

# 11 rare African movies you need to watch

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Africa Month may be ending, but Showmax has just released a collection of [11 classic African movies](#) that are worth celebrating year-round, having been praised everywhere from Cannes to Ouagadougou, Sundance to Toronto.



## [Touki Bouki](#)

Djibril Diop Mambéty's *Touki Bouki* is the story of two lovers - a cowherd and a university student - who dream of escaping to Paris from Dakar.

For a film originally released in 1973, *Touki Bouki* has been in the headlines a lot this year. In March, Beyoncé took to Instagram to announce her 'On The Run II' stadium tour with Jay-Z with a striking poster image of the couple on a bull-skull-trimmed motorbike, inspired by the classic Senegalese road trip movie. It's brilliant. [Watch it now »](#)

## Kati Kati

When Kaleche (Nyokabi Gethaiga), a young amnesiac, wakes up in the middle of the wilderness, she has no idea how she got there. She makes her way to Kati Kati, a nearby lodge, where she meets a motley crew of residents under the leadership of Thoma (Elsaphan Njora).

At Toronto International Film Festival, the Kenyan film won the FIPRESCI Critics Prize, with the FIPRESCI jury hailing director Mbithi Masya as “an exciting and unique new voice in cinema.” *Kati Kati* was also named Best East African Film at the 2017 Africa Movie Viewers Choice Awards and won the New Voices/New Visions Award Special Mention at the Palm Springs International Festival, among other accolades. [Watch it now »](#)

## Yaaba

When Burkina Faso filmmaker Idrissa Ouedraogo passed away in February, *Variety* hailed him as “a towering figure of African cinema” and *The New York Times* described him as “legendary.” Ouedraogo came to international attention in 1989 with *Yaaba (Grandmother)*, the story of two children who make friends with an old woman who has been outcast as a witch by her village. *Yaaba* won the FIPRESCI Critics’ Prize and a Special Mention from the Ecumenical Jury at the Cannes Film Festival, among other accolades. [Watch it now »](#).

## [Nairobi Half Life](#)

In David 'Tosh' Gitonga's debut feature film, an aspiring actor moves to Nairobi with big dreams of becoming a star, but quickly discovers why the city of opportunity is nicknamed Nairobberry. *The Hollywood Reporter* called it a "dynamic crime drama... shot through with fresh social and stylistic energy." *Nairobi Half Life* won the Breakthrough Audience Award at AFI in 2012 and four Africa Magic Viewers Choice Awards in 2014. Lead actor Joseph Wairimu also picked up Best Actor at Durban and Most Promising Actor at the Africa Movie Academy Awards. [Watch it now »](#)

## [Of Good Report](#)

Infamously banned just before it was due to open the Durban International Film Festival in 2013, *Of Good Report* is the story of an obsessive affair between an introverted high school teacher (Mothusi Magano) and a 16-year-old pupil (Petronella Tshuma). *The Guardian* called it an "edge-of-your-seat thriller... [Watch it now »](#)

## [God Grew Tired Of Us](#)

Winner of both the Grand Jury Prize and the Audience Award at Sundance in 2006, this documentary follows three of the Lost Boys of Sudan after their arrival in America after years of wandering Sub-Saharan African in search of safety. Directed by Americans Christopher Quinn and Tommy Walker, *God Grew Tired Of Us* has a 91% critics score and a 94% audience score on *Rotten Tomatoes*. [Watch it now »](#)

## [Soul Boy](#)

Fourteen-year-old Abila (Samson Odhiambo) awakes to find his father feeling so ill that he's unable to open their grocery shop. When his father says his soul has been stolen, Abi confronts the Nyawawa (Krysteen Savane), a spirit rumoured to steal men's souls. Admiring the boy's bravery, the Nyawawa gives him seven challenges to complete in 24 hours to restore his father's health. [Watch it now »](#)

## [Jerusalema](#)

Rapulana Seiphemo won Best Actor Awards at both Durban and FESPACO for his role as Lucky Kunene, infamous for hijacking buildings in Hillbrow. The crime thriller was South Africa's official entry for the Oscars and won the Audience Award at Durban, among other accolades. [Watch it now »](#)

## **Sinking Sands**

Ghanaian writer/director Leila Djansi won Best Screenplay three years in a row at the Africa Movie Academy Awards (AMAA) - for *I Sing Of A Well* in 2010, *Sinking Sands* in 2011, and *Ties That Bind* in 2012. At the AMAAs, *Sinking Sands* also won Best Make-Up and Best Actress, for Ama K Ababrese. [Watch it now »](#)

## **Virgin Margarida**

1975. As Mozambicans host their flag for the first time, hundreds of 'prostitutes' are arrested and sent to reeducation camps in the countryside, where they are to be transformed into 'new women' to serve the revolution. But some of those arrested, like the teenage Margarida, are not prostitutes. *Virgin Margarida* won eight international awards, including Best Supporting Actress (Iva Mugalela) at the Carthage Film Festival and the audience award at the Amiens Film Festival in 2012. [Watch it now »](#)

Stream Virgin Margarida only on Showmax in Africa:.

## [How To Steal 2 Million](#)

Released from prison, Jack (Menzi Ngubane) can't find work. His former buddy Twala (Rapulana Seiphemo) offers him a job he can't refuse, but can he trust his new partners in crime? Winner of four Africa Movie Academy Awards, including Best Film, Best Director (Charlie Vundla) and Best Supporting Actress (Terry Pheto). [Watch it now »](#)

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