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JGPACA NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Ragamuffin (1989) + Q&A

The Ritzy Cinema, 12 Dec 2024 at 7:00pm



The June Givanni Pan African Cinema Archive in collaboration with The Ritzy are pleased to present a rare screening of Amani Naphtali's seminal and groundbreaking 1989 theatrical production (Ragamuffin) which was staged at Ovalhouse (now Brixton Theatre). The screening will be followed by a discussion between curator June Givanni and

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"Calling all Ragamuffins,

It is with a great sense of pride, honour and cultural fulfilment that we bring Ragamuffin to the Brixton Ritzy. I remember the packed Oval House theatre, and the communities of Angel Town and Stockwell Park estates who flooded down Brixton Road and filled the theatre to bursting, kicking off a fantastic pioneering run and some historic nights of Dancehall ritualistic theatre. To return to Brixton with this filmed recording of our Stratford east performance affords me the opportunity to reintroduce the play to new and old generations, allowing them to once again, experience the production. Like a good wine, Raga doesn't seem to get old, it just gets better, a classic of African British Theatre and a vintage production that still resonates today."

—Amani Naphtali, writer and Director.

Ragamuffin is a man on trial. In the 'Supreme Court of Afrikan Justice' he has been indicted for his role in criminalising the black community. Now he is defended as a disaffected revolutionary. Eventually he will be celebrated as a symbol of young black urban experience. During the course of Ragamuffin's allegorical trial, the Court is asked to consider the historical significance of the Haitian slave revolution of 1804 as well as the events leading up to the Broadwater Farm uprising. The parodic drama reveals the conflicting realities for black youth in contemporary Britain and ultimately leaves the audience – aka the jury – to decide Ragamuffin's fate.

Amani Naphtali is a trained dramatist, writer, director, and filmmaker. He was the founder member and Artistic Director of the ground-breaking Double Edge Theatre Company. He is a dedicated exponent of the African Ritualistic genre and a pioneer of Multi Genre interdisciplinary practice. Naphtali has directed musicals, films, and dance productions, including his seminal reggae musical, Ragamuffin, which was first staged at Oval House. Amani also wrote the book for the West End musical Daddy Cool. In addition to Ragamuffin, his theatre productions also include The Remnant, Valley of the Blind, Song of Songs, and Vibes from the Scribes.

[Book a ticket here](#)

→ **PAST EVENTS**

Sir John Akomfrah in Conversation with Abderrahmane Sissako,
moderated by June Givanni



We were delighted to be such an active part of this years Film Africa in late October and early November. Aside from the diverse and enriching programme, a highlight of the festival (for us) was our founder and director June Givanni's incredible 'sold out' conversation with Sir John Akomfrah and Abderrahmane Sissako at Ciné Lumière. Together they explored at length the complexity and genius of Sissako's 2006 film Bamako. One to be watched again and again!

Memories of Love Returned (2024)

MayDay Rooms, 01 Nov 2024 at 6:00pm



We were honoured to host a special screening of *Memories of Love Returned* (2024) with an introduction and Q+A with writer and director, Ntare Guma Mbaho Mwine, which was also shown as part of this years Film Africa.

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