



Georgia College & State University  
Mass Communication  
Campus Box 32  
Milledgeville, Georgia 31061-0690

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Contact: Yasmienne Davis  
Phone: (678) 262 - 7576  
Contact: Yasmienedst@yahoo.com

**First Friday Foreign Films Commemorates the father of African film with a Festival**

**For Immediate Release**

**MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga.** – The Africana Studies Program at Georgia College & State University will showcase four films, commemorating the father of African film, Sembene Ousmane beginning Oct. 3.

First Friday Foreign Films and A Festival of Sembene Ousmane will recognize one of Africa's leading film directors, producers and writers. The Los Angeles Times classified Ousmane as one of the greatest writers in Africa. Ousmane who passed away in 2007, will be remembered for his politically themed literature and socially conscience films. All films shown during the festival are free and open to the public and will begin at 7 p.m. in the Arts & Science Auditorium.

“His movies have won internationally respected awards such as best film at the Cannes film festival in 2004 for "Moolaade," which was also described by Ebert and Roeper of Entertainment Weekly as "one of the best films of the year.” Said Dr. Eustace Palmer, professor of English and coordinator of Africana Studies at Georgia College & State University.

The festive begins with the film “Mandabi” which means the money order. “Mandabi” looks at an exposure of corruption and the evils of bureaucracy in Senegal.

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This movie presents entanglements that result when a poor man receives a large money order from a nephew. This film explores corruption, religion and Senegalese culture.

The festivities will continue with showing of “Xala” on Oct. 10. “Xala” which means the curse, is a comedy about a crooked, modern businessman, who attempts to crown his success by taking a second wife much younger than himself but is struck by a curse, the “Xala”.

On Oct 17, “Faat Kine” a film about the condition of African Womanhood in a modern African state will be shown. “Faat Kine” gives a look into Senegalese middle class, its contradictions of poverty, wealth and tradition.

“Moolaade” which means magical protection will be shown Oct. 24. “Moolaade” highlights the rebellion by African women against female circumcision and the traditions that upheld the practice.

“Apart from being one of Africa's most distinguished novelists, Sembene' Ousmane was undoubtedly the doyen of the African movie making industry." Said Palmer.

For further information please contact Dr. Eustace Palmer at [eustace.palmer@gcsu.edu](mailto:eustace.palmer@gcsu.edu) or visit <http://rome.gcsu.edu:8090/gcsucalendar>.