Announcement: *SEMBENE!* receives £35,000 grant from British Film Institute to be released in UK cinemas this Autumn

Aya Distribution, a UK-based sales and distribution company with a focus on African cinema, are working to release the new and highly acclaimed film ‘SEMBENE!,’ co-directed by Professor Samba Gadjigo and Jason Silverman, in the UK this October and November 2016. In order to do this they have been awarded a substantial grant of £35,000, from the British Film Institute (BFI) – Programme Development Fund to release ‘SEMBENE!’ alongside three of Sembene’s seminal films explored in the documentary: *Xala, Moolaadé* and *Black Girl.*

The release will be entitled *Rebel With a Camera: The Cinema of Ousmane Sembene* and is a project of huge significance supported by the BFI; FORWARD UK – a leading charity working on African women’s rights and who supported the release of *Moolaadé* in 2004; the five UK African film Festivals; many industry professionals working in African cinema including John Akomfrah, June Givanni, and Keith Shiri, and many UK cinemas.

So far screenings are confirmed to take place in the following cinemas across the UK: Institute of Contemporary Arts (London), Ritzy Picturehouse (London), Picturehouse Central (London), Genesis Cinema (London), Phoenix Cinema (London), Home (Manchester), Broadway (Nottingham), Showroom Workstation (Sheffield), Tyneside Cinema (Newcastle), Picture House (Leeds), Dundee Contemporary Arts (Dundee), (MK Cinema) Milton Keynes, Glasgow Film Theatre (Glasgow), Filmhouse (Edinburgh), and Chapter (Cardiff). There will also be a special seminar hosted at the Broadway Cinema, Nottingham led by a panel of experts focused on the work of Sembene, the making of the film *SEMBENE!,* cinema from Senegal and the exhibition of African cinema in the UK.

Many of the cinemas have requested the presence of Professor Samba Gadjigo as the co-director of ‘SEMBENE!’ and also the biographer of Ousmane Sembene, and co-director Jason Silverman. They will take part in post screening discussions in order to enrich the experience of the audience. In addition to this we also anticipate a huge amount of press interest as part of the release including high profile press outlets such as the Guardian, Telegraph, Sight & Sound Magazine, BBC, Channel 4 and others.