

The London Feminist Film Festival Seeks Submissions from African Women Filmmakers

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Dear Readers,

I was contacted by the [London Feminist Film Festival](#) committee to help share some very exciting news. Not only are they receiving great film submissions from all over the world (from as far as Sudan and Burkina Faso!), but they seem very committed to making sure African women and the Diaspora are represented in the festival's programming, including the films themselves and post-screening panel discussions.

If you're an African woman filmmaker (or know of any) who identifies as a feminist or has produced a film exploring feminist themes, please submit! The deadline for submissions is August 31st, so you still have time to prepare your reel.

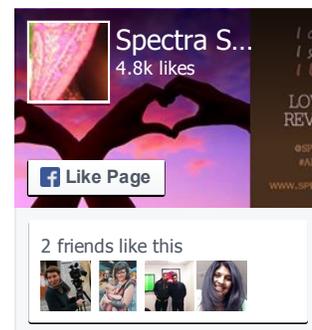
I may actually submit something myself; [I've been in a feminist erotica filmmaking mood of late](#). On a more serious note, I've been casually collecting footage of African women having conversations (or proclamations) about feminism for the past few months via my [Africans for Africa project](#). The London Feminist Film Festival (LFFF) committee is interested in seeing it, so perhaps their impending deadline will serve as enough



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motivation for me to edit the first round of footage so that I can send them a short on African feminism. We shall see.

Meanwhile, here are some quick-hit submission criteria:

- Women directors can be from any country
- Films should deal with feminist issues and/or be feminist in their representation of women
- Films can be of any length or genre, and from any year
- Non-English language films must be presented in English-subtitled versions

NOTE: Submissions by mail will still be accepted as long as they are post-marked on or before that day. Read the full call for submissions [here](#).

More info about the inaugural London Feminist Film Festival below:

The London Feminist Film Festival was set up as a response to the underrepresentation of women in the film industry, as well as to the lack of films addressing feminist issues and the fact that the representation of women on screen is often narrow and stereotypical. The festival aims to counterbalance the mainstream film industry's narrow representation of women and its neglect of feminist issues by showing a season of feminist feature films, documentaries, and shorts made by women directors from around the world.

Festival Director, Anna Read, says "We want to celebrate women creatives whilst ensuring that this feminist ethos also extends to the films we show. The festival will be a celebration of feminist films past and present. Our aim is to inspire discussion about feminism and film, to support women directors, and to get feminist films seen by a wider audience".

The festival's first matron, [writer, critic, and broadcaster Bidisha](#), released shared in support. "In a year when the Cannes film festival had no women in its official selection, when less than 10% of industry directors, writers, cinematographers, and leading characters are women, the London Feminist Film Festival is here to challenge, change, inspire, redress, entertain, and satisfy. I support it wholeheartedly as a women's advocate and also as someone who has always loved film and sat in countless



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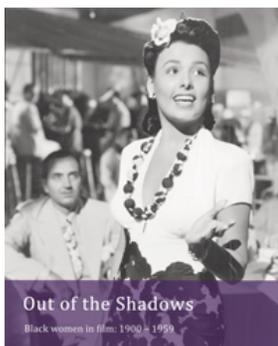
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screenings watching the action and the credits and thinking, where the hell are the women? Well, here they are."

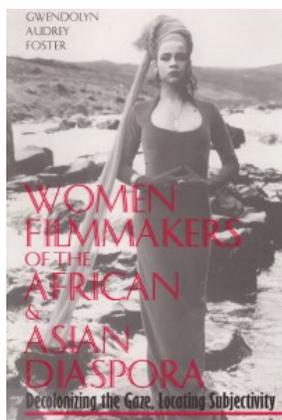
Read / download their [Full Press Release](#).



Incidentally, the LFFF has confirmed Jacqueline Williams, author of [Out of the Shadows: Black Women in Film 1900-1959](#), a book which explores the contribution black women have made to movie making in the first half of the twentieth century. They are still confirming more speakers which they hope to represent a wide spectrum of feminist perspectives on film and the industry.

As with many feminist spaces, the [emphasis on "women"](#)

[almost always tends to universalize the experiences of the dominant group](#) (e.g. straight women, white women, theorists/academics with class privilege and a macbook, etc.) so that over time the space becomes monolithic and unwelcoming to minorities. The organizers are aware of this and are working quite hard to get the call out to as many communities as possible.



I deeply appreciate LFFF's effort to ensure diverse voices are represented in every aspect of the festival, including their decision to do outreach so that they can mainstream films from minorities (vs. create a separate track for them). Hence, I would love to see ALL kinds of submissions make it into their submissions pool, not just for the sake of sustaining their enthusiasm about working diligently towards diversity (however important), but so that the voices of African women and the Diaspora (including LGBTI people) will be heard in this very important forum.

So! If you're an African woman who either identifies as feminist or would like to submit a film/short that explores feminist themes, [read the full criteria](#), then [submit!](#)

If you have any questions about submissions, feel free to get in touch with LFF directly via info@londonfeministfilmfestival.com. Feel free to join the [LFFF Facebook Group](#) and/or [Like their Facebook Page](#). You can also follow the LFFF on Twitter [@ldnfemfilmfest](#) for more information and updates.

Sharing is caring!

