Academic and filmmaker Samba Gadjigo teaches the seminar “African cinema and the invention of Africa on screen” at the UA

The meeting will take place on Monday, November 9th, at 12 noon, in the lecture hall of the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters.

Alicante. Friday, November 6, 2026

The Faculty of Philosophy and Letters at the University of Alicante (UA) is hosting the seminar “ African Cinema and the Invention of Africa on Screen: From Colonial Images to African Self-Representation .” The seminar, led by academic Samba Gadjigo, is part of the Shakara Fáyé 2026 – 1st African Film Festival in Alicante, which takes place from November 7th to 14th at various venues in Alicante, Elche, and San Vicente del Raspeig.



Samba Gadjigo is a Senegalese academic, writer, and filmmaker considered the world's leading authority on the life and work of Ousmane Sembène, known as the "Father of African Cinema." In addition to being a professor of Francophone Studies and Literature at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts (USA), Gadjigo is the author of Sembène's official biography and co-director, with Jason Silverman, of the documentary *Sembène!.* This opening film by Shakara Fáyé was selected for festivals such as Cannes, where it was nominated for the Caméra d'Or, Sundance, and Hot Docs. Gadjigo's work focuses on the recovery of African historical memory, education, and self-representation through audiovisual language.

Under the motto "An intercultural eclipse", the Shakara Fáyé festival proposes a look at contemporary African cinema and its diasporas, with a program that seeks to broaden perspectives, question stereotypes and generate spaces of encounter through cinema and culture.

The film festival features 11 films, eight panel discussions with 10 guest speakers, three educational activities, theater, and live music, with the participation of more than 20 organizations. Its activities will take place in venues such as the Alicante Museum of Contemporary Art (MACA), the University of Alicante, the Miguel Hernández University of Elche, the Alicante School of Art and Design (EASDA), and various educational and community centers.

The exhibition is organized by Solidaridad Internacional País Valencià as part of the project “Global Origins: Transformative Education from Sub-Saharan Africa,” funded by the Valencian Regional Government. Executive production and programming are handled by Tren al Sur - Asociación Cultural, with funding from the Alicante City Council's Department of Culture and support from the Universities of Alicante and Miguel Hernández of Elche.

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