

CONTEMPORARY ARTIVISM

Programme & Featured Films

Welcome to the 2nd Annual ***Bɛnpaali Young Filmmakers Festival*** in Ghana! *Bɛnpaali* was launched in June 2015 to harness heritage through imaginative storytelling. *Bɛnpaali* (connoting a new dawn in the Buili language of northern Ghana) is a forum for diverse trained and self-taught artists between the ages of 15-30 to bring to light stories that matter. The year's theme is *Contemporary Artivism*.

Whether you study or work in the media industry or in disciplines of archaeology, visual anthropology or heritage studies - and whether a youth or young-at art - *Bɛnpaali* will inspire your imagination and stimulate your thinking. During screenings, discussions and workshops, you will interact with some of Ghana's most creative people in film, media and academia. *Bɛnpaali Awards* is the culminating event for the festival. We applaud all artists that enter their films, however on this evening we recognize those that have presented especially compelling, innovative and fresh work. Our awards are named in honor of Ghanaian leaders and pacesetters.

Please come early, stay late and soak up the magic that happens when art and heritage come together.

On behalf of FireBeads Media hardworking, talented team, we thank you for attending ***Bɛnpaali 2016!***

Rebecca Oheneasah Hesse & Susan Wilcox

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

6 July 2016 - Launch

6-8pm

Greetings from Professor Benjamin Kankpeyeng (Head of Department of Archaeology & Heritage Studies, School of Arts, University of Ghana)

Featuring performances from Adoma and Jesse with a special film screening

7 July 2016 - Festival Activities

9:30-10:30am - Registration

10:30am

Welcome

Greetings from Professor Kodzo Gavua (Dean, School of Arts, University of Ghana)

11am-12:30pm - Co-Keynote Discussion

Insider & Outsider Perspectives on Contemporary Artivism

Featuring Veronica Quarshie & Alba Kanudu and moderated by Rebecca Oheneasah Hesse

12:30-1:30pm - Lunch

1:30-3:30pm - Workshops

Online Marketing & Distribution: Nicole Armateifio, writer/producer of *An African City*
Contemporary Music Videos: FoFo Gavua, filmmaker & music video director, 2015 winner of
Benpaali's Kwame Nkrumah Award for Visionary Creativity
The Future of Visual Effects: Peter Sampah, Special Effects
Creating a Reality with Artificial Spaces: Art Directing:
Tony Tometey, Art Director & Set Designer

3:30-4pm - Break

4-6pm - Film Screenings & Talkback

8 July 2016 - Festival Activities

9:30-10:30am - Registration

10-10:45am - Film Screenings & Talkback

11am-12:30pm - **Benpaali Conclave**

Audience Discussion on *Contemporary Artivism* featuring a screening of *Say Grace Before Drowning* by Nikyatu Jusu (Sierra Leone)

Moderated by David Addo Gyan & Zonke Guddah

12:30-1:30pm - Lunch

1:30-3:30pm - Workshops

Making a Career Out of Documentary Filmmaking: Anita Afonu, Documentary Filmmaker

Directing Your First Film: Peter Sedufia, Director

The Business of Animation: Francis Brown, Animator & 2016 winner of Benpaali's *Yaa Asantewaa Award for Blazing New Trails*

Packaging Content: Kofi Anthonio, Assistant Lecturer, Department of Dance Studies, University of Ghana

3:30-4pm - Break

4-6pm - Film Screenings & Talkback

9 July 2016 - Benpaali Awards

6-8pm

Welcome

Greetings from our Special Guests

Benpaali Awards

Yaa Asantewaa Award for Blazing New Trails

Kwame Nkrumah Award for Visionary Creativity

Theodosia Okoh Award for National Unity

Acknowledgements

Reception

FILM SCREENING SCHEDULE

7 July 4-6pm

A Piece for Peace - Richard Opoku Agyeman -

Elections can either support transition to more legitimate governance or lend artificial legitimacy to coercive regimes. *A Piece for Peace* is a campaign to facilitate open discussions on peace talks and contribute towards a peaceful election in the country. (3:10)

Homecoming - Fredrick Nii Ayi Mac-Arthur - A documentary film about a 15-year-old street boy in Accra, Ghana who has been on the street for a year and doesn't want to go home, until he faced with illness. (4:37)

Human Mirror 15:58

The Cracked Pot - Issaka Razahk - This animated short film was inspired by a story I believe was derived from Bible. It is inspirational, as it points out the significance of accepting our personal flaws and realizing how these flaws could be of importance to us and the people around us. (2:23)

Komabu-za - William Kojo Agbeti (11:59)

Nothing in Between 3:02

Soyaya 6:29

8 July 10-10:45am

Syria, My Love - Hayk Matevosyan - *Syria, My Love* is based on a true story of a Syrian-Armenian artist who, after losing his family in the civil war, refuses to abandon his studio in Aleppo before he can finish his final painting. As everything in the outside world crumbles outside the protagonist of this short film decides to intertwine together pain of loss and talent during the civil war as the white canvas slowly turns into a reflection of cherished memories long gone. (5:00)

Kids Safety 3:57

Edem (Saved Me) - Zenock Gyimah-Amponsah - Two friends Edem and Kwesi are warriors to a King. Their friendship is threatened when Edem is accused of stealing from the King. His friend Kwesi risk embarking on a dangerous journey to seek an enchanted stone that ends up resolving the truth behind Edem accusation. (8:23)

The Barber Guitarist - André Almeida Rodrigues -

A common barber of Padrão da Légua (Oporto) but prodigious in Fado, he has become one of the greatest names in Portuguese guitar history. (8:26)

Last Shot - Margaret Mensah - Andre, a handsome hit-and-run guy goes out with his fiancée Julliet, a workaholic from an affluent home, with the intention to propose marriage to her in order to get a position in her father's company. But things change when Julliet learns the truth about Andre. (6:30)

Youth & Sex - Nelson Christian Adarkwa - This is an outreach video for Marie Stopes International to evaluate the awareness of selected students of University of Ghana about sex education (5:52)

Gaxorzorzor - William Kojo Agbeti - A 7-year-old boy dreams to see a metal walking house (car) for the first time in his life after the grandfather tells him of seeing one moving. The boy becomes so passionate that he consults his deities about his wish. The story unfolds leading to an ironic conclusion with a cinematic twist. (12:03)

4-6pm

Illusion - Obrempong Prince Mensah - Enoch is a young coconut seller who lives in a dilapidated apartment falls in love with Asantewaa, the daughter of Mr. Forson, a rich politician. Asantewaa invites Enoch to her house in the absence of her parents. Enoch begins to contemplate as to whether to go or not leading to him creating several unrealistic scenarios in mind. (11:49)

Nubuke - Aryee Bismark Adamafio - *Nubuke* follows the life of a cured leper, Mr. John Ampao, from his training as a fine artist to his turmoil as a leper and his eventual triumph over the disease. After talking to Mr Ampao, I was inspired to tell his story and realized, among other things, the solution for every problem is within. (8:33)

Road to Sompre - Nelson Christian Adarkwa - (8:57)

The Wiper - Judith Yorm Aggor - The Wiper mirrors the lifestyle of street hawkers, their dreams and hopes. My inspiration was drawn from the high life song by Koo Nimo, Life is what you make it, that suggests our efforts can make life a living hell or a

glorious one. My character is determined to make his life better at whatever cost. (3:10)

He Never Forgets - Ohenewa Anno - *He Never Forgets* is about a toy elephant who seeks revenge on a man who has completely forgotten about the crimes he committed towards that elephant. On the surface the story is somewhat creepy and humorous, however the deeper message is all about the idea of trying to be aware of how you affect people and things around you. (2:16)

Piel Suave Ojos Violentos 7:49

The Treasure - Obrempong Prince Mensah - When 12-year-old Kundulu is fishing with his father, Nii, his father accidentally slips and falls into the rough sea to his death. Kundulu who is devastated by his father's

death but determined to find the unknown treasure his father always told him about. After many years of searching, Kundulu he isn't able to realize the treasure was a life lesson. (4:41)

Sex (God Over Me) - Karen Fosua Acheampong - Julia, 21, a naïve church girl gets pregnant by Winfred, 24, a rowdy guy. She takes a bold stand by keeping the baby, willing to face the stigma and pains associated with her pregnancy. (5:08)

Pandora's Box - Horla Manuvor - This film is about how the power of women has been infringed upon and encourages women to stand up and speak out because when they do, positive things happen to their society and the world as a whole. (3:30)

Monalisa 4:12

THANK YOU

Professor Kodzo Gavua, Dean, School of Arts,
College of Humanities
Professor Benjamin Kankpeyeng, Head of
Department of Archaeology & Heritage Studies,
School of Arts
Linus Abraham, Rector, NAFTI
Ramatu Dadzie, Dean of Studies, NAFTI
Hon. Abla Dzifa Gomashie, Deputy Minister for
Tourism, Culture and the Creative Arts

Individual Sponsors

Yinka Akinsulure-Smith, Hawthorne Smith, Jason Warwin, Katherine Wilcox, Gwynne Wilcox, Leigh Patel, Gabriela Fullon, Carla Shalaby & Thomas Nikundiwe, Sung Park, Alex Campo, Robyne Walker-Murphy, Ojalá A. Mwalimu, Kavitha Mediratta & Clay Smith, Tara Mack, Sean O'Connor, Lisa Powell, Gail Myers, Akua Gyamerah, Wendy Shepherd, Esther Ohito, Ruby Maddox, Anonymous

Our Team

Administrative Coordinator: Victoria Aryee Twum-Gyamrah
Logo, Graphics & Video Production: Daniel Azumah, David Addo Gyan
Social Media/Website: Mawuli Dagadu
Film Submission: Zonke Guddah
School & Corporate Outreach: Lotus Asare
General Support: Maame Beatrice Darko-Yeboah, Salim Berry, Patricia Ayibey

Our print partner is nikmaGus Consult.