



PRESS RELEASE

Africa in Motion hosts pioneering Malawian filmmaker

Africa creates history with the screening of Malawian filmmaker Villant Ndasowa's *The Mystery Mountain* – the first Malawian film ever to be screened outside of Malawi. This groundbreaking film screening is made more significant by the attendance of the filmmaker at the AiM film festival; a visit that has been made possible by the Scotland Malawi Partnership.

Malawi has an almost non-existent film industry: gathering the equipment and staff needed to make a film is extremely challenging and there are very few Malawians knowledgeable about filmmaking; national television in Malawi is only 8 years old.

Villant is an independent filmmaker and one of the first properly trained filmmakers in Malawi. Yet Villant's film shows international audiences the unique beauty of her country, despite the economic difficulties and other problems Malawi is experiencing. Villant is also endeavoring to screen *The Mystery Mountain* to Malawian audiences as well, which will require her to travel across the country with a projector as unbelievably there are no cinemas in Malawi.

Given important links and official partnering between Scotland and Malawi, the presence of Ms Ndasowa at the Africa in Motion festival has further significance. Ms Ndasowa will not only be talking to audiences at AiM about her work in Malawi, but will also take part in other official events, visiting film institutions, schools, and other organisations involved and interested in collaborative projects between Scotland and Malawi.

The inaugural Africa in Motion festival took place in 2006 in the belief that despite the wealth of films being made on the African continent, African cinema is consistently under-represented and marginalised in film distribution and exhibition world-wide. Africa in Motion 06 was described by Edinburgh-based film critic and AiM advisor Mark Cousins as, 'one of the best programmes of films ever to be shown in Scotland'.

This year's programme will consist of more than 30 brilliant and thought-provoking African films from all over the continent – features, documentaries and shorts - from pioneering African filmmakers to young and emerging contemporary directors. Villant Ndasowa will be just one of eight filmmakers from across Africa who will be in attendance at Africa in Motion 2007 to talk about their work.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

For all press enquires, or to arrange an interview with one of the African filmmakers at AiM, please contact Kirsty Dickson kirsty@africa-in-motion.org.uk 07917 431609

For more general information on AiM, and for details on the festival programme, please visit www.africa-in-motion.org.uk Biographies of filmmakers in attendance at AiM are available online at www.africa-inmotion.org.uk/filmmakers.html. Film stills and filmmaker portraits are available to download from www.africa-in-motion.org.uk/press

The Mystery Mountain - UK Premiere

Tue 30 Oct at 3:45pm | Edinburgh College of Art, Main Lecture Theatre (E22)

(Villant Ndasowa | Malawi 2007 | 30m | DVD | English)

The Mystery Mountain is a story of how and why people disappear on Mount Mulanje in Malawi and the reactions and beliefs of those who are seeing it happen. Some people have gone missing and never returned, some have returned with strange stories to tell of their experience.

Villant Ndasowa gained a BA (Hons) degree in Media Production (Film and Television) at Middlesex University and the University of Luton in 2006. After completing her studies in the UK, Villant returned to Malawi where she has been involved in pioneering efforts to develop the film industry. Ms Ndasowa has worked for Malawian Television for over 6 years, and has been involved in both local and international documentary productions for television. She has also worked on various film projects, including short film productions and experimental audio-visual work in both Malawi and the UK.

The **Scotland Malawi Partnership** is an independent charitable membership organisation with over 230 members. It exists to inspire people and organisations of Scotland to be involved with Malawi in an informed, coordinated and effective way so that both nations benefit. It aims to foster links between the two nations, and encourage development of sustainable projects in Malawi. For

enquires about the Scotland Malawi Partnership please contact Leo Williams
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