

**African Movies @ The Jameson Dublin International Film Festival**  
**17<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

The Jameson Dublin International Film Festival, are proud to announce, as part of our prestigious international programme which includes a French and Latin American season, a variety of celebrated films from and about Africa.

The wonderful achievements of African cinema are revealed in a diverse programme including *Kinshasa Symphony*, a heartening, hopeful movie which dispels European stereotypes about Africa. Perhaps if you are interested in history, you could consider going for *Congo, an Irish Affair* - A director Brendan Culleton will attend the screening. And if you are a music lover, *Viva Riva!* is something for you: a story set in contemporary Democratic Republic of Congo full of intrigue, music and a surprisingly frank approach to sex.

Other titles include *Life, above All*, an adaptation of Allan Stratton's bestselling 2004 novel, *Chanda's Secrets*, and a winner of award in Cannes.

The Jameson Dublin International Film Festival would like to thank its funders and sponsors: Jameson, The Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon, Bord Scannán na hÉireann / the Irish Film Board, Fáilte Ireland, Cineworld, Renault, The Merrion Hotel, RTÉ 2FM, Windmill Lane, Wells Cargo and Entertainment.ie.

Jameson Dublin International Film Festival  
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Full listing of African Movies  
- [Kinshasa Symphony](#)

25 Feb 2011 - 16:15 (95 mins) at [Screen Cinema](#)

A heartening, hopeful movie which dispels European stereotypes about Africa, Claus Wischmann and Martin Baer's film shows how people living in one of the most chaotic cities in the world - Kinshasa, in the war-riven Democratic Republic of Congo - have managed to forge one of the most complex systems of human cooperation ever invented: a symphony orchestra.

Two hundred orchestral musicians are playing Orff's *Carmina Burana* in total darkness. A power cut has hit the Ngiri Ngiri district of Kinshasa, only a few bars before the last section of the work. Kinshasa's power stations and main networks are insufficient to supply electricity to all the nearly 10 million inhabitants in what is Africa's third-largest city. The film follows eight players from different walks of life, including an electrician, a street vendor, a hairdresser and a student, all under the direction of Armand Diangienda, conductor and founder of the orchestra.

Wischmann and Baer's beguiling and triumphant look at the players in the L'Orchestre Symphonique Kimbanguiste is more than just that; it combines the Congo, the people of Kinshasa and beautiful music into "an ode to joy" - The Economist  
Vancouver Film Festival  
Presented in cooperation with the Goethe-institut Irland

- [Benda Bilili](#) 24 Feb 2011 - 18:15 (86 mins) at [Screen Cinema](#)

They should top the list of life's losers. In the war-torn Democratic Republic of Congo, Papa Ricky and his mates are victims of childhood polio, getting about in makeshift wheelchairs and sleeping rough with their families on the street at night. They don't have much in earthly possessions but they do have talent. From their challenging backgrounds; their love of music brings them together. As members of Staff Benda Bilili, they rehearse their bluesy, wondrous songs about overcoming the trials of life in the relative quiet of the Kinshasa zoo. One day they are discovered by French film-makers Renaud Barret and Florent de la Tullaye, who are blown away by their talent. They introduce them to talented teenager Roger, who survives on the streets with the help of an instrument made with a tin can and a string and who soon becomes the band's 'little soloist'. Together, the band avoids the pitfalls of the street, stay united and eventually, meet with international success. The five-year struggle to release an album and tour Europe forms the narrative of this unforgettable, tremendously moving film, destined to become a music doc classic.

Sheffield Documentary Festival

"This is a remarkable documentary and a music film that is utterly exceptional."  
The Telegraph

- [Viva Riva](#) 22 Feb 2011 - 19:15 (96 mins) at [Screen Cinema](#)

Viva Riva! is unprecedented: a story set in contemporary Democratic Republic of Congo full of intrigue, music and a surprisingly frank approach to sex.

Riva is an operator, a man with charm and ambition in equal measure. With petrol in short supply in DRC's capital, he and his sidekick pursue a plot to get hold of a secret cache – barrels of fuel they can sell for a huge profit. Of course they're not the only ones who want the stuff. Cesar is a ruthless, sharply dressed foreigner thriving in Kinshasa's lawless streets. A female military officer joins the fray. But Riva's main nemesis is Azor, a crime boss in the classic style: big, decadent and brutal. He's not a man to mess with, but his girlfriend, Nora, may just be the most seductive woman in all of DRC.

Shooting in high definition, Munga saturates the film with rich colour and movement. As the film roves from Azor's luxury lair, to lush scenes outside the city, to the dens where sin is for sale, Viva Riva! offers a contemporary portrait of urban Africa rarely seen on screen.  
Cameron Bailey,

Toronto International Film Festival

- [Isztambul](#) (21 Feb 2011 - 18:30 (90 mins) at [Cineworld](#)

Ferenc Török's Isztambul details the story of a man who leaves his middle-aged wife after thirty years of marriage. Katalin's crisis is received with indifference by friends and family alike. Her environment considers her mentally ill and she is taken to a hospital where she

is sedated. Her husband and daughter both think she is feigning this temporary hysterical condition and she soon becomes a burden to them which makes them feel rather ashamed. Katalin runs away from the hospital and, making a spur of the moment decision, heads for Istanbul. Her teenage son – ever the rebellious hero, angry at his father and sister – follows his fleeing mother.

In Isztambul, Katalin's destiny crosses paths with that of a lonely Muslim man. Newfound love liberates the woman's emotions and she blooms, if only ephemerally; her son's unexpected appearance stirs her temper, seething below the surface. In the disconcerted situation mother does not recognise son, as if attempting to eradicate her previous life completely.

Can an individual make independent decisions despite family binds? Does anyone have the right to fulfill one's ego at the expense of others? Török has created a masterful journey into the travails of emotional illness, dysfunctional families and the role of older women in modern society.

Colm McAuliffe,

Jameson Dublin International Film Festival

**Ferenc Török will attend the screening**

- [Life, Above All](#) (20 Feb 2011 - 20:30 (106 mins) at [Cineworld](#)

With this stunning adaptation of Allan Stratton's bestselling 2004 novel, Chanda's Secrets, Oliver Schmitz makes his long-awaited return to feature filmmaking, ten years after giving us the riveting Hijack Stories.

In a breakout performance, twelve-year-old newcomer Khomotso Manyaka plays Chanda, a young girl who must maintain the facade of a normal life amidst utter instability. Her stepfather is an alcoholic, her mother is sick, her newborn sister has recently died and the spread of AIDS is ravaging her quaint South African township.

Life, Above All features a strong supporting cast that includes Keaobaka Makanyane, who plays Chandra's less principled friend Esther; Harriet Manamela as the town elder; and Lerato Mvelase as Chanda's sick and guilt-ridden mother. Equal praise goes to the vivid camerawork of Bernhard Jasper and to Dennis Foon's winning screenplay, which fulfills the task of turning a beloved pager-tuner into a motion picture that feels wholly original. Life, Above All, which **won a prize in Cannes**, is, despite the tragic subject matter that explores cultural customs, adolescence and religion through the lens of a pandemic, instilled with a keen sense of understanding and emotional gravitas that is at once artful, immersive and accessible.

Michèle Maheux,

Toronto International Film Festival

- [Congo - An Irish Affair](#) (a poignant study of the Irish-led 1961 UN peacekeeping mission to Katanga (see a separate press release). Director Brendan Culleton will be attending the screening.

As part of the screenings, we're inviting some of the film makers, who will be discussing their work and overall context (like war in Congo, or reality of life as a Muslim person in modern Turkey) - we would be delighted to see members of African & Muslim community attending these events!

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