



African Studies Film Club

Centre of Latin American Studies AV Room

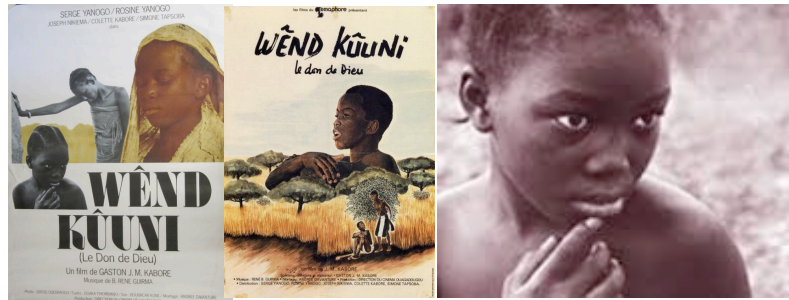
Alison Richard Building, 7 West Road



Movie Programme Michaelmas Term 2013

Wednesdays, 13.30-15.30

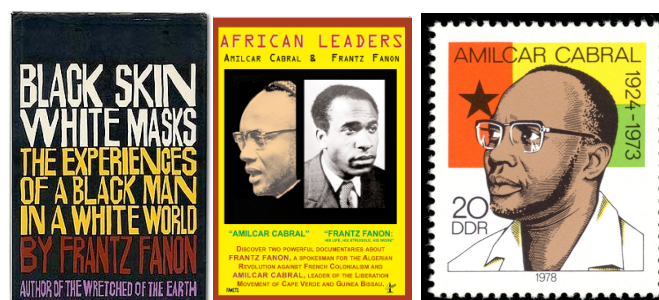
16 October: *Wend Kuuni: God's Gift* (Burkina Faso, 1982), 70 minutes



This international award-winning film, directed by Gaston Kaboré, offers us a fable of a mute, memory-less orphan, found and adopted by members of an African village. Renamed "Wend Kuuni", or "God's Gift," the boy finds safety and recovers his ability to communicate among his newly adopted family and village - despite flashbacks that reveal his mother's fate after abject rejection by her own community.

Set before the coming of Islam and Christianity, and unveiled through the rhythmic compositions of African oral storytelling, *Wend Kuuni* has been declared a landmark in African filmmakers' attempts to "return to the sources" of their cultures and histories, so as to recover a "usable" African past to solve the problems of the African present.

30 October: *African Leaders: Amilcar Cabral & Frantz Fanon* (Portugal/Cape Verde; France/Algeria, 2001), 2 X 52 minutes



These two documentaries offer a portrait of two anti-colonial thinkers in the struggle for Africa's liberation from colonial rule. In *Amilcar Cabral*, director Ana Lucia Ramos Lisboa uses rare archival footage to chronicle the life of an African freedom fighter. An agronomist by training, Cabral founded the African Party for the Independence of Guinea Bissau and Cape Verde (PAIGC) in 1956, and later led an armed struggle against the Portuguese regime before his assassination in 1973. Today, Cabral remains highly regarded for his intellectual contributions towards formulating a coherent cultural, philosophical and historical theoretical framework to justify and explain independence movements.

In ***Frantz Fanon: His Life, His Struggle, His Work***, director Cheikh Djemai uncovers and interviews former associates of Frantz Fanon, a Martinique-born, French Creole psychiatrist, philosopher and revolutionary. In the course of his work as a physician and psychiatrist, Fanon supported the Algerian war of independence from France, and was a member of the Algeria's National Liberation Front (FLN). In his classic texts *Black Skin, White Masks* and *The Wretched of the Earth*, Fanon documented the negative psychological effects of colonial subjugation upon the colonised and argued violence was legitimate to achieve liberation.

13 November: *Hyenas* (Senegal, 1992), 113 minutes



Directed by Djibril Diop Mambety, ***Hyenas*** presents an intimate parable of love and revenge, which parallels a critique of neocolonialism and African consumerism. It tells the story of Linguere Ramatou, an aging woman "as rich as the World Bank" who returns to the village of her birth in Senegal. Once prosperous, Colobane has fallen further into poverty year by year, and the elders hope that Linguere will be their saviour and benefactor. To encourage her generosity, they appoint a man who once courted her as Mayor. But, as Linguere showers air conditioners, refrigerators and televisions upon the villagers, she seeks also retribution for a past betrayal.

27 November: *Ezra* (France/Nigeria/USA/UK, 2007), 110 minutes



Ezra, a young Sierra Leonean ex-fighter, is struggling to find his bearings and return to a normal life after the civil war that laid waste to his country. His everyday life is divided between a psychological rehabilitation centre and a national reconciliation tribunal. He takes no responsibility for the atrocities he committed, rationalising that he was a soldier, and soldiers kill, so why should he be brought before the tribunal?

Ezra is acclaimed for giving an African perspective on the role of child soldiers in the continent's recent civil wars. Directed by Newton Aduaka, in 2007 it was awarded the Grand Prize FESPACO, Africa's largest and most prestigious film event.

The African Studies Film Club is a core component of the University of Cambridge MPhil in African Studies. Screenings are held in the CLAS AV Room in the ARB, on every second Wednesday during Michaelmas Term, from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. All members of the University are welcome to attend and to join in our post-film discussions.

For enquiries, please contact the MPhil Course Director, Dr Ruth Watson (riw21@cam.ac.uk)