

## 2015 Pan African Film Festival Spotlight on Nollywood

This year's Pan African Film Festival (PAFF) which spot lighted various films from Nigeria ended with a bang showing more films from Nigeria. This spotlight edition which is part of the Project ACT Nollywood Nigeria initiative have made it possible for films from Nigeria, made by Nigerians home and abroad to be shown to the world. Nollywood is Nigeria's film industry which is the world's third largest producer of feature films often made on shoe-string budgets, yet profitable.

The films include in PAFF included: *October 1* by Kunle Afolayan, *Invasion 1897* by Lancelot Oduwa Imasuen, *LAPD African Cops* by Pascal Atuma, *Tango with Me* by Mahmood Ali-Balogun, *Learning Curves* by Ndu Scott, *A Place in the Stars* by Steve Gukas amongst others.

According to Ayuko Babu the executive director of PAFF, "It is a beautiful initiative to showcase films from motherland Nigeria to a global audience. Thanks to the Nollywood Producers Guild of America for fully supporting the *Spotlight on Nollywood*"

Filmmaker Pascal Atuma, the US coordinator of *Spotlight on Nollywood*, said he is very grateful to the [now former] President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan for his unrelenting support of the Nigerian Film Industry and the co-coordinating Minister of the Economy Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iwuele for believing in the vision and talents of Nigerian youths, particularly the filmmakers.

Special thanks was given to the entire Project ACT Nollywood team headed by Dr. Supo Olusi, as well as the Honorable Richard Mofe Damijo, veteran Nollywood actor for his vision and leadership, as he said "this is the way forward, ensuring that our stories are told, seen and understood globally. We believe that this will further create platforms for co-production opportunities. I am grateful to all for making this possible. And we are most grateful to PAFF for the privilege." *Invasion 1897*, *Tango with Me*, *Learning Curves*, *A Place in the Stars* and *October 1* was a part of the closing day films in February.

*October 1* (via a synopsis) is winner of 'Best Feature Film at the 2014 Africa International Film Festival and winner of the 'Programmers' Award-Narrative Feature at the 2015 Pan African film Festival is a psychological, political and sociological thriller that details an investigation by Dan Waziri, the highest-ranking and most famous Nigerian colonial police detective, who is dispatched to a small town in western Nigeria to find the serial killer of young women -- or is it a cult killing or something else? Set against the backdrop of the national celebratory mood of the impending Nigerian independence and the transfer of power in the bureaucracy, Waziri is pulled into a game of cat and mouse as he and the killer try to outwit one other. The 145 minute film (released in 2014) was written by Tunde Babalola, and produced and directed by Kunle Afolayan.