

Eighth Annual Africana Film Series

February 7, 14, and 21, 2012

Student Center, Room 202

Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

February 7 at 7:00 p.m.

Four Years across Africa by Bike

An image-film with soundtrack of Associate Professor and Film Series Host Kevin Hickey's four-year bike trip through 24 countries of Africa from North Africa, across the Sahara to West Africa, then Central Africa, East Africa, and finally down to the southernmost tip of the continent. The film will be followed by a short question-and-answer period, and then the film *Umgidi*.



Umgidi ("Shadow Dancing")

This film centers on the traditional Xhosa coming-of-age celebration called "umgidi" (18% of South Africans are Xhosa). Traditionally when a Xhosa boy reaches the age of 18 he is circumcised, and when sufficiently healed there is an umgidi (or "manhood") celebration. This film looks at the conflicts between tradition and "modernity" as manifested in two brothers. This film won the "Award of Excellence" at the 2005 Society for Visual Anthropology Film and Video Festival. It was filmed by documentary filmmaker Gillian Schutte (see photo) who is the real-life wife of the elder brother.



February 14 at 7:00 p.m.

Drumming Performance by Senegalese Drummer Babacar Biaye

Si-Gueriki ("The Queen Mother")

After living in Germany and France for 10 years, film director Idrissou Mora Kpai returns to his West African homeland to make a film about his father who was a member of the royal family of the Borgu people of northern Benin. To his surprise, he instead ends up making a film about his mother and female relatives as he discovers the world of Borgu women. This film is a sensitive document to a man's discovery of a world he grew up in but never knew.



February 21 at 7:00 p.m.

Long Night's Journey into Day: South Africa's Search for Truth and Reconciliation



Grand Prize Winner for Best Documentary at the 2000 Sundance Film Festival, 2000 Academy Award Nominee for Best Documentary feature, and ALA Booklist's Editor's Choice Award for best video of 2000 (among other awards). This film documents four stories following whites, blacks, mothers, sisters, and even the parents of an American killed during a riot in South Africa. Emotional, illuminating, and worth seeing for anyone interested in understanding violence, ethics, justice, forgiveness, and how to think about the century ahead.



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