

COMING SOON TO YOUR SCREENS: ON ARCHIVES, LEGACIES AND NEW WAVES OF SUDANESE CINEMA

FILM SCREENING & DISCUSSION 22.11.-24.11.2017

S A V V Y CONTEMPORARY
THE LABORATORY OF FORM-IDEAS





CONCEPT

In the 60's, 70's and 80's, Sudan was at the cutting edge of filmmaking in Africa. Gadalla Gubara, a lesser known pioneer of African cinema, realised over 50 documentary and feature film productions and made some of the continent's best-known films. He incepted Khartoum's first film studio, *Studio Gad* and is a founding father of the Pan-African Federation of Filmmakers FEPACI and the FESPACO festival in Burkina Faso. Today Sudan is once again entering a new arena of filmmaking. The first ever film festival in the country, the Sudan Independent Film Festival (SIFF) has been launched in Khartoum in 2014, showcasing quality Sudanese and international films each year. Focused on independent cinema as a form of artistic expression for social debate and change, it has set out to diversify Western cinema paradigms by establishing itself as a platform celebrating African culture and aesthetics.

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CINEMA digs into the archives and traces the
glorious legacy to present-day new waves of contemporary
Sudanese cinema.

The first screening of the digitalised version of Gadalla's first feature film *Tajouje* (1977) in Berlin will mark the opening of the programme on November 22nd at Arsenal Cinema. The Arsenal – Institute of Film and Video Art together with Katharina von Schroeder and Nadja Korinth have, over the past years, realised an extensive project dedicated to the preservation and digitalisation of the film holdings of Gadalla Gubara, produced at Khartoum's famous *Studio Gad*. The film will be presented by his daughter Sara Gadalla who lives and works as a filmmaker in Khartoum. Gadalla's final master piece *Les Misérables* will be screened on the second night, November 23rd at SAVVY Contemporary in attendance of Sara Gadalla. On the final evening, November 24th we will exit the archive and screen a curated night of five short films followed by a conversation on present-day Sudanese film production, cinematic state of the art and future directions with the curator of the programme Talal Afifi.

TALAL AFIFI 1976 is a Sudanese film curator, creative producer, and the founder and director of Sudan Film Factory, a production house and film culture platform that works since 2010 in empowering and building youth capacities in the field of documentation, filmmaking and freedom of expression. He is the founder and president of Sudan Independent Film Festival since 2014 and art manager of Karmakol International Festival. He is also a member of the executive committee of the Sudanese Writers' Union. Previously working in cultural management in Egypt and Sudan, he also managed the production of a variety of documentaries and short films between 2010–2017, in addition to supervising filmmaking workshops and training in Sudan. Afifi is interested in further developing the independent filmmaking industry and supporting new modes of documentary production and presentation.

GADALLA GUBARA is one of the less well-known pioneers of African cinema. He ran the first film studio in Sudan and was co-founder of both the Pan-African Federation of Filmmakers FEPACI and the FESPACO festival (Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso). His oeuvre spans feature films, reports, educational documentaries, advertising films and home movies. He documented Sudan's political and social developments for over 50 years, from independence in 1956 via the phase of socialist government and its policy of modernization all the way through to the proclamation of the Islamic Republic in 1983, equally capturing the obvious deterioration in conditions for filmmaking that went hand in hand with this development.

SARA GADALLA GUBARA lives and works in Khartoum. She has directed feature films, documentaries and animated films. She is a long distance swimmer, and has participated in local and international competitions. In addition, she advises NGOs on questions of gender and equal opportunities. Sara Gubara is a graduate of the Academy of Arts in Cairo. Her films have been presented at festivals in South Africa, Zanzibar, and Uganda.

PROJECT COORDINATION
Laura Klöckner & Elena Quintarelli

PROGRAM

22.11.2017

At Arsenal Cinema 1
Potsdamer Straße 2 10785 Berlin

21:00 TAJOUJE Gadalla Gubara
Sudan 1977 90 min Arabic with English
subtitles Berlin Premiere
WITH Sara Gadalla in attendance
The story of a man who openly expresses his
love for a woman (Tajouje) in a song. Because
this gesture of love is prohibited by village
custom, the man becomes a social outcast and
is forbidden from marrying Tajouje. After
repenting, he is permitted to pursue Tajouje. A
bitter rivalry soon develops between him and
another man, who has also asked for Tajouje's
hand in marriage.

23.11.2017

At SAVVY Contemporary
Plantagenstraße 31 13347 Berlin

19:00 KHARTOUM Gadalla Gubara
Sudan 1960 24 min
Arabic with English subtitles
WITH Sara Gadalla in attendance
A portrait of the capital city in the 60s, a tribute
to its streets, shops, architecture, fashion trends
and nightclubs.
LES MISÉRABLES Gadalla Gubara
Sudan 2006 112 min English
Berlin Premiere
WITH Sara Gadalla in attendance
An adaptation of Victor Hugo's famous novel by
the same name, Gadalla Gubara realised his final
film production in 2007 despite losing his eye
sight, thanks to the help of his daughter Sara
Gadalla, who assisted him in the filmmaking
process.

24.11.2017

At SAVVY Contemporary
Plantagenstraße 31 13347 Berlin

19:00 A CINEMATIC CONVERSATION
ON THE PRESENT AND FUTURE
OF SUDANESE SHORT FILMS
CURATED BY Talal Afifi
EMAN Mia Bittar 40 min
The story of four Sudanese people from different
walks of life who, through various circumstances
and for different reasons, are drawn towards
violent radicalization. Their stories intercut
throughout the film but the characters never meet.
NYERKUK Mohamed Kordofani 19 min
After having lost his father in an air raid, "Adam",
a ten years old child, is forced to flee to the city.
To survive, he becomes a skilful burglar, the
best and the most envied. Things become
complicated when Adam decides to free himself
from his boss and turns over a new leaf...
TASAMI Tarig Suliman 7 min
From the heart of Omdurman, the national
capital of Sudan, and from inside the ring of
remembrance, groups of kind souls gather and
blend, eager to discover a new depth into their
souls and on to salvation. Their bodies, like
coffee beans, stir to the heated rhythms of the
"Noba".
STUDIO Amjad Abu Alala 8 min
Studio full of different faces and souls searching
for the moment of happiness. A strange man
visits the studio to meet with the young lonely
photographer...
VEGANIZE Khalid Salem 8 min
Bakr has made a life-changing decision. Little
does he know that his newly founded decision is
going to shake the very core of his relationships
with the people around him.

S A V V Y Contemporary – The laboratory of form-ideas is an art space, discursive platform, place for good talks, foods and drinks – a space for conviviality. S A V V Y Contemporary situates itself at the threshold of notions of the West and non-West, to understand and deconstruct them. S A V V Y Contemporary has realized a kaleidoscope of art exhibitions, performances, film screenings, lectures, concerts, readings, talks, dances. SAVVY Contemporary has established a participatory archive on German colonial history, a performance arts documentation centre, a library, a residency program, as well as educational projects with schools. The art space engages in its neighborhood's history and socio-political realities which are entangled with the reflections and discourses of the project.

S A V V Y Contemporary is Elena Agudio Antonia Alampí Jasmina Al-Qaisi Aouefa Amoussouvi Víctor Arráez Lynhan Balatbat Juan Blanco Marleen Boschen Federica Buetti Pia Chakraverti-Wuerthwein Olani Ewunnet Raisa Galofre Johanna Gehring Andrea Gyimesi Sol Izquierdo Anna Jäger Cornelia Knoll Saskia Köbschall Kelly Krugman Nathalie Mba Bikoro Kamila Metwaly Gwen Mitchell Bonaventure Soh Bejeng Ndikung Abhishek Nilamber Beya Othmani Elena Quintarelli Marleen Schröder Jörg-Peter Schulze Lema Sikod Lili Somogyi Jorinde Spletstößer Marlon Van Rooyen Laura Voigt Elsa Westreicher Johanna Wild

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