

QUEER GENDER-NON-CONFORMING NIGERIAN MEDIA ARTIST
SEYI ADEBANJO TELLS A TALE NOT OFTEN HEARD ABOUT
GENDER AND INDIGENOUS YORÙBÁ SPIRITUALITY



A THIRD WORLD NEWSREEL RELEASE

2016 NEW RELEASES

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ỌYA: SOMETHING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO WEST AFRICA!

A documentary by Seyi Adebajo

In this documentary, Queer Gender-Non-Conforming Nigerian media artist Seyi Adebajo tells a tale not often heard about gender and indigenous Yorùbá spirituality. ỌYA follows Seyi's journey to Nigeria, a journey to connect with Òrìṣà tradition, or African God/dess tradition, and the powerful legacy of the filmmaker's great grandmother, Chief Moloran Ìyá Ọlọya.

This personal and political story vibrantly investigates the heritage of command, mythology, gender fluidity, womyn's power and the hidden truth behind indigenous Yorùbá spirituality. As Seyi encounters many obstacles such as a national strike and anti-gay marriage legislation in the country, the film raises a critical question, will the artists be able to find self-affirmation as a person between genders/worlds and take on this inheritance in Nigeria?

This lyrical documentary illuminates the lives of Òrìṣà Ọya (Warrior Goddess), Chief Moloran Ìyá Ọlọya and Seyi Adebajo while interweaving Yorùbá mythology, poetry, performance, and expert interviews. (2015, 30 min, Nigeria)



SEYI ADEBANJO is a Queer Gender-Non-Conforming Nigerian media artist. Seyi raises awareness around social issues through digital video, multimedia photography and writings. Seyi is the recipient of the Best International Short Film Award at the Sydney Transgender International Film Festival; Best Documentary Short at the Drama Baltimore International Black Film Festival; and Pride of the Ocean LGBT Film Festival Award. Seyi's latest piece ỌYA: SOMETHING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO WEST AFRICA! is screening globally.



Bronx Music Heritage Center (BMHC)
Leslie-Lohman Museum
Sydney Transgender International Film Festival
Kelly Strayhorn Theater My People A Film Series in Color
Black Documentary Collective
Serrano Galleries of Fine Arts
San Francisco Transgender Film Festival
BlaktinX Performance Series
The Center NYC
Montrose Center
Frenetic Theatre
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LGBTQ Queer Center of Durham
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Joslyn Art Museum
Bryant Lake Bow & Trylon
Microcinema
Gender Reel
My People: A Film Series in Color
Pride of the Ocean's LGBT Film festival on the High Seas
CineSLAM - Vermont's LGBTQ Short Film Festival
Luminal Theater
Reel Sisters of the Diaspora Film Festival at ImageNation
I Luv Africa Film Festival in Uganda
I Luv Africa Film Festival in Ghana
Maysles Cinema
Baltimore International Black Film Festival
Black Star Film Festival
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Gender Reel NYU

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CREDITS

Seyi Adebajo

Director, Cinematographer,
Editor

Yoruba Richen

Executive Producer

thank you to family, community,
allies,

artist, organizers who
championed this work.

ibà Moloran Ìyá Ọlọ́ya

Salu- Moyin Apesi

ibà Simbi

Ade Adebajo

Òrìṣà Oya

Olódùmarè

Òrìṣà Osóòsi

Òrìṣà Sàngó

Òrìṣà Ọbatala

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Bunmi Adebajo

Kayode Adebajo

Femi Adebajo

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Adebajo

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Michael Kaplan

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Sojourner McCauley

Carla Nathan

Olumide Popoola

Iva Radivojevic

Evan Remick

Colin Self

Damon White

Betty Yu

Sàngó praise-poetry chanters:

Ajetoni Madarikan

Ogunbimpe Ìyá Apeere

Sàngó priests:

Sàngó dele Ibuowo - the Elegun

Sàngó of Koso

Sàngódare Ajala

Sàngókunle Ibuowo

Sàngówale Ibuowo

Sàngóleke Ojelabi

Sàngósola Olaoke

Sàngógbemisola Ibuowo

Sàngóbukola Ponbe

Sàngó Initiate - Marco Camacho

Bata drummers:

Ayanfemi

Ayanyemi

Sule

Ọbatala priests:

Iwintola Farounbi Ojoawo

Iyaloosa Adunola Ayoka Dalemo

Ìyá Dare

Ọbatala Initiate - Cory
Sutherland

Allgo: A Statewide Queer People
of Color Organization

Priscilla A. Hale, MSW

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JJ Lara

Pride of the Ocean

CineSlam

John Scagliotti

Susi Walsh

Geisha Cumberbatch

Christopher Dawes

Yorùbá Cultural Institute

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Osun festival footage courtesy

Jolyon Hoff

Oya illustrations courtesy

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Berta Jottar

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Mar Trevino

Christine Peng

Sasha Alexander Goldberg

Queer/Arts/Mentorship

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Vanessa Haroutunian

The Goddess lives

Iya Shango Ibadan