



The Slum Film Festival

www.slumfilmfestival.org



Introduction

Slum Film Festival (SFF) is an annual event that showcases films made by filmmakers from slums and low-income areas around the world. The festival aims to create a platform for these filmmakers to tell their stories and showcase their talents to a wider audience.

Slum Film Festival was founded in 2011 by Federico Olivieri, who was the Cultural Cooperation Officer of the Embassy of Spain in Kenya at the time, and Josphat Keya, who was the Program Manager at Hot Sun Foundation and Kibera Film School.

It started as a small event that aimed to showcase films made by filmmakers from Kibera, one of the largest slums in Africa.

Over the years, the festival has grown and expanded its reach to other slums and low-income areas in Africa and beyond.

Slum Film Festival's mission is to promote and celebrate the creativity and resilience of filmmakers from slums and low-income areas around the world.

The festival aims to provide a platform for these filmmakers to tell their stories, showcase their talents, and connect with industry professionals and audiences.



Activities:

The festival showcases a wide range of films, including documentaries, short films, animations, and feature-length films.

In addition to film screenings, the festival also includes workshops, panel discussions, and networking events.

The festival's program is curated by a team of experienced filmmakers and industry professionals.

Impact:

Slum Film Festival has significantly impacted the filmmakers it serves. Many of the films showcased at the festival have gone on to win awards and gain international recognition, such as Tales From The Slums, winner of SFF 2015, which made its debut at the Cannes Film Festival in 2016.

The festival has also helped to create opportunities for filmmakers from slums and low-income areas to connect with industry professionals, access funding, and develop their skills.

Slum Film Festival is an inspiring initiative that empowers filmmakers from marginalised communities around the world. By creating a platform for their voices to be heard, the festival has helped to raise awareness of important social issues and promote greater understanding and empathy.

The Organisation

The Slum Film Festival is an independent organisation, whose goal is to develop a network of partnerships with media production groups, organise film awards, facilitate and organise film screenings and conduct other film and arts-related events across Africa's informal settlements, promoting and sharing slum stories from across the world, and becoming a key network for the distribution of films made by and about slum communities.

Having run as a project of 2 media organisations [Slum TV and Hotsun Foundation] for 3 years, Slum Film Festival has now registered as an independent Community-Based Organisation.





The Slum Film Festival does not aim to legitimise the existence of informal human settlements but to raise public attention to pertinent issues here while promoting and celebrating the creativity of the people who live in these communities.

The aims of the Slum Film Festival are:

- To offer a platform for films from slum communities to reach broader audiences, facilitate disenfranchised filmmakers in joining the international film circuit.

- To promote dialogue about life in slums that goes beyond stereotyping, using stories from slum communities to promote deeper perceptions about life in the slums. The Slum Film Festival demonstrates that slums are also a home for very talented, creative and culturally active artists.
- For the festival event to become a magnet for media attention, while changing media discourses about slum realities. This media presence can also allow mainstream media to acknowledge the presence of smaller slum-based media content producers, and promote new partnerships.
- To support the expansion of the festival into new slum locations, eventually became a networked festival for celebrating the diversity of Pan-African and global creativity.

Collaboration



The Slum Film Festival is grateful for the invaluable support of our donors, partners, and supporters who have played a crucial role in the success and growth of the Slum Film Festival (SFF).

We would like to acknowledge the initial partners of SFF, Hot Sun Foundation and Slum TV, whose collaboration and dedication have been instrumental in laying the foundation of our festival.

Additionally, we sincerely thank the Embassy of Spain, Kenya, for their generous support in our early stages. Their belief in our vision and mission has provided us with the necessary resources and opportunities to showcase the creative talent and stories emerging from the slums.

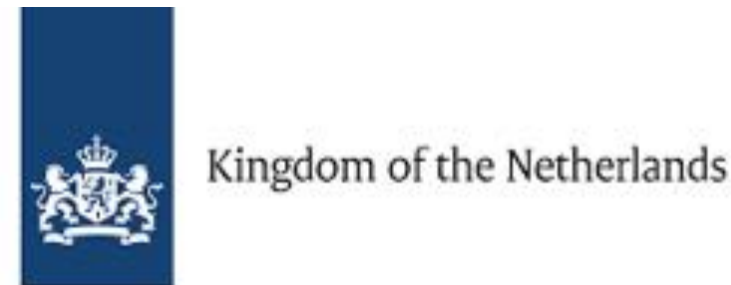
Donor support and partnerships have been vital to the sustainable operation of SFF and its ability to expand its reach. Through the financial contributions of our donors, we have been able to fund various aspects of the festival, including venue rentals, equipment, film screenings, and workshops. This support has allowed us to provide a platform for aspiring filmmakers from marginalised communities, empowering them to tell their stories and amplify their voices. Equally significant are the partnerships we have cultivated over the years. Collaborating with like-minded organisations and individuals has enabled us to tap into their expertise, networks, and resources, amplifying the impact of our initiatives. These partnerships have facilitated the exchange of knowledge, skills, and resources, resulting in innovative programming, mentorship opportunities, and greater outreach to marginalised communities.



Donor support and partnerships have not only enabled us to sustain the festival but have also been instrumental in expanding our reach. Together, we have been able to bring the transformative power of cinema to communities that are often marginalised, fostering dialogue, empathy, and social change.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to nurturing our existing partnerships while actively seeking new collaborations with organisations and individuals who share our vision of social transformation through the medium of film.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our donors, partners, and supporters for their unwavering belief in our mission and their continued dedication to the success of the Slum Film Festival. Through their support, we can continue to empower and uplift the voices of emerging filmmakers from the slums and create a more inclusive and diverse film industry.





Amina



Ronics




Success Stories

A Journey of Empowerment - Empowering Through Film Education

Ronald Omondi, affectionately known as 'Ronics' among his peers, is a talented 1st Assistant Cameraman and Focus Puller hailing from Nairobi, Kenya. His remarkable journey into the world of filmmaking began at the Slum Film Festival (SFF). Ronics had the opportunity to participate in one of SFF's Film Workshops, which proved to be a transformative experience.

The workshops, thoughtfully designed by SFF, provided participants with a crash course in storytelling through film. Ronics and his fellow trainees delved into the fundamentals of filmmaking, exploring areas such as scripting, camera work, editing, and distribution, particularly focusing on film festivals. The week-long training took place at the renowned Kibera Film School, a valued partner of SFF at that time.

Upon completing the workshop, Ronics' passion for filmmaking was ignited, fuelling his desire to tell stories from his unique perspective through the lens of a camera. Inspired by his newfound knowledge, he decided to enrol in the 6-month foundation course in filmmaking at Kibera Film School. Armed with the skills acquired at the SFF workshop, Ronics embarked on this immersive program, honing his craft and expanding his creative horizons.

A photograph showing three men at an outdoor event. On the left, a man in a light-colored shirt and jeans (Ronics) is receiving a certificate from a man in a grey hoodie and jeans (Federico Olivieri). A third man in a pink shirt stands between them, smiling. The background shows a white wall and some trees.

Ronics (left) receiving a certificate of completion (SFF Film Workshop) from Federico Olivieri at the SFF 2011 award ceremony in Kibera, Nairobi



After graduating from Kibera Film School six months later, Ronics began to focus primarily on on-camera work. He delved into photography, capturing moments of daily life & people from his neighbourhood and sharing them on his Facebook page. Through networking opportunities that arose along his journey, Ronics started landing small gigs that allowed him to further develop his skills. His inspiring story caught the attention of CNN International's cultural affairs program, "Inside Africa," hosted by Errol Barnett.

[<https://cnn.it/3Xs9INS>]

Today, Ronics is recognised as one of the most respected 1st AC and Focus Pullers in East Africa. His exceptional talent has led him to work on international TV commercials, documentaries, and music videos, showcasing his immense skill and artistic vision. Despite his professional achievements, Ronics remains humble and grounded, staying connected to his roots by visiting Kibera, the place he calls home.

Ronics' story is a testament to the transformative power of film education. Through the opportunities provided by SFF and Kibera Film School, Ronics has not only realised his potential as a filmmaker but has also made a positive impact in his community. He serves as an inspiration to aspiring filmmakers from marginalised communities.





Amina Rwimo's Journey of Triumph through SFF

Amina Rwimo's story is one of remarkable resilience and finding hope through film. She embodies the transformative power of recognition and how it can open doors for filmmakers from marginalised backgrounds. Her journey is a testament to triumph amidst adversity.

Amina's film, "It Has Killed My Mother," holds a deeply personal and poignant narrative. Set in the Kakuma Refugee Camp, where Amina resided as a refugee, the film explores the story of Lola, a young girl who underwent circumcision at the age of ten and later falls in love with a man named Karim. Tragically, Lola passes away after giving birth, leaving behind a powerful tale of resilience and loss.



This film marked Amina's second venture as a director and producer, and she submitted it to the Slum Film Festival (SFF) as her first entry to an international festival. The impact of her film was profound, as it garnered widespread acclaim and recognition. **At the SFF, "It Has Killed My Mother" earned Amina three prestigious awards: Best Script in a Feature Film, Best Film 2016, and Best Actress.** The joy and validation Amina experienced on that memorable day will forever remain etched in her heart. It was a testament to her unwavering dedication and hard work paying off. [Click to Listen: <https://bit.ly/3XuWoZa>]

The significance of Amina's achievement extended beyond the awards themselves. **Before the awarding ceremony, Amina had the opportunity to share her personal story and the inspiration behind her film during the SFF media tours of the nominees.** The local media captured her captivating journey, spreading her story even further. The recognition she received at SFF ignited a newfound zeal within Amina, motivating her to submit her film to other esteemed film festivals. "It Has Killed My Mother" went on to win several more awards, including recognition at the Zanzibar International Film Festival. **Amina's impact extended beyond the film industry. She was invited to speak at TEDx Kakuma Camp, where she passionately shared her journey of resilience, creativity, and the transformative power of film.** Her story touched the hearts of many, serving as an inspiration to others facing similar challenges. [Watch: <https://bit.ly/AminaTEDxKakuma>]



Amina Rwimo's story is a testament to the transformative power of recognition and the boundless potential of filmmakers from marginalised backgrounds. Her resilience, creativity, and unwavering dedication have propelled her forward, opening doors and inspiring others along the way.

Throughout her remarkable journey, Amina Rwimo's connection to the Slum Film Festival (SFF) remains a pivotal element in her success. As a participant in SFF, Amina's film journey took a significant leap forward. The festival's commitment to showcasing and celebrating the work of talented filmmakers like Amina ensured that her story reached a wider audience, transcending geographical and social boundaries.

The festival served as a platform that embraced diversity, amplifying the voices of filmmakers from marginalised communities and providing them with opportunities to shine.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS (2016 - 2019)

Nairobi Film Center to host the 9th edition of Slum Film Festival

<https://bit.ly/NFCSFF2019>

Slum Film Festival - cinema and culture in the slums

<https://bit.ly/WFSFF2019>

Cultures of Resistance - Slum Film Festival [2019]

<https://bit.ly/CORSFF2019>

Vaimanik, short film set in Mumbai, to be screened at Kenya's Slum Film Festival

<https://bit.ly/IESFF2018>

"Mwavita, nata in tempo di guerra" vince lo Slum Film Festival di Nairobi - InsideOver

<https://bit.ly/IOSFF2018>

Through Our Eyes: Emerging refugee film makers tell their stories

<https://bit.ly/UNSFF2017>

Slum Film Festival to Launch G-Involve Film Project

<https://bit.ly/MAWSFF2017>

Kenya's Nairobi gears up for slum film festival - Xinhua

<https://bit.ly/XNSFF2017>

Slum Film Festival de Nairobi lleva a barrios chabolistas a la gran pantalla

<https://bit.ly/SPNSFF2017>

7ª edición del Slum Film Festival

<https://bit.ly/SPSFF2017>

Two New Film Festivals Worth Noting

<https://bit.ly/NFSFF2016>

TNT journalist wins Africa rising video award

<https://bit.ly/TNTSFF2016>

SIGNIS - Sixth edition of the Slum Film Festival

<https://bit.ly/SIGSFF2016>

PIANETA AFRICA presenta i documentari "Opeyemi" e "Slum Dreams" premiati allo Slum Film Festival 2016.

<https://bit.ly/ITLSFF2016>

6th Slum Film Festival Goes Down in Ngara

<https://bit.ly/GMSFF2016>

Appel à candidatures pour le Slum Film Festival

<https://bit.ly/DKSFF2016>

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS (2014 - 2015)

Kenya Film Festival Aims to 'Change Story' of Slums

<https://bit.ly/VOASFF2015>

Films Without Borders heads to Slum Film Festival

<https://bit.ly/FWBSFF2025>

He Had One Week To Make A Movie For The Slum Film Festival

<https://n.pr/442EVtL>

The Slum Film Festival in Nairobi: Exploring cinematic representation from the urban margins

<https://bit.ly/FEDSFF2015>

The 5th Annual Slum Film Festival (SFF): Call for entries

<https://bit.ly/WOASFF2015>

CHALLENGING THE PERCEPTION OF SLUMS – THE SLUM FILM FESTIVAL

<https://bit.ly/VASFF2015>

Barrios chabolistas de Nairobi tienen mucho que decir en Slum Film Festival

<https://bit.ly/ESPSFF2015>

Inizia a Nairobi lo Slum Film Festival, il riscatto delle periferie - Rai News

<https://bit.ly/RNSFF2015>

Kenya – Al via lo Slum film festival di Nairobi

<https://bit.ly/LIASFF2015>

Barrios chabolistas de Nairobi tienen mucho que decir en Slum Film Festival

<https://bit.ly/SPSFF2015>

State agency joins list of Slum Film backers - Business Daily

<https://bit.ly/BDSFF2014>

Slum Film Festival Call For Entries! - Ghafla!

<https://bit.ly/GHSFF2014>

Winners of Slum Film Festival headed for big screens

<https://bit.ly/NMGSFF2014>

Slum Film Festival, un cine hecho desde y sobre las favelas africanas

<https://bit.ly/SPSSFF2014>

Slum Film Festival, un cine hecho por, desde y sobre las favelas africanas - San Diego Union-Tribune en Español

<https://bit.ly/SDUSFF2014>

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS (2012 - 2013)

VIDEO LINKS

The Slum Film Festival. “African slums on the reel”
<https://bit.ly/WRKASFF2013>

2nd Edition of Slum Film Festival | Nairobi Now
<https://bit.ly/NNSFF2012>

Slum Film Festival: Prozor u svijet sirotinjskih četvrti
<https://bit.ly/ESSFF2012>

‘Slum Film Festival’ showcases urban stories(视频)
<https://bit.ly/CDSFF2012>

Slum Film Festival ohrabruje filmske djelatnike iz siromašnih četvrti
Nairobija
<https://bit.ly/BOSSFF2012>

Slum Film Festival in Nairobi, Kenya & Cameroon's La Patrie d'abord film
<https://bit.ly/ANSFF2016>

'Tales from the Slums' of Kenya opens in Cannes Film Festival | Al Jazeera
English
<https://bit.ly/AESFF2016>

The slum film festival
<https://bit.ly/KTNSFF2014>

Viewing the slum life through the lenses of a camera. - CGTN Africa
<https://bit.ly/CGSFF2013>

Slum Film Festival Encourages Filmmakers from Nairobi Slums
<https://bit.ly/VACSFF2012>

Slum Film Festival ohrabruje filmske djelatnike iz siromasnih cetvrti Nairobija
(VIDEO)
<https://bit.ly/BVSFF2012>



Maxwell Odhiambo (centre, holding camera)



"Filmmaking isn't just an important tool — it is the best tool to address the issues that are affecting us and relay them to the whole world."

Maxwell Odhiambo,
SFF 2015 Film Lab
trainee

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