



NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Institute of African American Affairs
presents

"Return to Source"

Fall 2016 Film Series and discussion with Directors.
The series will include films that link identity,
authenticity and creativity to the value of returning to
the sources.

Ọya: Something Happened On The Way To West Africa!

Directed by Seyi Adebajo (US/Nigeria, 2015, 30 min.)

Wednesday, November 16th, 2016 / 6:00 PM

Location: 36 East 8th Street (between University Place and Greene Street) NY, NY

Discussion with director Seyi Adebajo and Special Screening of additional scenes from Nigeria

ABOUT THE FILM



Ọya: Something Happened On The Way To West Africa!

"I am from this place but not of it. I am of this place but not from it." I am a Queer Gender-Non-Conforming Nigerian who returns home to speak directly with my ancestors, connect with Ọrìṣà (African God/dess) tradition, and follow a trail back to the powerful legacy of my great grandmother, Chief Moloran ìyá Ọlọya. This documentary vibrantly investigates the heritage of command, mythology, gender fluidity, womyn's power in indigenous Yorùbá spirituality. During this personal and political story my journey is to locate the gender fluidity that is an important part of the Yorùbá inheritance (for myself and others.) Gender dynamism supports a traditional legacy of power. As I encounter obstacles of a national strike and anti-gay marriage legislation to find the roots of the practice, will I be able to find affirmation for myself as a person between genders/ worlds and take on this inheritance?

The documentary illuminates the lives of Ọrìṣà Ọya (Warrior Goddess), Chief Moloran ìyá Ọlọya and Seyi Adebajo while interweaving Yorùbá mythology, poetry, performance, and expert interviews. The documentary is lyrical, interwoven with cultural nuances, ritual, interviews, chanting and narration.



ABOUT THE DIRECTOR



Photo by Edwin Torres

Seyi Adebajo is a Queer gender-non-conforming Nigerian MFA artist. Seyi is a media artist who raises awareness around social issues through digital video, multimedia photography and writings. Seyi's work is the intersection of art, media, imagination, ritual and politics. Seyi has been an artist in resident with

Allgo and is exhibiting at the Longwood Art Gallery and previously Skylight Gallery- Restoration Plaza Corporation, Waterloo Arts Gallery, Bronx Academy of Arts & Dance (BAAD!), MCNY and previously at the Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art. Seyi is currently a fellow with AIM at the Bronx Museum and has been a fellow with The Laundromat Project, Queer/Art/Mentorship, Maysles Institute, IFP and City Lore Documentary Institute. Seyi's powerful short Trans Lives Matter! Justice for Islan Nettles has screened on PBS Channel 13, Brooklyn Museum and continues to screen globally.

Awards:

- Best Documentary Short - Drama Baltimore International Black Film Festival
- PBS Channel 13, Reel 13 Short Film Award
- Fish Parade 2015 Grand Marshal
- Best International Short Film Award Sydney Transgender International Film Festival
- Pride of the Ocean LGBT Film Festival Award
- Hunter College's Dean of Arts & Science Master's Thesis Support Grant

ABOUT THE RETURN TO SOURCE FILM SERIES

The series will include films that link identity, authenticity and creativity to the value of returning to the sources. By "return to the source" we are putting in conversation films that entertain or question the usefulness of returning home as narrative forms. The films will explore such varied narrative forms as the essay film, home-movies, archives, as well as fictional, experimental and documentary approaches. The series will also engage with the ways in which oral traditions and historical documents are deployed in the films. Directors will be present for discussion after the screenings.

UPCOMING IN THE FALL 2016 SERIES:



In Search of Finah Misa Kule (Sierra Leone, 2015, 42 min.)

With Director: Kewulay Kamara

In Search of Finah Misa Kule chronicles the quest of poet Kewulay Kamara to reconstitute an ancient epic handed down in his family that takes us back to his native Village of Dankawali in northeast Sierra Leone.

DATE: Wednesday, November 30th, 2016 / TIME: 6:00 pm (doors open at 5:45 pm)

LOCATION: Cantor Film Center-NYU / 36 East 8th Street (between University Place and Greene Street) NY, NY

Film titles/locations to be announced for spring 2017 please visit: www.nyuiaaa.org