

Glimpses of African narratives at IDSFFK

The 16th International Documentary and Short Film Festival of Kerala (IDSFFK) 2024 will screen an exuberant package of African short films spanning multiple genres showcasing the dreams and visions of the people of the continent. From navigating the complex bureaucracy of South Africa to a supernatural drama set in Senegal, this package comprises seven short films that question the colonial gaze and delves deep into themes such as ancestry, immigration, survival, sexuality, addiction, erasure from history, lore, love and self discovery.

'Mångata' by Maja Costa is a journey of survival and trauma which treads dangerous terrains of sea and space. 'The Prophecy' by Rehanna Ngom explores identity and ancestry through the language of the supernatural. 'The Wait' by Imran Hamdulay explores the complex systems of South African bureaucracy. 'The Last Joint' by Devin Powell is the story of a stoner at the cusp of a tolerance break and the events that unfold. 'Jeanne' by Antoine Paley is a biographical short that offers a glimpse of the relationship between Jeanne Duval and Charles Baudelaire, questioning the erasures and power play between the artist and his muse. 'Mirah' by Ahmed Samir is inspired by a true story of the anxieties of an Egyptian Muslim immigrant in Berlin. 'Papi' by Ashley L Canfield dwells on the life of Hector as he struggles with his authentic self as a gay man and deals with his estranged family.

Often portrayed as victims or painted in the drab colours of poverty, African youth are taking the reins of their narratives and using cinema to tell us tales that must not go unheard. Ahmed Samir, director of 'Mirah' would be present at the festival to interact with the delegates. IDSFFK is being held at the Kairali Sree Nila theatre complex from July 26 to 31, 2024.