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DAY 1

# Official Daily Bulletin

Organised by Kerala State Chalachitra Academy  
on behalf of Department of Cultural Affairs, Government of Kerala



## Come, Let's Celebrate Cinema

In a world dominated by superheroes and superhero movies, film festivals play an invaluable role in the spread of real art. Raw cinema is often buried amidst the sands of the endless commercial cinema culture. The International Film Festival of Kerala is one among the roaring appraisals of the vanishing art of cinema and its rich culture. The 28th edition of the IFFK is all set to light up the capital city of Thiruvananthapuram from the 8th of December 2023.

The festival will be inaugurated at the Nishagandhi auditorium by Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister of Kerala in online mode. Three times National Award winner for Best Actor, Nana Patekar will be the chief guest at the event.

Mayor Arya Rajendran will present the Spirit of Cinema Award to Kenyan director Wanuri Kahiu. Festival Curator Golda Sellam will introduce the various packages at the 28th IFFK. VK Prasanth MLA, District Panchayat President Adv. D Suresh Kumar, International Competition Section Jury Chairperson and Portuguese Director Rita Azevedo Gomes, Latin American Package Curator Fernando Brunner, Sound

Designer and Director Resul Pookutty, KSCA Chairman Ranjith, filmmaker Shyama Prasad, KSFC Chairman Shaji N. Karun, Cultural Workers Welfare Board Chairman Madhupal, Culture Department Secretary Mini Antony IAS, Film Chamber President BR Jacob, KSCA Vice Chairman Prem Kumar and Secretary C. Ajoy will be present at the occasion.

The festival catalogue will be released by VK Prasanth MLA by handing over it to Madhupal. The Daily Bulletin will be released by Adv. D. Suresh Kumar to Shaji N. Karun. The festival edition of

the Chalachitra Academy magazine, Chalachitra Sameeksha, will be launched by Resul Pookutty to Premkumar. The opening film *Goodbye Julia* will then be screened at the auditorium.

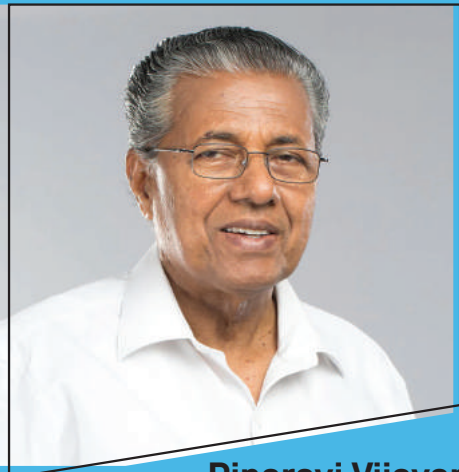
In theaters, 70 percent of the total seats are reserved and 30 percent are unreserved. Senior citizens aged 60 and above will be allowed entry without queuing. This benefit can be availed only by those who can show a government approved identity card proving their age. Two e-buses of KSRTC will run a special free service connecting the exhibition venues for the delegates. Vehicular restrictions have been imposed at the main venue, Tagore Theatre. Only vehicles with a festival vehicle pass are allowed to enter Tagore premises.

We live amidst war and revolution. It is highly important for art to be visualised and enjoyed in a theatre full of film enthusiasts. Art unites and creates waves that in turn pave the way for revolutions through history and the future. The 28th IFFK is here to bring art to life yet again. ■





# 28th IFFK



**Pinarayi Vijayan**

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala, Chief Patron, IFFK

I am glad to note that the 28th edition of the International Film Festival of Kerala is being organised under the aegis of the Kerala State Chalachitra Academy. Kerala, known for its cultural vibrancy and artistic fervour, takes pride in hosting this remarkable event that not only entertains but also educates and enlightens.

The IFFK stands as a testament to the enduring power of cinema in transcending boundaries and uniting us all in the celebration of art, culture, and humanity. It has consistently served as a platform for showcasing diverse cinematic expressions from around the world, fostering a rich tapestry of stories that enlighten, inspire, and resonate with an international audience.

Mention needs to be made of the fact that a special package featuring anti-colonisation films, which holds profound relevance in today's context of global conflicts, notably the ongoing struggle of the Palestinian people, is included in this year's festival. Let us cherish this opportunity to come together, appreciate diverse perspectives, and revel in the magic of cinema. Wishing everyone an enriching and captivating experience at the 28th International Film Festival of Kerala. May the spirit of cinema continue to inspire and unite us all. ■



**Saji Cherian**

Minister for Fisheries, Culture and Youth Affairs

The IFFK holds the position of being Kerala's largest cultural fiesta. More than merely a festival, it serves as a profound political and cultural confluence, providing a free and fair platform for artists and activists to share their voices and ideals. This platform remains a testament to Kerala's vibrant cultural landscape, fostering an environment of inclusivity and creativity.

We take immense pride in honouring the remarkable contributions of the distinguished Polish filmmaker Krzysztof Zanussi with the prestigious lifetime achievement award. In this edition, we are proud to bestow the Spirit of Cinema Award upon the Kenyan filmmaker Wanuri Kahiu, recognizing her outstanding bravery in addressing societal injustices.

This year, we are excited to feature special packages highlighting the country focus on Cuba. It's a privilege for us to extend a warm welcome to the esteemed Cuban filmmakers who will grace us with their presence, enriching our festival with their unique perspectives. May this edition of IFFK be a memorable and enlightening experience for all, fostering cultural dialogues and paving the way for a more inclusive and harmonious world. ■



The 28th IFFK is ready to set the cinematic atmosphere in the capital city again. Every year, IFFK comes with a handful of world class films and artistic culture to entertain and enhance the cinematic universe of film enthusiasts. We are super glad and proud of this year's festival organisation and selected films. We are sure it will provide our audience with an exciting experience this year too. IFFK has always maintained its quality, be it in its film selection or the artistic expressions throughout the festival. We look forward to hosting our invaluable audience and treating them to art as raw as the films we have chosen for them this year too.

**MINI ANTONY IAS**  
Secretary, Department of Cultural Affairs



The IFFK holds a significant place as one of the largest film festivals in Asia, drawing in enthusiastic audiences. The festival holds a political aspect, emphasizing films from Afro-Asian and Latin American countries, reflected in our curated packages. Five films from Latin America, a beloved region among film enthusiasts, will be showcased. This edition of the festival will honour Kenyan filmmaker Wanuri Kahiu with the 'Spirit of Cinema' award for her courageous stance against state censorship and her contributions through AFROBUBBLEGUM, advocating a vibrant and optimistic portrayal of Africa, emphasizing joy, hope, and love.

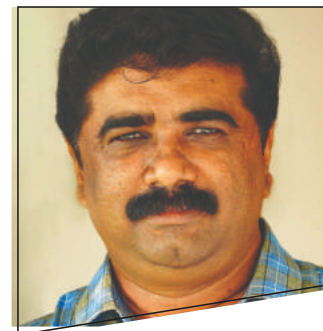
May these eight days of the festival offer heartwarming and enriching cinematic experiences.

**RANJITH**  
Festival Director, IFFK  
Chairman, Kerala State Chalachitra Academy



IFFK serves as an important platform for cultural resistance and education. By presenting these diverse narratives, the festival fosters a space for dialogue and solidarity, allowing viewers to express support for oppressed communities worldwide. The festival indeed serves as a form of cultural resistance. It's a platform where people come together, not only to watch films but also to engage in discussions that amplify the voices of the marginalized and stand in solidarity with those who face oppression. Through this collective experience, the festival becomes more than just a showcase of films; it becomes a catalyst for empathy, awareness, and advocacy for social change.

**PREM KUMAR**  
Vice Chairman, Kerala State Chalachitra Academy



Stepping boldly into its 28th edition, IFFK stands as a vibrant testament to the State's cultural evolution. This year's edition unveils a myriad of genres and themes, sparking positive anticipation. The festival's array of curated packages, global film representations, special sessions, and open forums serve as conduits for meaningful people-to-people connections. Meanwhile, the renovated 'Manaveeyam' Street, Kerala's first cultural corridor invites attendees to partake in enchanting cultural evenings. IFFK by its style and substance has inspired the genesis of many cultural movements that we see in Kerala today. This quintessential work of art is here to stay as the pinnacle of the Kerala model of inclusiveness and togetherness.

**C AJOY**  
Executive Director, IFFK  
Secretary, Kerala State Chalachitra Academy



Curator, 28th

# IFFK



The IFFK stands as a symbol of Kerala's dedication to exceptional cinema, transcending borders and offering a platform that unites film enthusiasts like myself. I am convinced of its vast potential to elevate its presence to greater heights on the international stage. My involvement with IFFK is driven by the belief that it will serve as a catalyst, propelling Malayalam cinema further into the global spotlight. The emergence of a new international market presents a promising opportunity for Malayalam cinema to expand its reach and presence on a global scale. I envision a future where the world recognises and embraces the unparalleled creativity and depth of Malayalam cinema.

This year, we present a curated selection that embodies the essence of the best in world cinema. It includes the latest creations from the contemporary world masters, films that have garnered laurels from renowned festivals, and films portraying the challenges faced by conflict-ridden nations. Among the highlights, we proudly showcase a package of films by women filmmakers, each telling stories that resonate with depth, emotion, and the diverse experiences of women across the globe.

Over the next eight days, I invite you to immerse yourselves in the wonders of movies that captivate and enlighten the soul. It is my sincere hope that you will find inspiration, joy, and a deeper appreciation for the cinematic marvels that grace our screens. ■



**Golda Sellam**

# Messages





# The Silent Cries Between Division and Hatred

Rajesh Chirappadu

**G**oodbye Julia is a debut feature film by Sudanese director Mohamed Kordofani. It is a film that subtly portrays the long-standing conflicts and ethnic discrimination between the citizens of Sudan's North and South province.

The story takes place just before the secession of South Sudan in 2011, when it remains a unified country but the social situation remains tense. The film follows the struggles of Mona, a North Sudanese singer who is wracked with guilt after covering up a murder. The murder victim is a South Sudanese man. Even the government is racially discriminating and prejudiced against the Sudanese in the Southern region. Mona brings Julia, the victim's widow, home as her maid to atone for her wrongdoing, along with Julia's son, Daniel. Mona experiences the conflicts of not being able to confess her sins.

Goodbye Julia depicts the conflicts and divisions between the ethnic and religious identities of the people of a country through the relationship of two women. The film becomes a silent cry amid divisions and hatreds. People in the northern province of Sudan have been racially discriminating against the people of southern Sudan for decades. That is the basic reason for the partition of Sudan.

Director Mohammad Kordofani commented in an interview that he believes that people in the North are victims of values and habits that have been handed down over generations. The film was selected for the Cannes Film Festival from Sudan and won the Freedom Award at the festival. ■



## ഫെസ്റ്റിവൽ ഓഫീസ് തുറന്നു

കേരള രാജ്യാന്തര ചലച്ചിത്രമേളയുടെ ഫെസ്റ്റിവൽ ഓഫീസ് പ്രവർത്തനം ആരംഭിച്ചു. ടാഗോർ തിയേറ്ററിൽ ആരംഭിച്ച ഫെസ്റ്റിവൽ ഓഫീസ് സാംസ്കാരിക വകുപ്പ് സെക്രട്ടറി മിനി ആന്റണി ഐ.എ.എസ് ഉദ്ഘാടനം ചെയ്തു. ഐ.എഫ്.എഫ്.കെ റിസപ്ഷൻ ആന്റ് ഫങ്ഷൻ കമ്മിറ്റി ചെയർമാൻ എം വിജയകുമാർ, സാംസ്കാരിക വകുപ്പ് ഡയറക്ടർ എൻ മായ ഐ.എഫ്.എസ്, ചലച്ചിത്ര അക്കാദമി ചെയർമാൻ രഞ്ജിത്ത്, വൈസ് ചെയർമാൻ പ്രേംകുമാർ, സെക്രട്ടറി സി അജോയ്, എക്സിക്യൂട്ടീവ് അംഗം ശങ്കർ രാമകൃഷ്ണൻ തുടങ്ങിയവർ പങ്കെടുത്തു. ■



ഫോട്ടൽ ഹൊറൈസണിൽ നടന്ന പത്രസമ്മേളനത്തിൽ ചലച്ചിത്ര അക്കാദമി ചെയർമാൻ രഞ്ജിത്ത് സംസാരിക്കുന്നു



കേരള സെക്രട്ടേറിയറ്റ് എംപ്ലോയീസ് അസോസിയേഷൻ അംഗങ്ങൾ അവതരിപ്പിച്ച സംഗീതപരിപാടി



## കേരളത്തിന്റേത് വിയോജിപ്പുകളെ അംഗീകരിക്കുന്ന സാംസ്കാരിക സമീപനം എം എ ബേബി

രാഷ്ട്രീയമായി വ്യത്യസ്ത നിലപാടുകളുള്ളവരെയും വിയോജിപ്പുകളുള്ളവരെയും അംഗീകരിക്കുന്ന ഉന്നതമായ ജനാധിപത്യസാംസ്കാരിക സമീപനമാണ് കേരളത്തിന്റേതെന്ന് മുൻ സാംസ്കാരിക വകുപ്പ് മന്ത്രി എം.എ ബേബി പറഞ്ഞു. 28ാമത് ഐ.എഫ്.എഫ്.കെയുടെ മിഡിയ സെൽ ഉദ്ഘാടനം ചെയ്ത് സംസാരിക്കുകയായിരുന്ന അദ്ദേഹം. പോളിഷ് സംവിധായകൻ ക്രിസ്റ്റോഫ് സന്റുസിയെ മേളയിലെ ലൈഫ് ടൈം അച്ചീവ്മെന്റ് അവാർഡിനായി തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്തതിനെ ചൊല്ലി ചില കോണുകളിൽ നിന്ന് ഉയർന്ന വിവാദങ്ങളിൽ കാര്യമില്ലെന്ന് അദ്ദേഹം പറഞ്ഞു. ഇടതുപക്ഷ വിക്ഷണങ്ങളോട് ആശയപരമായി വിയോജിപ്പ് പ്രകടിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും അദ്ദേഹം ലോകസിനിമയിലെ മികച്ച ഒരു ചലച്ചിത്ര ആചാര്യനാണ്. സന്റുസിക്ക് സന്തോഷത്തോടെ അഭിപ്രായങ്ങളുണ്ടാവാം. യോജിപ്പുള്ളവരെ മാത്രമല്ല വിയോജിപ്പുള്ളവരെ കൂടി നാം കേൾക്കണം. സന്റുസിക്ക് പായാനുള്ളത് നാം കേൾക്കണം. അതിൽനിന്ന് നല്ല വിമർശനങ്ങൾ ഉൾക്കൊള്ളണം. അല്ലാത്തവയെ തള്ളിക്കളയണം എന്ന് അദ്ദേഹം അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടു.

കേരള ചലച്ചിത്ര വികസന കോർപ്പറേഷൻ ചെയർമാൻ ഷാജി എൻ കുര്യൻ, കേരള മിഡിയ അക്കാദമി ചെയർമാൻ ആർ.എസ് ബാബു അധ്യക്ഷനായ ചടങ്ങിൽ ചലച്ചിത്ര അക്കാദമി വൈസ് ചെയർമാൻ പ്രേം കുമാർ, സെക്രട്ടറി സി. അജോയ്, ജനറൽ കൗൺസിൽ അംഗം രവി മേനോൻ, കേരള ഫിലിം പ്രൊഡ്യൂസേഴ്സ് അസോസിയേഷൻ സെക്രട്ടറി ബി. രാകേഷ്, കെ.യു.ഡബ്ല്യു.ജെ ജില്ലാ സെക്രട്ടറി അനഘ ജി നായർ, ചലച്ചിത്ര അക്കാദമി ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി ഡയറക്ടർ (ഫെസ്റ്റിവൽ) എച്ച് ഷാജി, ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി ഡയറക്ടർ (പ്രോഗ്രാംസ്) ഡോ. എൻ.പി സജീഷ് എന്നിവർ പങ്കെടുത്തു. ■



## ഡെലിഗേറ്റ് സെൽ ഉദ്ഘാടനം

28-ാമത് കേരള രാജ്യാന്തര ചലച്ചിത്രമേളയുടെ ഡെലിഗേറ്റ് സെല്ലിന്റെ ഉദ്ഘാടനം തിരുവനന്തപുരം നഗരസഭാ മേയർ ആര്യ രാജേന്ദ്രൻ നിർവഹിച്ചു. നടീ വിൻസി അലോഷ്യസ് ആദ്യ പാസ് സംവിധായകൻ ശ്യാമപ്രസാദിൽ നിന്ന് ഏറ്റുവാങ്ങി. രാജ്യാന്തര ചലച്ചിത്ര മേളയുടെ ആദ്യ ഡെലിഗേറ്റ് പാസ് ലഭിച്ചത് തനിക്കു കിട്ടിയ രണ്ടാമത്തെ പുരസ്കാരമാണെന്ന് വിൻസി അലോഷ്യസ് പറഞ്ഞു. യുദ്ധത്തിനും അക്രമങ്ങൾക്കുമെതിരെ കലകൊണ്ടു പ്രതിരോധം സൃഷ്ടിക്കാൻ പാകത്തിനുള്ള

നിരവധി ചിത്രങ്ങൾ 28-ാമത് ഐ.എഫ്.എഫ്.കെയിലുണ്ടെന്നും അതുകൊണ്ടുതന്നെ ഈ ചലച്ചിത്രമേള കാലഘട്ടത്തിന് അനുയോജ്യമാണെന്നും ഡെലിഗേറ്റ് സെൽ ഉദ്ഘാടനം ചെയ്ത മേയർ പറഞ്ഞു. അടുത്തകാലത്ത് മലയാള സിനിമയിലുണ്ടായ ഏറ്റവും പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ട തുടിച്ചുകളുടെ കാരണം കേരള രാജ്യാന്തര ചലച്ചിത്രമേളയാണെന്നും കേരളത്തിലെ യുവതലമുറയുടെ സിനിമാസ്വാദനത്തിനെയും അഭിരുചികളെയും കേരള രാജ്യാന്തര ചലച്ചിത്രമേള വലിയ രീതിയിൽ സ്വാധീനിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും സംവിധായകൻ ശ്യാമപ്രസാദ് അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടു.

കേരള സംസ്ഥാന ചലച്ചിത്ര അക്കാദമി ചെയർമാൻ രഞ്ജിത്ത് അധ്യക്ഷനായ വഹിച്ച ചടങ്ങിൽ ചലച്ചിത്രമേളയുടെ ക്യൂറേറ്റർ ഗോൾഡ സെല്ലും, ചലച്ചിത്ര അക്കാദമി വൈസ് ചെയർമാൻ പ്രേം കുമാർ, സെക്രട്ടറി സി. അജോയ്, എക്സിക്യൂട്ടീവ് ബോർഡ് അംഗം പ്രകാശ് ശ്രീധർ, ഡെലിഗേറ്റ് കമ്മിറ്റി ചെയർമാൻ കെ.ജി. മോഹൻകുമാർ, ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി ഡയറക്ടർ (ഫെസ്റ്റിവൽ) എച്ച്. ഷാജി എന്നിവർ സംസാരിച്ചു. കേരള സെക്രട്ടേറിയറ്റ് എംപ്ലോയീസ് അസോസിയേഷൻ അംഗങ്ങളുടെ സംഗീതപരിപാടിയും അരങ്ങേറി. ■

തീയേറ്റർ വോളന്റിയേഴ്സ് ഓറിഡന്റേഷൻ പ്രോഗ്രാം സാംസ്കാരിക പ്രവർത്തക ക്ഷേമനിധി ബോർഡ് ചെയർമാൻ മധുപാൽ ഉദ്ഘാടനം ചെയ്യുന്നു



തീയേറ്റർ വോളന്റിയർമാരുടെ യോഗത്തിൽ വോളന്റിയർ കമ്മിറ്റി ചെയർമാൻ കെ.എസ് സുനിൽകുമാർ സംസാരിക്കുന്നു





# 08

DEC 2023  
FRIDAY  
1ST DAY

# IFFK

SPIRIT OF CINEMA

|             |  |  |  |              |              |
|-------------|--|--|--|--------------|--------------|
| KAIRALI     | 10:00 AM WC<br><b>The Buriti Flower</b><br>(Crowã)<br>Portugal, Brazil<br>/123/2023<br>Dir: Renée Nader Messoria, João Salaviza<br>●○                    | 12:30 PM WC<br><b>Stepne</b><br>(Stepne)<br>Ukraine, Germany, Poland, Slovakia<br>/117/2023<br>Dir: Maryna Vroda<br>●○○  | NO SCREENING   | NO SCREENING | NO SCREENING |
|             | 10:15 AM WC<br><b>Under the Shadow of the Sun</b><br>(Mitahat Letzel shel Hsemes)<br>Israel/80/2023<br>Dir: Shaom Hager<br>●○                            | 12:00 NOON WC<br><b>20,000 Species of Bees</b><br>(20,000 especies de abejas)<br>Spain/128/2023<br>Dir: Estibaliz Urresola Solaguren<br>●○○  | NO SCREENING   | NO SCREENING | NO SCREENING |
| NILA        | 10:00 AM WC<br><b>Music</b> (Musik)<br>Germany, France, Greece, Serbia<br>/108/2023<br>Dir: Angela Schanelec<br>●○○                                      | 12:00 NOON LA<br><b>The Realm of God</b><br>(El reino de Dios)<br>Mexico/73/2022/<br>Dir: Claudia Sainte-Luce<br>●○  | NO SCREENING   | NO SCREENING | NO SCREENING |
|             | 10:00 AM FG<br><b>Four Daughters</b><br>(Les filles d'Oifa)<br>France, Saudi Arabia, Germany, Tunisia, Cyprus/107/2023<br>Dir: Kaouther Ben Hania<br>●○○ | 12:00 NOON MM<br><b>Do Not Expect too much from the End of the World</b><br>(Nu astepta prea mult de la sfârșitul lumii)<br>Romania, Luxembourg, France, Croatia/163/2023<br>Dir: Radu Jude<br>●○○ | NO SCREENING   | NO SCREENING | NO SCREENING |
| TAGORE      | 9:30 AM MM<br><b>Kidnapped</b><br>(Rapito)<br>Italy, France, Germany<br>/134/2023<br>Dir: Marco Bellocchio<br>●○○  | 12:30 PM FG<br><b>Houria</b><br>(Houria)<br>Algeria, France<br>/104/2022/<br>Dir: Mounia Meddour<br>●○   | NO SCREENING   | NO SCREENING | NO SCREENING |
|             | NO SCREENING   | NO SCREENING   | 6:00 PM WC<br><b>OPENING CEREMONY</b><br>followed by the screening of Opening Film<br><b>Goodbye Julia</b> (Wadaean Julia)<br>Sudan, Sweden, Germany, Saudi Arabia, France, Egypt /120/2023<br>Dir: Mohamed Kordofani<br>●○○ | NO SCREENING | NO SCREENING |
| NISHAGANDHI | NO SCREENING   | NO SCREENING   | 6:00 PM WC<br><b>OPENING CEREMONY</b><br>followed by the screening of Opening Film<br><b>Goodbye Julia</b> (Wadaean Julia)<br>Sudan, Sweden, Germany, Saudi Arabia, France, Egypt /120/2023<br>Dir: Mohamed Kordofani<br>●○○ | NO SCREENING | NO SCREENING |

## IFFK SCHEDULE - DAY 1

Africa is not all poverty, hunger stricken and poor. Africa is also fun, close to nature and rich in culture. Wanuri Kahiu is part of the African movement that portrays the other side of Africa- the jolly good side. She is being awarded the Spirit of Cinema Award at the 28th IFFK.

Born in Nairobi, Wanuri is part of the new generation of African filmmakers. Her films have received international acclaim and have screened in numerous film festivals around the world. To date, Wanuri has written and directed six films and is working on her second feature length film.

Wanuri's first feature film *From A Whisper*, based on the real events surrounding the 1998 twin bombings of US Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania won Best Narrative Feature in 2010 at the Pan African Film Festival in Los Angeles, as well as five awards at the African Movie Academy Award, including Best Director and Best Screenplay. In 2009 Wanuri produced the TV documentary *For Our Land* about Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Professor Wangari Maathai for MNET, a Pan African cable station. In 2010, her short science fiction *Pumzi* premiered at the Sundance film festival and went on to win best short film at Cannes Independent Film Festival and the silver at Carthage Film Festival (Tunisia). *Pumzi* also earned Wanuri the 'Citta di Venezia 2010' award in Venice, Italy.

She is currently writing an Animation Film in conjunction with TriggerFish, South Africa. Wanuri is also in post production on a feature length documentary *Ger* about UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Ger Duany, *Who Am I*, a short documentary about National Identity and a fractionally fictional documentary about an Nairobi based indie-pop group *Just A Band*. Wanuri also co-founded *AfroBubblegum*, a collective of African artists whose ambition is to create fun, frivolous and fierce work. ■

Sruthi A. Sreekumar

## Wanuri Kahiu: The Fierce Voice of Africa







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