AFRICA FILM FESTIVAL GHENT, DE CENTRALE (24 – 28 March 2026)

OPENING NIGHT: Tuesday 24 March, at 20h00 (Turbinezaal)

-**Official opening** by Lien Van de Velde, Director of Culture, City of Ghent.

-**Short film**: A Wingless Bird that Flies by Remy Ryumugabe (Rwanda, 2023) (9 min.)
Cast: Dorothee Uwizeyimana, Queen Teta Nyabagabo, Devotha Akimpaye
Language: Kinyarwanda / Subtitles: English

In a world where she has been unable to find love and honesty, encountering only betrayal and obstacles, it is difficult to find words that accurately reflect her life. Yet she perseveres, holding on to the hope that clarity will come. A Wingless Bird that Flies explores the introspective journey of a young mother and addresses universal themes such as life and hope.

The film was awarded the YAFMA Short Film Prize in 2024 at the Africa Film Festival Leuven.

-**Main Feature**: Muganga, celui qui soigne by Marie-Hélène Roux (France, 2025) (105 min.) (Ghent Premiere)
Cast: Isaach De Bankolé, Manon Bresch, Babetida Sadjo, Vincent Macaigne, Deborah Lukumuena, Joely Mbundu, Jennifer Heylen, Nadège Ouédraogo
Language: French / Subtitles: Dutch

The struggle some people wage can change the course of history. Denis Mukwege, a Congolese doctor and future Nobel Peace Prize laureate, treats—at great personal risk—thousands of female victims of sexual violence in the conflict-ravaged east of the Democratic Republic of Congo. His encounter with Belgian surgeon Guy-Bernard Cadière will rekindle his commitment.

In the presence of actresses Babetida Sadjo, Joely Mbundu, and Nadège Ouédraogo.

The film received the Audience Award at the Festival du Film Francophone d'Angoulême (2025).

-**Opening reception** around 22h30

Wednesday 25 March, at 20h00 (Turbinezaal)

-**Short documentary**: A So-called Archive by Onyeka Igwe (UK/Nigeria, 2020) (20 min.)
Spoken language: English / Subtitles: English

Archives are tasked with preserving images and history. But what happens to images and places we would rather forget? Two archives from British colonial history (the Nigerian Film Unit: Colonial Film Unit, and the Museum of the British Empire and the Commonwealth) stand empty today. Their dusty rooms with damaged film reels embody the transience of colonial memory. A So-called Archive evokes the lost films through echoes of sound, choral voices, and a radio play created from the remnants of these archival buildings.

Q&A with filmmaker Onyeka Igwe and Amanda Adam (Research Group Culture & Education, Ghent University).

-**Main feature**: The Heart is a Muscle by Imran Hamdulay (South Africa, 2025) (86 min.)
Cast: Keenan Arrison, Melissa De Vries, Loren Loubser, Dean Marais, Ridaa Adams, Danny Ross, Troy Paulse, Lincoln Van Wyk
Languages: Afrikaans, English / Subtitles: English

Ryan and Laila are busy organizing the birthday party for their son Jude. The cheerful day is suddenly disrupted when Jude goes missing. When Ryan learns that his son has been spotted in a neighborhood controlled by gangs, he drives there with his friends and assaults a man who has nothing to do with the disappearance. When Jude is found, it turns out the boy had hidden himself as a joke. However, the incident has unsettled the balance within Ryan's group of friends: arguments erupt and secrets from Ryan's past come to light. Moreover, the man Ryan attacked reappears and demands money. The film follows a father in search of a better version of himself, exploring masculinity, transgenerational trauma, and healing.

The film had its world premiere at the Berlin International Film Festival in 2025.

Thursday 26 March, at 13h30 (Turbinezaal)

School screening – registration only via Cedric De Bock, De Centrale

-Short documentary: My Path / Ma route by Tourad Kane (Belgium, 2018) (15 min.)
Language spoken: Dutch

Tourad Kane engages in conversation with young people from Ghent with a Muslim background. These youths feel the impact of the increasingly negative portrayal of Islam. From their own perspective, they want to offer a response to this trend and serve as a source of inspiration for other young Muslims.

-Feature film: Neneh Superstar by Ramzi Ben Sliman (France, 2023) (95 min.)
Cast: Oumy Bruni Garrel, Maïvenn, Aïssa Maïga, Steve Tientcheu, Cédric Kahn
Language spoken: French / Subtitles: Dutch

The dream of twelve-year-old Neneh comes true when she is accepted into the Paris Ballet School. Despite her enthusiasm, she becomes aware that she looks different and comes from a different background than the other dancers. She fights for acceptance within the group as well as with the school's director, Marianne Bellage. Bellage stands for tradition and carries a secret that connects her to the young ballerina. Oumy Bruni Garrel shines as a young and talented ballerina who is confronted with herself, her family, rigid institutions, and the world she lives in.

Thursday 26 March, at 20h00 (Turbinezaal)

-Short film: I Promise You Paradise by Morad Mostafa (Egypt, 2023) (25 min.)
Cast: Keni Marcellino, Kenzy Mohamed
Language: Arabic / Subtitles: English

After a violent incident, Eissa, a young African migrant in Egypt, must do everything in his power to save his loved ones.

-Documentary: Mikuba by Petna Ndaliko Katondolo (DR Congo, 2025) (60 min.)
Language: Swahili / Subtitles: English

Mikuba takes us to the copper and cobalt mines of Kolwezi in the DRC. The global race for cobalt—essential for electric vehicles and renewable energy—places enormous pressure on the country and its people. The film portrays the lives of artisanal miners and highlights the Mutoshi project, which aimed to improve their working conditions. It also follows maman Leance, a trader navigating the maze of multinational mining companies that dominate the region. Her journey reveals the harsh reality of a system that exploits people, while also introducing master Kangalele, the guardian of the centuries-old practice of copper smelting. Through his teachings, the spiritual and cultural dimensions of the region come alive.

A post-screening discussion on the impact of cobalt extraction on the local population will take place, with, among others, Josaphat Musamba from Ghent University.

Friday 27 March, at 20h00 (Turbinezaal)

Tickets: € 8 (vvk), € 11 (adk), € 5 (vvk met Uitpas; -18 j; groepen +10), € 2,2 (kansentarief)
Via www.uitbureau.be

-**Short film**: Tsutsué by Amartei Armar (Ghana, 2022) (15 min.)
Cast: Kirtson-Acquah Elisha, Idrissu Tontie Jr.
Language: Ga / Subtitled: English

Sowah and Okai are the sons of a fisherman. They live in a small town on the edge of a landfill that spills into the sea. Their eldest brother died while fishing, causing deep grief within the family. Okai struggles to come to terms with his death and is firmly convinced that his brother is still alive.

-Feature film: Katanga, la danse des scorpions by Dani Kouyaté (Burkina Faso, 2024) (60 min.)
Cast: Mahamadi Nana, Hafissata Coulibaly, Prosper Compaoré, Joséphine Kaboré, Hadissa Ilboudo
Language: Peul, Pular / Subtitled: English

In the imaginary kingdom of Ganzurgu, King Pazouknaam narrowly manages to thwart a plot against him. To consolidate his power, he appoints his nephew Katanga as head of the army. Faced with the magnitude of his mission, Katanga consults a soothsayer. The prophecy is clear: one day he will ascend his nephew's throne. A power struggle is looming. With this film, Dani Kouyaté delivers a distinctive reinterpretation of Shakespeare's Macbeth, transforming the classic Western drama into a universal political story set on the African continent.

The film received several awards at the FESPACO Film Festival 2025.

At 22h30 (Turbinezaal)

Concert with ***RESTE BAHOUA***

Born in Brazzaville, raised in France, and based in Belgium for over 22 years, Reste Bahoua is a composer and producer who develops a powerful, organic Afro-house and Afro-techno sound. On stage, he performs solo as a DJ-drummer, combining live drums with electronic machines to create an intense, hybrid live experience. His sets blend African rhythms, deep grooves, and electronic textures, designed for dance, trance, and a full connection with the dance floor.

Saturday 28 March

Tickets: € 22 (vvk), € 25 (adk), € 19 (vvk met Uitpas; - 18 j; groepen + 10), € 5 (kansentarief)
Via www.uitbureau.be

Final concert with **ADVISER**, 20h00 (Turbinezaal, standing)

Adviser is one of the founding figures of Mauritanian rap music and an influential voice in West African hip-hop. With his powerful message of unity and brotherhood among African peoples, delivered in local languages, he has grown into an artist who transcends both borders and musical traditions. Thanks to his talent, strong flow, and artistic commitment, he is regarded as one of the most influential artists on the West African music scene. His debut album Alhamdulillah (2010) marked a major turning point, followed by Thiaggal Succès (2013) and Ina Wona (2017), which also brought him international recognition. Collaborations with artists such as Baaba Maal, Canabasse, Ombré Zion, and Abou Djouba Deh expanded his reputation far beyond the borders of Mauritania. In 2025, Aawdi was released—an album widely acclaimed by critics that broke all previous records, which had already served as benchmarks in the subregion. With this release, Adviser once again confirms his status as one of the leading voices of contemporary African hip-hop.

+ ***KIZOMBA WORKSHOP & AFTERPARTY,* from 22h00 (Kelderzaal)**
ft. Zéphirine & DJ Shadow Vibes

Kizomba is a dance and music style that emerged in Angola in the 1980s. It is related to semba but has a slower and more sensual rhythm. The music was strongly influenced by zouk from the French Caribbean and kompa from Haiti, and later made its way to Cape Verde, where the style further evolved. Today, kizomba is part of the broader Afro-Latin dance scene, which also includes salsa. Both are social partner dances that revolve around connection, leading and following, rhythm, and musicality. As a result, salsa dancers often feel instantly at home at a kizomba night, and vice versa.

Zéphirine grew up in Cameroon, where she was immersed in music and dance culture from a young age. She has now been active in Belgium for several years, giving dance classes in Ghent and Geraardsbergen. She collaborates with DJ Shadow Vibes, who also comes from Cameroon. In Ghent, he is known as the organizer of Pamoja, a popular kizomba event held every trimester. In addition, he is a highly sought-after DJ, guaranteeing lively and atmospheric dance nights.

The afterparty in the Kelderzaal is free and runs until 2h00.

Let yourself be carried away by the vibes of kizomba, salsa, and pure Afro-Latin warmth!

Text about Africa Film Festival Ghent

Africa Filmfestival Ghent is an initiative of the Africa Platform of the Ghent University Association in collaboration with De Centrale, the Cultural Services of the City of Ghent, Senegal Bantamba, KoumaLink, S-EAU-S SAHEL, HOURRA!!! Burkina Faso, Dragoeiro, and Africa Film Festival Leuven.

DE CENTRALE
KRAANKINDERSSTRAAT 2, 9000 GHENT
(FILM FESTIVAL ENTRANCE VIA HAM)

THE SCREENINGS TAKE PLACE IN THE TURBINEZAAL

INFO AFRICA FILM FESTIVAL GHENT
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