

Cultural Programme, ECAS 2025

Wednesday 25.6.

Rudolfinum

19:35-20:00 Performance *Confluence* by Angela Nwagbo

Dance performance *Confluence* by Czech-Nigerian professional artist Angela Nwagbo, accompanying the official opening of ECAS in the Dvořák Hall of the Rudolfinum. In this deeply personal piece, Angela Nwagbo explores themes of cultural, linguistic, and social identity. The performance blends elements of physical theatre, dance, documentary, and anthropological theatre, reflecting the journey of self-discovery of a Czech woman of mixed heritage.

Klub Lávka

20:30-22:00 Jezza Vee concert

Concert by Jezza Vee, the jazz-blues band led by Marta Filipovská from Pilsen, blending classic jazz and blues with other styles. The performance accompanies the cultural program at the reception for conference participants in Klub Lávka.

Náprstek Museum

10:00-18:00 Masterpieces of African art in the Náprstek Museum (small temporary display, lecture hall)

The African collection in the Náprstek Museum, counting over 17,000 pieces, could be, on the very basic level, divided into two groups – art and ethnography. Though the line between the two groups is very close, since African art is not an art per se, but the pieces are rather “daily used” objects, this small display is dedicated to some of the masterpieces which are to be found among the collection. The pieces are from different places of sub-Saharan Africa but are related by a common element which is their high aesthetic value.

Thursday 26. 6.

Municipal Library

Great Hall:

18:45 -19:30 Veba Broumov fashion show

Guided fashion show featuring garments made from African brocade by Veba Broumov, complemented by the unique collection of African jewelry curated by Marie Imbrová. The show will present a collection of outfits that combine traditional cuts and materials with contemporary trends, suitable for both special occasions and everyday wear. Most of the featured outfits were created by contemporary Czech fashion designers using fabrics produced by Veba Broumov.

20:00-21:00 Yellow sisters concert

Yellow Sisters is a Czech female vocal group whose music spans genres including soul, funk, R&B, jazz, world music, reggae, and ethno. Known for their playfulness, feminine energy, and spiritual depth, they experiment with melody and rhythm, constantly seeking new forms of expression and innovative approaches to vocal performance. The group has performed in 16 countries worldwide and has received several international awards.

Small hall:

13:15-14:45: Staged reading and discussion: *La chute infinie des soleils* (Elemawusi Agbedjiji, Togo), Czech with French subtitles

In 1761, the French East India Company's frigate *Utile* was wrecked on Tromelin Island, where enslaved survivors were abandoned for 15 years while the crew escaped. In 2023, this tragic episode became the focus of a student thesis critically examining the enduring legacy of colonialism. A staged reading by students of the Department of Translatology at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University.

In cooperation with the 21st Creative Africa Festival.

PONREPO Cinema

18:00 Film *Xala* (Senegal, 1975)

The 1975 Senegalese film *Xala*, written and directed by Ousmane Sembène, is a satirical critique of postcolonial Senegalese society. The story follows El Hadji, a wealthy businessman and politician, who finds himself in a crisis on the day of his wedding to his third wife—he suddenly becomes impotent. This unexpected loss of manhood, known as *xala* (a traditional African curse), becomes not only a

personal humiliation but also a public disgrace. As he desperately seeks a cure through both traditional healers and Western medicine, his life begins to unravel.

The film offers a sharp critique of the corrupt elite who replaced the colonial regime, yet continue to exploit ordinary people. Ultimately, it is revealed that El Hadji's impotence stems from his own injustice toward the poor. *Xala* was screened and received an award at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival in 1976.

The film will be screened in its original language with English subtitles, followed by a discussion with Vojtěch Šarše.

20:30 Film Amok (Senegal, 1982)

In the film *Amok!*, Moroccan director Souheil Ben Barka weaves together the personal drama of a single family with the broader societal realities of apartheid-era South Africa—highlighting workers' strikes, poverty, and the government's brutal crackdowns on protesters. The story follows a young, impoverished South African who becomes entangled in the chaos of city life, political intrigue, and conflicting interests. When his father, a rural schoolteacher, comes to visit, he discovers that his son is facing trial for murder. The family, together with allied activists, fights to secure a fair trial within a legal system distorted by racial injustice.

The film will be screened in its original language (English), followed by a discussion with the representatives of the Republic of South Africa in Prague.

Cinema 35, French Institute

18:00 Film Timbuktu

Not far from Timbuktu, now ruled by religious fundamentalists, Kidane lives peacefully in the dunes with his family. In town, the inhabitants suffer, powerless, from the regime of terror imposed by the Jihadists determined to control their faith. Every day, the new improvised courts issue tragic and absurd sentences. Kidane and his family seem to be spared the chaos that prevails in Timbuktu. But their destiny changes when Kidane accidentally kills Amadou, the fisherman who slaughtered "GPS," his beloved cow. He now has to face the new laws of the foreign occupants.

Additional fee 80 czk

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17:00-18:00 Guided tour through the exhibition “Emil Holub” (Tomáš Winter, author); limited space

The tour through the exhibition “Emil Holub” will acquaint the attendees with detailed information about important Czech traveller Dr. Emil Holub (1847–1902). Holub collected tens of thousands of objects, made observations covering the fields of natural history and ethnography, hunted games, and studied the ethnic groups he encountered on his travels. Through several examples, it shows how Holub created a depiction of the course of these journeys, what their original goals were, how they were fulfilled, and how they were reacted to by some of the later products of mass culture.

Karolinum Gallery

16:30 Opening of the photographic exhibition of Antonio Cossa *There is no planet B* about climate change.

This exhibition of photographs by renowned Mozambican photojournalist Antonio Cossa documents the impacts of climate change in both Africa and Europe. Through authentic testimonies of cyclone victims in Mozambique and striking images of the devastated coniferous forests in the Czech Republic—damaged by acid rain—Cossa highlights the urgent, global nature of the climate crisis.

The exhibition aims to educate and raise awareness, encouraging the public to recognize the dangers of climate change. Through his lens, the artist urges viewers to treat nature with care, compassion, and responsibility—essential values for ensuring the sustainability of life on this planet, the only one we have.

Faculty of Arts, Charles University

13:15 Opening of the art exhibition of Radu Tesaro *Colours of Africa* (3rd floor)

The opening of the exhibition of paintings by internationally recognized Czech artist Radu Tesaro offers an original symphony of color and shadow, reflecting a rich array of themes inspired by Africa. Her

unique oil paintings on canvas—created using the palette knife technique—depict expressive portraits, striking landscapes, vibrant wildlife, and dynamic urban scenes from across the African continent.

Gallery 35, French Institute

14:00 Opening of the exhibition Akhir Faysal - Faysal Last Stop (Pepa & Bassi)

The opening of the exhibition "Akhir Faysal - Faysal Last Stop". The exhibition is the result of a collaborative project between CEDEJ-Khartoum and the University of Padua, with the aim of visibilizing stories, emotions, and aspirations of a group of Sudanese women who arrived in Egypt following the outbreak of the war in Sudan on April 15, 2023. Through collective mapping, the exhibition offers a glimpse into the everyday lives of Sudanese women in Cairo.

Friday 27.6.

Municipal Library

Great hall:

11:15- 12:30 Documentary film Mtu ni Watu - Undisclosed Stories of Fieldwork + discussion

"Mtu ni Watu" explores the vital yet often overlooked role of research assistants in anthropological fieldwork in Kenya. By amplifying the voices and experiences of these assistants, the film bridges the gap between scientific and public audiences and challenges traditional hierarchies in knowledge production and engages with decolonial critiques of scientific practice. The film will be screened in its original language with English subtitles, followed by a discussion with film expert Eric Kioko.

19:20-21:00 Elly Jay concert

Elly Jay, born Elton Lodewyk, is a South African musician, singer, pianist, composer, and producer currently based in Prague. With over 20 years of experience in the music industry, his career includes performances across Spain, Germany, Austria, and Slovakia. His musical style is notably diverse, blending elements of pop, jazz, swing, soul, and evergreen. In 2018, his composition "Lucie's Waltz" was nominated for the Hollywood Music in Media Awards in Los Angeles.

Small hall:

12:30-13:30 Magda Podsiadly: Masks and rituals of West-African Nuna, Polish with French translation

A lecture by a Polish journalist, photographer and dramaturg of the Brawe Festival in Wrocław about the total theatre from Burkina Faso, ritual mask dance theatre, forum theatre, equestrian epic theatre, the only one of its kind in the world, founded by Amadou Bourou, director and actor, contemporary theatre and theatre of storytelling, as well as the reception of this theatre in Poland.

13:45-14:45 Czech project Creative Africa (Lucie Němečková), in French

Presentation of the unique cultural project Creative Africa, which for twenty-one years has been connecting Czech and African or Caribbean artists and initiating (not only) theatrical encounters between Africa, the Caribbean and Europe.

19:15-20:45 Staged reading and discussion: *Les soeurs de l'Est* (Laura Sheilla Inangoma, Burundi), Czech with French subtitles

A monologue about resistance, women's armed struggle and morality versus justice. In Khartoum Prison, Hoda, one of the women prisoners locked in a solitary cell called the Black Hole for the murder of her “stepmother”, one of her fellow inmates, confesses her life, her nightmares and her dreams.

The staged reading of the play, which was created as part of the author's UNESCO residency last year - Prague, City of Literature, is inspired by the legacy of Františka Plamínková, whose flame of commitment and resistance still glows today. In cooperation with the 21st Creative Africa Festival.

PONREPO Cinema:

17:00 Documentary film *Black Czechs* (Czechia, 2022)

A documentary film about the history and problematic sense of belonging of Namibian Czechs, originally a group of 56 prominent child war refugees who were admitted by the Czechoslovak communist government in 1985 as an expression of international solidarity assistance to SWAPO, a liberation movement fighting for the independence of Namibia. This educational program with elements of social engineering was interrupted in 1991, after Namibia achieved its independence. The political decision to relocate the children to Namibia had a dramatic impact on their future lives. The experience of living in two culturally different environments and especially the realisation that both societies denied their belonging doomed them to remain outsiders living at the edge between two worlds. The film is based on the book *Namibian Czechs* (2020) written by the Czech anthropologist Katerina Mildnerova.

The film will be screened in Czech language with English subtitles followed by a discussion with Martin Muller (film director) and Katerina Mildnerova (author of the story).

19:30 Documentary film *Strong Man of Bureng* (Italy, 2023)

The documentary by Italian director Mauro Bucci tells the fascinating story of Essa J. Darboe, a former UN soldier from Gambia who migrates to Europe seeking a better life. Using his entrepreneurial skills, he creates a successful export network between Northern Europe and his native village of Bureng, improving the lives of local residents and earning widespread respect. The film explores how the COVID-19 pandemic upended Essa's business and socio-economic status due to travel restrictions. It highlights his resilience amid life's challenges and offers an intimate look at migration, identity, and global connections. The film addresses key ethnographic themes about African migrants in Europe.

An online discussion with the film director Mauro Bucci will follow.

Cinema 35, French Institute

18:00 Documentary film *Dahomey* (France, Senegal, Benin, 2024)

November 2021. 26 royal treasures from the Kingdom of Dahomey are about to leave Paris to return to their country of origin, the present-day Republic of Benin. Along with thousands of others, these artefacts were plundered by French colonial troops in 1892. But how will the homeland, whose path has been dramatically altered over several decades, receive them? The debate rages among students at the University of Abomey-Calavi.

Additional fee 130 czk

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Faculty of Arts, Charles University

Exhibition of Radu Tesaro *Colours of Africa* (3rd floor)

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Gallery 35, French Institute

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Saturday 28.6.

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