

MAY 22ND, 23RD & 24TH, 2015

**GALWAY
AFRICAN
FILM
FESTIVAL**

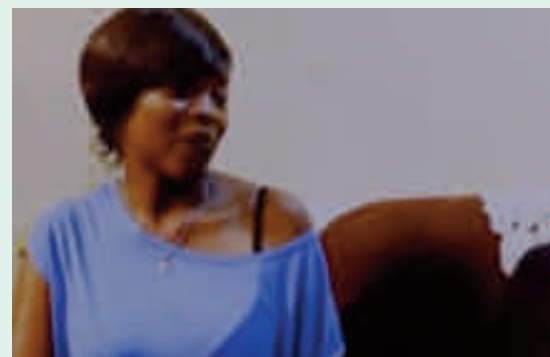
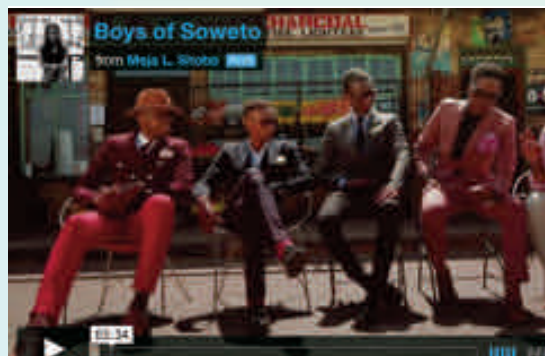


**Huston School of Film & Digital Media,
NUI Galway
Ireland**

GALWAY AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL 2015

Digital Short Film Festival

We are delighted to introduce our new addition to the festival – a digital short film festival! Completely on-line, we aim to increase access to African Cinema by showcasing the very best of African Short Films. We are starting small this year with just four films but they are all little gems – judge for yourself!



Please let us know which film is your favourite by visiting
the festival site and voting for your favourite film!

<http://galwayafricanfilmfestival.org/digital-short-film-festival-2015/>



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

FRIDAY MAY 22ND

5.30pm

THE ROAD WE TRAVEL

38min | Aidan Belizaire |
Uganda/UK 2015

6.30pm

MINERS SHOT DOWN

52min | Rehad Desai |
South Africa 2014

8pm

SOLEILS

95mins | Olivier Delahaye
& Dani Kouyaté | Burkina
Faso/France 2013

SATURDAY MAY 23RD

6pm

LANTANDA

63mins | Gorka Gamarra |
Guinea Bissou/Basque
Country 2014

7.30pm

ADIOS CARMEN

104mins | Mohamed Amin
Benamraouri | Morocco 2013

SUNDAY MAY 24TH

6pm

LAST SONG BEFORE THE WAR

90mins | Kiley
Kraskouskas |
Mali/USA 2013

8pm

DREXCIYA

28min | Simon Rittmeier |
Germany/Burkina Faso
2012

Screening with -

THINGS OF THE AIMLESS WANDERER

77mins | Kivu Ruhorahoza
Rwanda/UK 2014

GALWAY AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL 2015

THE ROAD WE TRAVEL



Photographer James Gardner is mid-way through a world wide trip, visiting Africa for the first time. During his visit to Uganda, various circumstances lead him to meet a local taxi driver called Moses Musumba.

Through an unlikely friendship, both men realise that despite differences in culture, religion and race, meeting a particular person (either by fate or coincidence) can change your life for the better

Director: Aidan Belizaire

Cast: Aidan Belizaire, Michael Ross, Rhonnie Nkalubo Abraham, Rehema Nanfuka, Busingye Kajuna

Country: Uganda / UK 2015

Length: 38mins

Friday, 5.30pm

AIDAN BELIZAIRE

Born in Manchester, Aidan Belizaire is a musician turned film director. He originally studied Music at Rose Bruford (London, UK) before progressing into direction. He has directed music videos, adverts, short films, pilots, tasters, and recently finished his first feature film starring Corey Feldman and Edward Furlong.

[Go to Facebook page](#)

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MINERS SHOT DOWN



In August 2012, mineworkers in one of South Africa's biggest platinum mines began a wildcat strike for better wages. Six days into the strike, the police used live ammunition to brutally suppress it, killing 34 and injuring many more. The police insisted that they shot in self-defense. *MINERS SHOT DOWN* tells a different story, one that unfolds in real time over seven days, like a ticking time bomb. The film weaves together the central point of view of three strike leaders, Mambush, Tholakele and Mzoxolo, with compelling police footage, TV archive and interviews with lawyers representing the miners in the ensuing commission of inquiry into the massacre. What emerges is a tragedy that arises out of the deep fault lines in South Africa's nascent democracy, of enduring poverty and a twenty year old, unfulfilled promise of a better life for all.

Director: Rehad Desai

Country: South Africa 2014

Length: 52mins

Awards: Miners Shot Down has won a number of awards at Human Rights Film Festivals around the world as well as the Jury Award for Best South African Documentary at the Durban International Film Festival, Best Documentary at FESPACO 2015, and the Audience Prize at the Black Movie Film Festival in Geneva 2015.

Friday, 6.30pm

[Go to official page](#)

[Director's interview](#)

REHAD DESAI

Rehad Desai is a former political exile from South Africa, who returned to his home country in 1990. Desai entered the television and film industry as a producer and director in 1996. In 1997, he completed his master's degree in social history at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa; he then completed a postgraduate degree in television and film production through AVEA in 2000. He runs his own film and television company, Uhuru Productions, which produces documentary and dramatic works. He is also the director of the Tri-Continental Film Festival, and is active in the self-organization of filmmakers.

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SOLEILS



An old man is entrusted with curing a young girl struck by amnesia. In his quest to help her regain her memory and identity he takes her on a healing trip through space and time, to learn about African histories and cultures. They travel from the beautiful Mandingo Empire in 13th century Mali to visit early European philosophers in France and Germany; from King Leopold of the Congo to Robben Island in South Africa, and more.

On their journey they meet characters that are both remarkable and enlightened, ignorant and prejudiced, until they reach a text hidden deep in a continent that reveals secrets that were long forgotten.

This philosophical road movie is both funny and thrilling. It is a love story between a wise old griot and a young girl that opens up an Africa rarely seen before. Afro-European collaborators Dani Kouyaté and Olivier Delahaye's magical-realist mystery tour is a wise, inventive, witty journey that turns the tables on historically Eurocentric "explorer" stories, while embracing the importance of universal wisdom.

Directors: Olivier Delahaye & Dani Kouyaté

Cast: Binda Ngazolo, Nina Melo, Joseph Traoré

Country: Burkina Faso / France 2013

Length: 95mins

Friday, 8pm

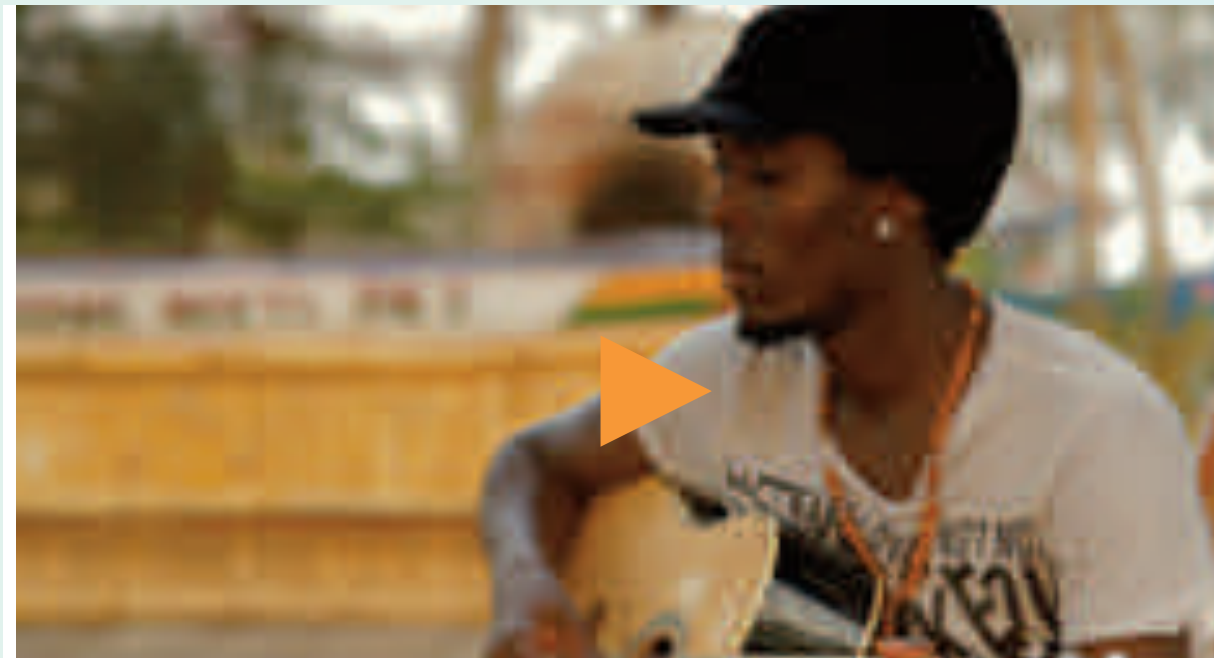
DANI KOUYATÉ OLIVIER DELAHAYE

Son to one of Africa's foremost actors, Sitigui Kouyaté, Dani Kouyaté debuted with his first feature in 1995. He belongs to a family of griots (storytellers) and returns in his movies to themes around traditional African legends and tales.

Olivier Delahaye is a french director and producer. In Soleils, they have together created a captivating road movie where the story of Africa is told in non-colonial words and images.

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LANTANDA



Guinea Bissau is a West African country most widely known in connection with the drug trade and constant attempt to overthrow a government. However, musicians of different generations explain through their songs the reasons why they have chosen the Creole language to convey the social reality of the country.

In the 60s, during the war of independence against the Portuguese colonial rule in Guinea Bissau, the music group "Cobiana Jazz" was singing about the problems of the Guinean people in a language they can understand: Creole. It became a cultural revolution.

Creole is the language used by the majority of people in Guinea Bissau, so musicians and other cultural activists currently claim its legitimate co-official status.

Director: Gorka Gamarra

Country: Guinea Bissou / Basque Country 2014

Length: 63mins

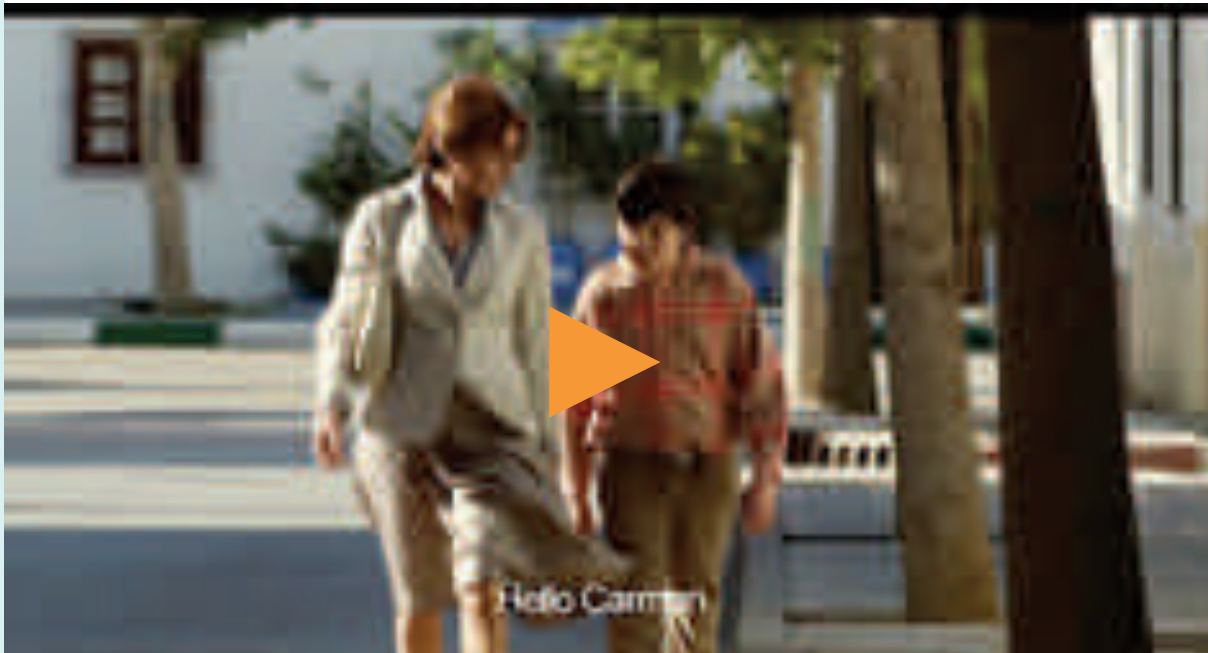
Saturday, 6pm

GORKA GAMARRA

With a background in International Law, Gorka Gamarra has worked in the last ten years for a variety of non-governmental and international organisations in countries in post-conflict, such as Rwanda and Guinea Bissau. In 2009, he made his first documentary as a director and screenwriter, *Umurage*, about reconciliation between victims and executioners in Rwanda. The film was selected for the Zinemira section at the San Sebastian Film Festival. *Lantanda* is his second documentary.

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ADIOS CARMEN



This nostalgic and ground-breaking film, from first-time feature director Mohamed Amin Benamraoui is set in a period of Moroccan history that is not often dealt with in Moroccan cinema: the Spanish occupation. Looking at music, young boys and the power of cinema, and incorporating a Moroccan version of the Romeo and Juliet tale as a sub-plot, it surprises, twists, and ultimately delivers a message of hope for young people and for love.

Adios Carmen is an exceptional film, not only because it embodies nostalgia for a long lost homeland and a childhood that is slightly romanticized (thus embodying in many ways the *Cinema Paradiso*-feel of Giuseppe Tornatore's 1988 film), but also because it touches in some detail on an episode of Moroccan history that is often neglected: the long history Morocco shares with Spain. Moroccan cinema's attempts to come to terms with a colonial history has focused on France, and ignored the Spanish presence in Morocco, but Adios Carmen deals with this difficult period of the country's history in an exceptionally sensitive manner.

Directors: Mohamed Amin Benamraoui

Cast: Benjalil Amanallah, Paulina Gálvez, Ufrin Mustapha Azzarouali, Juan Estelrich

Country: Morocco 2013

Awards: *Prix du Public* at Mediterranean Film Festival 2015, *Muhr Arab Special Mention* and *Best Feature* in the Dubai International Film Festival 2013, 1st Prize Festival of Black Screens Cameroon.

Length: 104mins

Saturday, 7.30pm

[Go to Facebook page](#)

MOHAMED AMIN BENAMRAOURI

Mohamed Amin Benamraoui (born Morocco) came to Brussels in the mid-1980s and studied cinema under Thierry Zeno. His shorts include *SELLAM AND DEMETAN* (2008, Grand Prix at Martil Film Festival and Jury Award at Benalmadena International Short Festival), *WEDDING ON THE BEACH* (2008) and *KIF KIF*. *ADIOS CARMEN* (2013) is his first feature. Benamraoui has also worked as a radio presenter and a programme planner for several Berber festivals.

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THE LAST SONG BEFORE THE WAR



The Last Song Before the War is a feature-length documentary that captures the inspiring rise and uncertain future of Mali's annual Festival in the Desert. The festival history is told from the perspective of the co-founder and festival director, Manny Ansar, the musicians who perform and the intrepid travelers from around the world who make the long journey to attend the festival. Against the backdrop of stunning musical performances, the film subtly reveals the challenges and triumphs of creating an artistic event in such challenging economic and political circumstances. After 12 years of success and unforgettable musical moments, the Festival in the Desert came to a halt in 2012 when separatist rebels and Islamic militants seized control of Northern Mali.

The Last Song Before the War chronicles the 2011 Festival - arguably the last edition that still captured its original goals - a global display of peace, reconciliation, and the healing power of music.

Directors: Kiley Kraskouskas

Country: Mali / USA 2013

Length: 90mins

Sunday, 6pm

[Go to official page](#)

KILEY KRASKOUSKAS

Kiley Kraskouskas is an award-winning producer and co-founder and president of Thinking Forward Media. Before launching Thinking Forward Media she worked as a producer and business developer for two top Virginia film companies, Rock Creek Productions of Reston, and Cortina Productions of McLean. She then served as producer and the principal fundraiser for *The Last Song Before the War*.

Kiley is a sought-after instructor, speaker, and consultant whose expertise includes crowd funding, video production, and project management.

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DREXCIYA



This science fiction short by Simon Rittmeier turns the world upside down: Thomas works as a trafficker for European refugees that are seeking a better life in Africa.

One day his ship sinks and he finds himself as the only survivor washed up on the African shore. He tries to reach the next megacity: *Drexciya*, an advanced high-tech world.

Somewhere in the desert he is stopped by a huge light fence. At the end of his rope a group of young Africans stumble across him: Sisay, Kanchebe and Dylis. After a while they decide to take him along.

Yet their mission also seems to be a strange one. They are looking for an almost forgotten place. Lost in the wide desert they come to know each other – speechless, strangers in their own land.

Director: Simon Rittmeier

Cast: Alexander Beyer, Josiane Hien Yeri,
Rodrigue Ouattara, Adama Venegda

Country: Germany / Burkina Faso 2012

Length: 28min

Sunday, 8pm

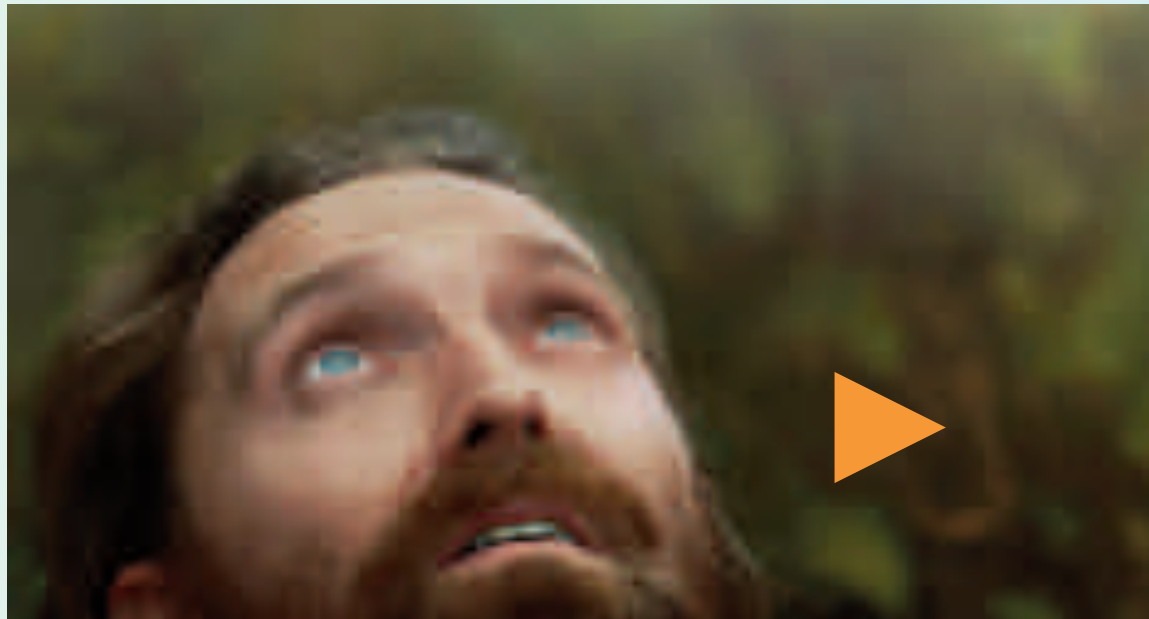
*(screening with Things of the
Aimless Wanderer)*

SIMON RITTMEIER

Born in Nuremberg in 1981, he grew up in Erlangen, Germany. After high school he worked in Rwanda as a social worker. He then studied Visual Communication and Film at the University of Fine Arts, Hamburg and the Academy of Media Arts, Cologne. 2009 artist scholarship at Havana, Ludwig Foundation of Cuba. „Drexciya“ is his first feature film and his diploma.

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THINGS OF THE AIMLESS WANDERER



Things of the Aimless Wanderer is a film about the sensitive topic of relations between “locals” and Westerners, about paranoia, mistrust, and misunderstandings.

Kivu Ruhorahoza's arresting feature reveals a series of cryptic and loosely connected narrative shards. Each depicts an uneasy encounter between an African woman and a male figure of authority or menace, be he a nineteenth century white explorer, a twenty-first century Western journalist, or a Rwandan man performing reconnaissance for a shadowy internal agency. In each story, a female figure is an object of lust, surveillance, fascination, or violence, inevitably disappearing from the narrative. Every disappearance becomes a sort of chorus, punctuated by enigmatic images and haunting musical soundscapes. Considering the film's title ("aimless wanderer" originally described hapless European explorers), one might indeed ask whether the female avatar of these stories may be a metaphor for Rwanda itself: colonized, objectified, and struggling to calibrate cultural gains, including gains for women, with reactionary policies and sentiments.

Director: Kivu Ruhorahoza

Cast: Justin Mullikin, Grace Nikuze, Ramadhan Bizimana, Eliane Umuhire, Wesley Ruzibiza

Country: Rwanda / UK 2014

Length: 77mins

Sunday, 8pm

(screening with Drexciya)

Official Page

Facebook

KIVU RUHORAHOZA

Kivu Ruhorahoza, from Rwanda, made two award-winning short films (*Confession* and *Lost in the South*) before rising to fame with his first feature *Grey Matter* in 2011. The film – a unique take on the Rwandan genocide – has screened at festivals across the globe and won the mainly self-taught director the Jury Special Mention at Tribeca Film Festival for his ‘audacious and experimental approach,’ and a host of other awards. *Things of the Aimless Wanderer* is his second feature film and screened at Sundance 2015.

**GALWAY AFRICAN
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WRONG.

It's Ivory Coast, West Africa.

While Italy has so far won the highest number of Foreign Language Oscars, it had to submit 64 films to nab its 14 awards.

While Ivory Coast submitted only 1 film which promptly won.

AFRICAN CINEMA

because ... IT'S QUALITY THAT MATTERS

GALWAY'S 8TH AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL

MAY 22ND, 23RD & 24TH, 2015

HUSTON SCHOOL OF FILM & DIGITAL MEDIA, NUI GALWAY

WWW.GALWAYAFRICANFILMFESTIVAL.ORG

Festival Directors:

Joanna Kasinska / Heike Vornhagen, VisionFish

Advisory Committee:

Bridie McMahon (Galway Film Society), Rod Stoneman (Huston School of Film & Digital Media), Tony Daly (www.developmenteducation.ie), Abiola Mamute, Ann Lyons (Community Knowledge Initiative), Nuala Broderick (Galway Film Centre)

Volunteers:

Lorena Dos Santos Spülbeck, Patrick Skolimowski, Laura Porteenga

Special thanks to the following:

Peter Salmon (Galway City Council), Kernan Andrews (Galway Advertiser), iSupply, Huston School of Film & Digital Media and Vinny Browne (Charlie Byrne's Bookshop)

The Galway African Film Festival gratefully acknowledges support from Irish Aid Africa Day, Galway City Council, and the Huston School of Film & Digital Media - go raith míle maith agaibh!

Certification of films will be published on our website when and if available, please get in touch if you have any questions.

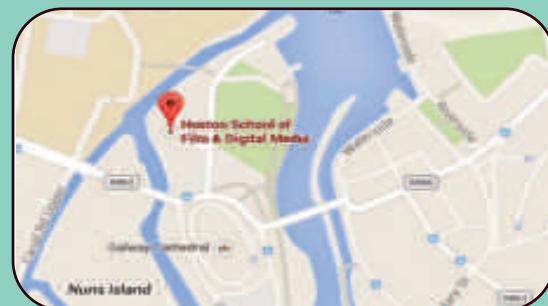
All films free of charge - donations very welcome!

Places will be allocated on a *first come first served* basis.

For further information contact the Galway African Film Festival at 086 2100547 or email heike@galwayafricanfilmfestival.org

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