



For Immediate Release:

January 24, 2007

**The Coalition for a Sustainable Africa
Launches in Los Angeles at
The 15th Annual Pan African Film & Arts Festival
With Screenings of *Left Behind* and *Baba Mandela*
And After-Party at Fais Do Do
Sunday, February 18, 2007**

LOS ANGELES, CA - The **Coalition for a Sustainable Africa** (CSAfrica) will present two films illustrating the challenges faced by much of Sub-Saharan Africa, *Left Behind* and *Baba Mandela*, at the 15th Annual **Pan African Film Festival** (PAFF) on Sunday, February 18, 2007. The films will be followed by a panel discussion and later, an after-party to celebrate African culture, while providing an opportunity for networking among like-minded people and organizations. The event will serve as a debut for CSAfrica, a Los Angeles-based coalition, as well as a fundraiser for the groups' grass-roots organizations. The three-part event will honor the memory of Father D'Agostino, founder of the Nyumbani Children's Home and Village in Kenya. His recent passing is a great loss to the children's rights and global AIDS movement. The screenings and panel will take place at the Magic Johnson Theaters in the Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza located at 3650 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90008 (1 block west of Crenshaw and King), starting promptly at 4:45pm, followed by a panel discussion across the parking lot at the PAFF meeting room. For more information please call 323-295-1706 or visit www.paff.org. The after-party will take place at Fais Do Do, a 5-minute drive from the theaters. A limited number of packages are available for \$20 on the CSAfrica website www.csafrica.org.

CSAfrica is a consortium of organizations promoting a healthy, culturally rich, global future by fostering sustainable, locally-led educational, environmental and economic solutions in Africa. "United in our advocacy for a thriving Africa, we are a mutually supportive network that strengthens each individual organization's effectiveness while raising our collective voice."

The seed for CSAfrica was planted in Los Angeles in December 2005, and quickly germinated when a group of representatives from grass-roots organizations discovered a mutually shared belief. The common thread for this group of activists was a realistic understanding that because of the inextricably interconnected nature of Africa's extreme poverty, environmental degradation, and AIDS epidemic, and other health issues, the best way to address these issues was holistically. CSAfrica recognized the need to promote this position that in order to establish sustainable solutions, a multi-faceted approach is essential, thereby addressing all of the social, economic and environmental issues together, and not as independent and separate struggles. CSAfrica's first activity took place in Toronto at the International AIDS Conference in 2006, with a well-received presentation and panel entitled, "Sustainable Centers & Economic Enterprise for AIDS Orphans."

-more-

Current coalition members include Tree Media, NextAid, Empowerment Works, The Samburu Project, TunaHAKI Foundation, Necessity Housing, Earth Rights Institute, The Crossroads Teen AIDS Ambassadors, Africa As One, Children of South Africa, Village Renaissance, Make A Change Productions, Nyumbani Children's Home and Village, Youth With A Vision, and Julia's Home of Happy Colors.

Films:

4:45pm

Left Behind is a 34-minute film, directed and produced by **Christof Putzel**.

AIDS is the most devastating disease to ever hit the human race. The pandemic will result in over 40 million orphans in Africa by 2010. However, when statistics are so high, it's almost impossible to put them into perspective. Through the eyes and voices of Kenya's street kids, as well as prostitutes, gang leaders, slum dwellers and those infected with HIV, *Left Behind* explores the impact of AIDS on the pandemic's most innocent victims: the children. www.leftbehindfilm.com

5:30pm

Baba Mandela is a 55-minute film by AMREF (African Medical and Research Foundation).

Kevin Kariuki is 10-year old boy who lives on the streets of Kibera, East Africa's biggest slum. He has never left the city, but in this movie he narrates his experience as he visits communities whose livelihood is destroying the very resources on which they depend for survival. In his travels through Kenya, Kevin also meets some people who are trying to reverse the cycle of poor health and environment damage. Kevin's experience is crystallized into a letter that he writes to Mandela. *Baba Mandela* will take you through the Nairobi slums, rural Kibwezi, Mt. Kenya, Lake Victoria and through the burning issues affecting Kenya in just 50 minutes. www.amref.org

The Panel - 6:45pm

The panel will begin immediately after the films across the parking lot in the PAFF meeting room. Space is limited. The panelists include Bruce Bodner, an AMREF USA board member and former chair; Christof Putzel, filmmaker of *Left Behind*; Micheal Mungai Nyumbura from Dagoretti4kids, (one of the street children filmed in *Left Behind*, now in college in Pennsylvania); Olivia Clements, a Crossroads Teen AIDS Ambassador who just returned from East Africa; Nigerian leader Reuben Jaja, President of the Africa-USA International Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and Phill Wilson, Executive Director of the BlackAIDS Institute.

After-party - 8:00pm

The after-party fundraiser will take place at Fais Do Do from 8:00pm to midnight featuring a mix of live music and DJ's mixing an eclectic array of afrobeat, hip-hop, and world music. Artists include Wanlov, Saba Saba (Ugandan hip-hop), and DJ Jeremy Sole's Musaiics. Delicious Cajun food and full bar available. Minimum donation is \$5. Fais Do Do is located at 5253 West Adams Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90016. To contact the venue please call 323-954-8080 or visit www.faisdodo.com.

The Festival

This year's Pan African Film Festival will take place from Thursday, February 8th through Monday, February 19th. With an attendance of over 200,000 people, PAFF is the largest Black History Month event in the United States. In a fun, family friendly environment, audiences enjoy cinema, art, music, spokenword, panels, workshops and parties. All ages, genders, ethnic groups and lifestyles are welcomed. More information on the festival can be found at www.paff.org. The PAFF press contact is Jasmyne Cannick, paffpress@sbcglobal.net.

#

#

#

For more information or to request screening copies please contact Green Galactic's Lynn Hasty at 213-840-1201 or lynn@greengalactic.com.