



ENCOUNTERS INFOCUS INDUSTRY PROGRAMME 2025 - CT

DEEPER DIALOGUES, SHARPER VISIONS—ONE STORY AT A TIME



RSVP

Tickets for In-reach RSVP (free)

RSVP

Tickets to support Encounters InFocus (R100)

SATURDAY 21 JUNE

Bertha House, 67, 69 Main Rd, Mowbray, Cape Town

10AM – 11:15AM

PROGRESS OR DESTRUCTION? The frightening reality of now



Julien Elie

Director | Shifting Baselines

Moderator: Sean Drummond

In this in-conversation, Elie will delve into how space exploration can both inspire people and imperil our world.

11:45AM – 1:15PM

RISE AND RESIST: Feminist stories of defiance and empowerment



Shanelle Jewnarain

Director | Womxn: Working

This in-conversation brings together two visionary filmmakers who use storytelling to lay bare the agency of their protagonists and dives into the practical and ethical choices behind their filmmaking practices.



Joel 'Kachi' Benson

Director | Mothers of Chibok

While rooted in different social contexts, both films are deeply connected by themes of maternal and political resistance and the need to challenge the systems that marginalise women.



Joy Watson

Global consultant | Researcher | Writer



Moderator: Lee Walters
(Postdoctoral Fellow Culture & Technics at the CHR, UWC)



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MONDAY 23 JUNE

Centre for Humanities Research,
University of the Western Cape,
66 Greatmore Street, (entrance on Regent Street) Woodstock, Cape Town

WELCOME ADDRESS by Professor Heidi Grunebaum

(Writer and Scholar; DST/NRF Flagship on Critical Thought in African Humanities, CHR, UWC)

10AM – 11:30AM

MAKING IT: The business and future of African documentaries



Mohamed Saïd Ouma

Executive Director | DocA

Join Mohamed Saïd Ouma and the DFA for a rigorous look at how African documentaries are financed, produced, and distributed.



Miki Redelinghuys

DFA Representative | Filmmaker | Documentary Filmmaker

This session brings together industry experts—producers, directors, and distributors—to discuss how films are chosen, what the market truly values, and how projects can successfully navigate festivals and sales channels.



Richard Finn Gregory

Documentary Director
Founder | Picture Cult

With an eye on the future of documentary in Africa, this conversation promises candid insights and practical strategies for anyone passionate about telling authentic African stories.



Nadine Cloete

Filmmaker
NFVF Production & Development Manager – Non-Fiction

Moderator:
Antoinette Engel (DFM Industry Programme Curator & Manager)

Presented in partnership with Documentary Africa (DocA)
& Documentary Filmmakers Association (DFA)



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11:45AM – 1:15PM

CINEMA SOLIDARITY: Collective resistance in documentary storytelling

Presented in partnership with Cinema Solidarity

2:00PM – 3:30PM

WOUNDS & WHISPERS: Narratives shaped by history and healing



Nyasha Kadandara

Director | Matabeleland

“Matabeleland” reveals one man’s quest to give his father, a victim of state-sanctioned violence, a dignified burial—while his country still grapples with the weight of its past.



Fabienne Steiner

Director | Fitting in

“Fitting In” explores how longstanding traditions at a South African university male-only residence are challenged by a new generation of students who wish to celebrate their diverse identities and seek new spaces to ‘fit in’.



Shari Eppel

Director | Solidarity Peace Trust, Zimbabwe, Matabeleland



Moderator: Shameela Seedat
(Dir. Whispering Truth to Power
& African Moot | Prod. Girl, Taken)

Presented in partnership with Centre for Humanities Research (CHR),
University of the Western Cape (UWC) & Swiss Films

TUESDAY 24 JUNE

Centre for Humanities Research,
University of the Western Cape,
66 Greatmore Street, (entrance on Regent Street) Woodstock, Cape Town

WELCOME ADDRESS by Professor Heidi Grunebaum

(Writer and Scholar; DST/NRF Flagship on Critical Thought in African Humanities, CHR, UWC)



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1PM – 2:30PM

EDGE OF NOW: Africa and the diaspora in dialogue



Nhlanhla Mthethwa

Director | Sam Nzima: A Journey Through His Lens

“Sam Nzima: A Journey Through His Lens” captures the photographer whose iconic image of Hector Pieterse exposed apartheid’s brutality, highlighting the media as a powerful agent of change.



Ibrahim Snoopy

Co-director | Khartoum

“Khartoum” brings together Sudanese filmmakers displaced by conflict to re-enact their memories, underscoring the resilience of a continent forging creative alliances.



Dr. Barbara Boswell

Creative Writer | Associate Professor & HoD of English Literary Studies UCT | Protagonist in “And She Didn’t Die”

In “And She Didn’t Die”, acclaimed feminist writer Lauretta Ngcobo’s story illuminates how liberation and exile shaped African identity across generations.



Moderator: Mohamed Saïd Ouma
(Executive Dir. DocA)

Presented in partnership with Al Jazeera Documentary,
French Institute of South Africa (IFAS) & the Heinrich Böll Foundation (Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung)

2:45PM – 4:00PM

REWIRING KNOWLEDGE: New paths to understanding



Eloïse King

Director | The Shadow Scholars

From Kenya’s thriving contract-cheating economy to DeepMind’s cutting-edge AI ventures, “The Shadow Scholars” and “The Thinking Game” reveal seismic shifts in how knowledge is created, accessed and valued. As many students worldwide outsource their work to online providers, these films prompt critical questions about the future of education, the credibility of academic degrees, and the unequal power structures that shape global learning.



Dr. Valmont Layne

Programme Director | New Archival Visions | CHR, UWC

Bringing together educators, technologists, and filmmakers, this in-conversation will examine hidden exploitations, shifting power dynamics, and the challenges of verifying knowledge in an AI-driven landscape.

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University of the Western Cape (UWC) & Swiss Films



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Tickets for panel Labia Theatre

SUNDAY 22 JUNE - STAND ALONE EVENT

The Labia Theatre - 68 Orange St, Gardens, Cape Town

2:30PM SCREENING + PANEL

SCREENING OF YINTAH + POST-SCREENING PANEL



Nokwanda Sihlali

Panelist
Research Officer | Land and Accountability Research Centre

CLIMATE IS COLONIAL

This urgent panel builds from “Yintah”, a documentary on the Wet’suwet’en Nation’s defence of unceded land in so-called Canada, drawing powerful links with South African struggles over mining, land, water, and forced removals.



Stha Yeni

Panelist
Independent Researcher
Land & Agrarian Justice in Southern Africa

ABOUT YINTAH

“Yintah” follows Howilakat Freda Huson and Sleydo’ Molly Wickham, the leaders of two clans from the territory, as they struggle to prevent the Canadian government and fossil-fuel companies from building a pipeline across it.



Alex Hotz

Panelist



Moderator: Miki Redelinghuys
(Co-Director | Climate Story Lab ZA)

Presented with the support of The Climate Story Lab South Africa (CSLZA)

LABIA

T H E A T R E