Allan Muwani
- Editing and Sound Engineering of an Episodic Series  
**Facilitators:** Brighton Tazaruwa, Cuthbert Mucheche

**(2) Seminars with Renowned South African Filmmaker and Producer - Ramadan Suleman (October 6, 2011)**

**(a) Realities of African Filmmaking**

As a renowned African filmmaker who has directed and produced acclaimed films including *Fools* (1997) and *Zulu Love Letter* (2004) Ramadan Suleman will be able to talk from experience about the challenges and joys of being a filmmaker in Africa. This workshop will be very helpful to upcoming filmmakers who are young in the industry and others who are considering a career in the film industry. This discussion will take place at the Zimbabwe Film Industry Stakeholders Consultative Indaba, 2011 at the Zimbabwe Film & Television School of Southern Africa.

**(b) Filmmakers Documenting Artists**

In this workshop, Ramadan Suleman will discuss his latest film *Zwelidumile* which examines the life and legacy of South African artist Dumile Feni from a very human and personal perspective. African artists are rarely the subject of African films but yet their lives are so rich and colorful that they would make interesting subjects. Ramadan Suleman will discuss his choice of subject, his experiences in making the film and the intricacies involved in choosing a person as the subject matter of a film.

**(3) How to Make Documentaries For Social Change (October 7, 2011)**

This will be an introduction to the importance of conscientious documentary filmmaking. Issues of research, subject matter, technique, budgeting, fundraising and distribution will also be discussed. This workshop will be facilitated by Jarreth Merz – the director of the ZIFF opening film *An African Election*, Lena Jackson an independent filmmaker who has worked on several conscientious projects including *Democracy in Haiti* and Carl Joshua Ncube who will discuss the use of digital media in distributing films. This workshop will provide participants with an opportunity to pitch their ideas for upcoming projects – the facilitators will then offer their critic and advice on project completion.

**BIOGRAPHIES - FILM FORUM FACILITATORS**

*Allan Muwani*

In 1996 *Allan Muwani* applied for a place at a film school called Vision Valley Film School where he did a beginners course in overall filmmaking. After this experience he got a job working on the Ollie Maruma production *Big Time*, in the Art Department. Over the past 12 years Allan has worked in the art department of various projects and has also directed short films and music videos. He has worked locally and internationally in the art department of various productions such as, *Lumumba*, *Soldier Soldier*, *Act As If I Am Not There*, *Flea Market*, *Jacaranda's*, *Where Others Waivered*. On *The Team – Zimbabwe* Allan was the Artistic Director.



## Blessing Hungwe

*Blessing Hungwe* has been actively writing for TV, Film and theatre since 2005. Blessing started out at Studio 263 going on to write film scripts for renowned filmmakers like Tsitsi Dangarembwa. His works includes: *I Want a Wedding Dress*, *Ghetto Fellas*, *New Dawn*, and theatre hits such as *Apokalupsis*, *Burn Mukwerekwere* *Burn* among many others.



## Brighton J.H. Tazarurwa

*Brighton J.H. Tazarurwa* has been in the Zimbabwean film industry since August 2005 when his debut short film won the Best Short Film in the ZIFF Short Film Project. Since then he has directed four other award winning short films and as an editor, he has worked on countless other short films and documentaries for independent and commissioned projects. He is founder and Production Director of Phenom Media Productions a Zimbabwean commercial audiovisual production house.



## Cuthbert Mucheche

## Elijah Madzikatire

*Elijah Madzikatire* is an actor, musician and record producer and has been acting since he was ten years old under the guidance of his father the legendary Safirio "Mkadota" Madzikatire. Elijah has featured in four international films, 16 locally produced films and four episodic TV series - the latest being *The Team - Zimbabwe*.



## Elton Mujanana

*Elton Mujanana* is a writer/director who started his career in 1995 as an actor and took up scriptwriting a few years later and then moved onto directing. Elton has a fair amount of experience including a couple of shorts and a documentary. Elton's latest project was as a writer on the episodic series *The Team - Zimbabwe* and he is currently working on a short film and two documentaries simultaneously. His latest documentary *Absolute Jiti - The Bhundu Story* (2007) premiered at the Durban International Film Festival and was also screened at the Zimbabwe International Film Festival among others.



Gladys Tsikwa

Gladys Tsikwa has acted in most of Zimbabwe's local television productions. Gladys has appeared on Mutiro Wafanza, Manje So, Simuka Upenyu and Zvinhu Zvacho just to mention a few. She recently participated in The Team – Zimbabwe.



Jarret Merz

Jarret Merz is a Swiss born actor, director and producer. He grew up in Ghana, Germany and Switzerland and speaks five languages fluently. He is known for his portrayal of Simon of Cyrene in Mel Gibson's The Passion of the Christ and his recurring role as Charles Baruani in ER. Jarret has worked extensively in film, television and theater. Most recently, he directed and produced The Soul of Ashanti for the Africa Channel in Los Angeles and Mousy Brown, a narrative short. Most recently he directed An African Election and is currently working on a bio film about the life of Russian poet Alexander Pushkin.



Lena Jackson

Lena Jackson is an independent filmmaker who has focused her work on educational media, media literacy, and documentaries, specifically on youth and community-based issues. Lena has produced, researched, shot and edited multi-platform programs for WHUT-Howard University Television, Sesame Workshop India, and the Smithsonian Folklife Festival. She recently worked as Director of Photography and Co-Director on the Nomadic Wax documentary series, Democracy in Haiti, a film on the role young people are playing in contemporary Haitian politics and society, and is in-production on a multi-platform video project documenting the youth skate scene in Havana, Cuba.



Mandisi Gobodi

Mandisi Gobodi is screen writer/producer based in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. Mandisi is an alumni of the ZIFF Short Film Project and has worked on the production of Avenues an episodic series produced for Zimbabwe Television, soap opera Fragments and was recently a script writer on the episodic series The Team - Zimbabwe.



## Ramadan Suleman

*Ramadan Suleman* a renowned African filmmaker entered cinema as a casting director, and began directing short films in 1984. After studying in Paris, then at the London International Film School, he worked as assistant director with two of Africa's legendary filmmakers – Med Hondo on *Lumière Noire*, and Souleymane Cisse on *Yeelen*. He directed and produced *Fools* (1997) and *Zulu Love Letter* (2004) – both well acclaimed films. Apart from producing, he is a co-author on the screenplay of *Zulu Love Letter* (2009). Ramadan currently serves as a curriculum adviser at the School of Motion Picture, Media and Performance (AFDA) in Johannesburg and is one of the directors of *Natives At Large*, a film production company.



## Rumbi Katedza

*Rumbi Katedza* is an award-winning filmmaker and writer, who has lived in the USA, Japan, Italy, Canada, the UK and Zimbabwe. She has worked in film production management, direction, distribution and film festival management for over 15 years. Rumbi holds a Masters in Filmmaking from Goldsmiths College, University of London, and a Bachelors in English, Film & Communications from McGill University in Canada. She has directed numerous music videos, documentaries and short films, including the award-winning films *Asylum*, *Tariro* and *Big House*, small house. Rumbi was both Director and Executive Producer on *The Team* and will soon release her first feature film, *Playing Warriors*, a past winner of the Göteborg Feature Film Development Prize.



## Shuvai M Chikombah-Zodetsa

*Shuvai Chikombah-Zodetsa* is a Zimbabwean who began her career as an actress on local television dramas such as, *Social Statement*, *I Need A Child* and *Zimlife*. Shuvai lived in Germany for eight years and studied Directing and Scriptwriting and also worked in the Advertising industry for six years. Shuvai is a proud mother of two boys, a seasoned film and television production manager and owner of *Heavenly Delicious* and *Tree-House Nursery School*.



## Stewart Sakarombe

*Stewart Sakarombe* is a renowned actor who has been in the Zimbabwean film industry for over two decades. He made his first acting debut in 1991 and has appeared in local and international productions which include *Yellow Card* and *The Poacher* and he was recently part of *The Team* – Zimbabwe.



## ZIFF 2011 – Film Forum Schedule

**Location: The Mannenberg (Fife Avenue Mall, Corner 6th Street, Harare) and Zimbabwe Film & Television School of Southern Africa**

DATE	TIME	VENUE	TOPIC	FACILITATOR
Monday, October 3, 2011	9:30am - 12:30pm	Mannenburg	Writing a TV Series on a Social Justice Issue – <i>The Team Zimbabwe</i>	Elton Mujanana, <i>writer</i> Mandisi Gobodi, <i>writer</i>
Monday, October 3, 2011	2:00pm - 4:00pm	Mannenburg	Acting in a TV Series on a Social Justice Issue- <i>The Team Zimbabwe</i>	Stewart Sakarombe, <i>actor</i> Elijah Madzikatire, <i>actor</i> Gladys Tsikwa - <i>actress</i>
Tuesday, October 4, 2011	9:30am - 12:30pm	Mannenburg	Directing Master Class – <i>The Team Zimbabwe</i>	Rumbi Katedza, <i>director</i>
Tuesday, October 4, 2011	2:00pm - 4:30pm	Mannenburg	Production Management of an Episodic Series – <i>The Team Zimbabwe</i>	Shuvai Chikombah-Zodetsa, <i>production manager</i> Blessing Hungwe, <i>1st assistant director</i> Allan Muwani, <i>artistic director</i>
Wednesday, October 5, 2011	9:30am - 12:30pm	Mannenburg	Editing and Sound Engineering of a TV Series – <i>The Team Zimbabwe</i>	Brighton Tazaruwa, <i>editor</i> Cuthbert Muccheche, <i>sound engineer</i>
Wednesday, October 5, 2011	8:30am - 5:30pm	Zimbabwe Film & Television School of Southern Africa	Indaba/Symposium on the Zimbabwe Film Policy	Various Policymakers
Thursday, October 6, 2011	8:30am - 12:30pm	Zimbabwe Film & Television School of Southern Africa	Indaba/Symposium on the Zimbabwe Film Policy: Realities of African Film-making Film Commissions	Panel of experts including Ramadan Suleman , Rumbi Katedza and Mutheu Maitha-Bomba
Thursday, October 6, 2011	1:30pm – 5:30pm	Zimbabwe Film & Television School of Southern Africa	Indaba /Symposium on the Zimbabwe Film Policy	Panel of experts
Thursday, October 6, 2011	2:00pm - 4:30pm	Mannenburg	Filmmakers Documenting Artists	Ramadan Suleman – <i>director, producer</i>
Friday, October 7, 2011	8:30am - 5:30pm	Zimbabwe Film & Television School of Southern Africa	Indaba/Symposium on the Zimbabwean Film Policy	Deliberations on Zimbabwe Film Policy
Friday, October 7, 2011	9:30am - 4:00pm	Mannenburg	How To Make Documentaries For Social Change (including project pitch session and critic)	Jarreth Merz – <i>director</i> Lena Jackson – <i>director</i> Carl Joshua Ncube – <i>comedian</i>