

# African Movie Festival in Manitoba Set to Rock Winnipeg Arts and Culture Scene in May 2018

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- Inaugural African Movie Festival in Manitoba (AM-FM) hosts panel discussion on *African Cinema and Multiculturalism in Canada*.
- Dr. Sheila Petty presents a keynote on the *Past, Present and Future of African Cinema: Implications for Canada*.

WINNIPEG, Manitoba (April 12, 2018)... Manitoba African Film Festival Inc. today announced that the inaugural **African Movie Festival in Manitoba (AM-FM)** happens on **May 4 and 5, 2018**, at Cinematheque. The festival combines film, food, dance and networking to provide a rich context for diversity and cross-cultural dialogue.

‘We are thrilled about the potential of this initiative. It is absolutely inconceivable to think that for all these years, there hasn’t been a film festival specifically dedicated to African films in Manitoba, a prominent art and culture province, like those held in Montreal and Toronto. Film lovers in the prairie region have been shortchanged for far too long,’ said **Dr. Ben Akoh**, the Executive Director of the non-profit, Manitoba African Film Festival Inc. ‘Here is an opportunity to enjoy good African content, food, and a platform to dialogue cross-cultural and diversity issues for Manitoba and Canada’s benefit,’ he added.

**Dr. Brenda Austin-Smith**, Department Head of English, Theatre, Film and Media at the University of Manitoba, a member of the advisory committee to the festival said, ‘I am excited at the birth of AM-FM. AM-FM is an opportunity for academics to engage with the cultural community on important socio-cultural issues in our province and beyond.’

**Carole Vivier**, CEO & Film Commissioner at Manitoba Film & Music said, ‘Winnipeg’s arts and culture scene is incredibly diverse. AM-FM celebrates this diversity while providing a platform to advance treaty co-productions between Canada and African countries.’

For many years to come, the festival will treat Canadians to award-winning films and documentaries from Africa. The inaugural edition is history in the making.