

African (South of the Sahara)



Films at Ames Public Library

Adanggaman (DVD FOREIGN ADA) In Bambara, Baule and French, with English subtitles. 85 min. 2000. Ossei is a strong-willed man who sets out to rescue his mother when their village is raided. His quest leads him to the stronghold of the King Adanggaman, an arrogant despot who thrives on the slave trade and uses fierce female warriors to enforce his power. One of the warriors falls in love with Ossei, and they escape to the bush.

Africa (916 DVD AFR) 540 min. 2001. This epic presents Africa through the eyes of its people, conveying the beauty and diversity of the continent and the compelling personal stories of those who shape its future.

African Footprint (DVD CONCERT AFR) 89 min. 2007. Over 3,500 performances fuse the rhythms of both ancient and contemporary Africa and take you on a journey of South Africa's heritage and landscape.

Beyond Borders (DVD DVAMA BEY) 126 min. 2003. At a fundraiser, Sarah hears a plea on behalf of impoverished African children delivered by a renegade humanitarian, Dr. Nick Callahan. Turning Sarah's life upside down, she abandons her pampered life to work at his side. Her work takes her to areas where few have travelled and even fewer have survived. She discovers harsh realities that ignite a passion for saving lives.

Beyond the Gates (DVD DRAMA BEY) 112 min. 2007. In April 1994, the airplane of the Hutu President of Rwanda crashes and the Hutu militias slaughter the Tutsi population. In the Ecole Technique Officielle, Christopher, a Catholic priest, and Joe Connor, an idealistic English teacher, give sanctuary to 2500 Rwandan survivors in the school, which is under the protection of the UN Belgian force and under siege from the Hutu militia. When the Tutsi refugees are abandoned by the UN, they are murdered by the extremist militia.

Born Free (DVD DRAMA BOR) 95 min. 1965. Joy Adamson and her husband, Kenya game warden George Adamson, raise Elsa, a lion cub. When Elsa is grown, Joy determines she must re-educate Elsa to living in the wild so that the lioness can return to a free life.

Diamonds of War (553.8 DVD DIA) 50 min. 2003. In the diamond-rich West African nation of Sierra Leone, rebels used the precious gems to bankroll a violent ten-year insurrection, leaving a terrorized population and a ravaged landscape in its wake.

Discovering Ardi (569.9 DVD DIS) 88 min. 2009. In 1974, *Australopithecus afarensis* was discovered in Hadar, northeastern Ethiopia. Nicknamed "Lucy," this 3.2 million year old skeleton was, at the time, the oldest hominid skeleton ever found. Lucy's title was overtaken twenty years later by the 1994 discovery of "Ardi" in Ethiopia's Afar region. It took an elite international team of experts the next fifteen years to delicately, meticulously and methodically piece together Ardi and her lost world in order to reveal her significance.

Disgrace (DVD DRAMA DIS) 118 min. 2010. Professor David Lurie's world is shattered when he is fired for seducing a college student. He finds peace at his estranged daughter's farm in South Africa until an incident of terror and violence forces Lurie to confront his beliefs and the disturbing racial complexities of South Africa.



AMES PUBLIC LIBRARY

www.amespubliclibrary.org

District 9 (DVD SCI-FI DIS) In English, dubbed Portuguese, or dubbed Spanish dialogue, with English, Korean, Mandarin, Portuguese, or Spanish captions. 112 min. 2009. Twenty years ago, aliens from another planet made contact with Earth. Now, the South African apartheid refugee camp they are forced to live in has deteriorated. When field operative Wikus van der Merwe must evict the aliens, he contracts a virus that changes his DNA to match theirs. As his body mutates, he becomes a hunted man, and the aliens' only hope for freedom.

Duma (DVD FAMILY DUM) 100 min. 2005. Xan is a 12-year-old living in South Africa with his parents when they find an abandoned baby cheetah. They name it the Swahili word for cheetah, Duma. Duma grows too big to stay domesticated, and Dad tells the boy to return Duma to the wild. This film is based on the children's picture book/memoir *How It Was with Dooms* by Xan and Carol Cawthra Hopcraft.

Echo and Other Elephants: Enchanting Stories of an Elephant Family (599.67 DVD ECH) 362 min. 2008. Elephant expert Cynthia Moss has followed the lives of matriarch Echo and her elephant herd for over 30 years in Kenya's Amboseli National Park. The remarkable story of Echo and her clan includes battles, kidnappings, baby's first steps, and more.

Endgame (DVD DRAMA END) 109 min. 2009. Working for P. W. Botha, Dr. Neil Barnard opens talks with imprisoned Nelson Mandela. But lesser known are the secret talks that take place in a rural English manor house. Both sides may win or lose all, including their own lives. Botha learns of the British talks and, with the inevitable demise of apartheid, he intends to control the endgame by using the tactics of divide and rule. Against all the odds, a precious arena of frail trust between the two warring parties is achieved.

Faith like Potatoes (DVD DRAMA FAI) 15 min. 2006. In this film based on the autobiography of Angus Buchan, a farmer moves his family to South Africa and suffers a series of seemingly insurmountable losses. Through unlikely friendships and much needed divine intervention, he discovers his life's true purpose and it sustains his unwavering belief in the power of faith.

Final Solution (DVD DRAMA FIN) 107 min. 2002. In South Africa, Gerrit Wolfaardt has been taught that blacks are a cancer in the land. He plans to rid "his" country of its "black danger." Before his plans can be carried out, he meets Celeste, an open-minded University student, and Peter, a pastor who challenges Gerrit's prejudice. When he realizes that he is wrong, he seeks reconciliation between whites and blacks.

Flame Trees of Thika (DVD DRAMA FLA) 353 min. 1981. A young girl and her parents journey to the unspoiled wilderness of East Africa in 1913 where they struggle to transform a rugged plot of land into a farm.

A Force More Powerful: a Century of Nonviolent Conflict (303.61 DVD FOR) 174 min. 2000. This six-part series tells one of the 20th century's most important and least-known stories – how nonviolent power overcame oppression and authoritarian rule. In South Africa in 1907, Mohandas Gandhi led Indian immigrants in a nonviolent fight for rights denied them by white rulers. The power that Gandhi pioneered has been used by underdogs on every continent and in every decade of the 20th century to fight for their rights and freedom.

Four Feathers (DVD ACTION FOU) 130 min. 2002. This lavish remake of a 1939 swashbuckler is based on the novel by A.E.W. Mason. It is the story of the disgrace and redemption of a British regimental officer.

The Ghost and the Darkness (DVD ACTION GHO) 110 min. 1996. Two lions on a man-eating rampage have shut down railway construction in 1896 East Africa. The beasts hunt together, showing no fear. What's more, they're killing for sport rather than for food – and they have a knack for avoiding traps. Big-game hunter Remington and construction engineer Patterson set out to stop them, but the hunters become the hunted.



Ghosts of Rwanda (967.571 DVD GHO) 115 min. 2004. Through interviews with key government officials, diplomats, soldiers, and survivors, this documentary examines the 1994 state-sponsored Rwanda genocide. The international community and the United States did not intervene as Hutu extremists killed some 800,000 Tutsis.

Gorillas in the Mist: the Adventure of Dian Fossey (DVD DRAMA GOR) 129 min. 1988. This is the true story of Dian Fossey's study of African mountain gorillas and her efforts to keep the endangered apes safe.

The Gods Must Be Crazy I & II (DVD COMEDY GOD) 205 min. 2004. A native, Sho, who lives in the Kalahari Desert, encounters technology for the first time – in the shape of a Coke bottle. He takes it to his people, and they use it for many tasks. When the people start to fight over it, he decides to return it to God – where he thinks it came from. In the sequel, Sho's children accidentally stow away on a fast-moving poachers' truck, and he must rescue them.

Hotel Rwanda (DVD DRAMA HOT) 122 min. 2004. This is the true story of Paul Rusesabagina, manager of a 5-star hotel, who in 1994 used his wits and words to house (and save) over 1200 Tutsi refugees during their struggle against the Hutu militia in Rwanda.

The Human Family Tree (569.9 DVD HUM) 96 min. 2009. Geneticist Spencer Wells and a team from National Geographic's Genographic Project trace the human journey through time, from our origins in the heart of Africa to the ends of the world. Cutting edge science, coupled with a cast of New Yorkers – each with their own unique genetic history – helps paint a picture of these journeys. The film answers who we are and where we come from and forces us to change our thinking about our relationships with our neighbors, and ourselves.

In My Country (DVD DRAMA IN) 103 min. 2005. Langston Whitfield is a Washington Post journalist who is in South Africa to cover the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings. Anna Malan is an Afrikaans poet covering the hearings for radio, shattered by the cruelty and depravity committed by her fellow countrymen.

Invictus (DVD DRAMA INV) 133 min. 2010. Newly elected President Mandela knows his nation remains divided in the wake of apartheid. Believing he can unite his people through the universal language of sport, Mandela rallies South Africa's rugby team as they make an unlikely run to the 1995 World Cup Championship.

The Last King of Scotland (DVD DRAMA LAS) 123 min. 2007. This award-winning film follows the rise and fall of Uganda's dictator, Idi Amin. Amin's reign of terror is viewed through the eyes of Nicholas Garrigan, a Scottish doctor who arrives in the early 1970s to be Amin's personal physician. His perspective as an outsider causes him initially to be impressed by Amin's calculated rise to power. Amin grows increasingly monstrous, and independent Uganda (a British colony until 1962) becomes a breeding ground for Amin's genocidal tyranny. Amin is personally charming and seductive; and Garrigan grows increasingly prone to exploitation.

The Making of the Mahatma (DVD DRAMA MAK) 145 min. 2004. Barrister Gandhi faced a twenty-one year struggle (1893-1914) in South Africa, which made him the Mahatma.

Moolaadé (DVD FOREIGN MOO) In Jula and French, with English captions. 124 min. 2004. Set in a small African village, four young girls facing ritual "purification" decide to flee to the household of Collé Ardo Gallo Sy, a strong-willed woman who has managed to shield her own teenage daughter from the mutilation. Collé invokes the time-honored custom of moolaadé (sanctuary) to protect the fugitives, and tension mounts as the ensuing stand-off pits Collé against village traditionalists. This endangers the prospective marriage of her daughter to the heir-apparent to the tribal throne.

***Munyurangabo* (DVD FOREIGN MUN)** In Kinyarwanda with English captions. 97 minutes. 2008. Two young men from separate tribes – one, an orphan of the Rwandan genocide looking for revenge, and the other just returning home to his family – travel from Kigali to the countryside.

***The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency, Season 1* (DVD TV NO)** 480 min. 2009. Mma Ramotste, a recently bereaved woman, sets up the only woman-run private detective agency in Botswana. She gets help from her secretary Mma Makutsi and Mr. JLB Matekoni, the owner and mechanic of Speedy Motors. Mma Ramotste takes on cases – from a woman who thinks the man who has turned up at her door is not her father, to another lady who has a boyfriend who may or may not be faithful to her.

***Nowhere in Africa* (DVD FOREIGN NOW)** In German, Swahili, and English, with English captions. 142 min. 2001. This award-winning true tale depicts a Jewish family in Germany who emigrates to Kenya in 1938, shortly before the Second World War, and learns to cope with their new life and each other on a remote farm.

***Out of Africa* (DVD DRAMA OUT)** 161 min. 1985. In 20th century colonial Kenya, a Danish baroness/plantation owner has a passionate but doomed love affair with a free-spirited big-game hunter. This true-life story of Karen Blixen stars Meryl Streep and Robert Redford.

***The Power of One* (DVD DRAMA POW)** 127 min. 1992. Peekay, a South African boy, suffers bullying as the only English boy in an Afrikaans school. After being orphaned, he lives with his grandfather's friend, a German called "Doc." After WW II begins, Doc is imprisoned for failure to register as a foreigner. While visiting Doc in prison, Peekay meets Geel Piet, who teaches him to box and tells him the story of a mythical creature that brings peace to the African tribes. As he grows up, he takes on the system and the social injustices around him – finding that one person really can make a difference. Based on the novel by Bryce Courtenay.

***Prince among Slaves* (306.362 DVD PRI)** 60 min. 2008. In 1788, a slave ship sailed from Gambia with hundreds on board. Eight months later, a handful of survivors were sold in Natchez, Mississippi. One of them claimed to be a prince of an African kingdom larger and more developed than the newly formed United States. In this true story, an African prince endured the humiliation of slavery without losing his dignity or hope of freedom.

***Shaka Zulu* (DVD TV SHA)** In English or French. 500 min. 2002 (1986). This is the complete 10-part A & E television series of the life of Shaka Zulu, the illegitimate prince who reclaimed his birthright with brilliance and brutality. He created a vast new nation from warring tribes and forged an army that defied the British Empire. It includes the history of British colonialism in Africa, and the significance of the Zulu wars.

***Skin* (DVD DRAMA SKI)** 107 min. 2008. Despite being born to Afrikaner parents, Sandra faces prejudice from her community due to her dark skin and African features. Torn between her family and the man she loves, Sandra must overcome the racial intolerance of her society in this uplifting true story.

***The Snows of Kilimanjaro* (DVD DRAMA SNO)** 117 min. 1972. A successful but disillusioned writer, near death from a hunting wound, reviews his amorous intrigues and his experiences as hunter and world traveler.

***Son of Man* (DVD DRAMA SON)** 91 min. 2006. In English or Xhosa, with English captions. In Judea in southern Africa, violence, poverty, and sectarianism are endemic. The neighboring alliance has invaded under the pretense of restoring peace. As the civil war escalates, a divine child is born to a lowly couple. As he grows and witnesses the inhumanity of the world, he is offered an escape to the heavens. He refuses. He must try to save the world from evil men. This is a powerful retelling of the life of Christ set in contemporary South Africa.

***Tears of the Sun* (DVD ACTION TEA)** 121 min. 2003. A Special-Ops commander leads his team into the jungle of Nigeria to rescue a doctor, but she will comply only if they agree to rescue 70 refugees, too.

***Throw Down Your Heart* (787.88 DVD THR)** In English and multiple languages from Uganda, Tanzania, Gambia, and Mali, with English captions. 97 min. 2008. Multiple Grammy-winner Béla Fleck travels to Uganda, Tanzania, the Gambia, and Mali searching for the roots of the banjo. Part road movie, part historical document, this film demonstrates the power of music and musicians to reach across cultural boundaries and language limitations. The infectious music transports viewers into the heart of Fleck's personal journey.

***Tsotsi* (DVD FOREIGN TSO)** In Tsotsi-Taal, with English or Spanish captions. 94 min. 2005. A young man running with a criminal gang in Johannesburg, Tsotsi - a nickname meaning thug - lives in a violent world that seems to leave him unaffected, until he discovers a baby in the backseat of a car he has stolen.

***Wild at Heart* (DVD TV WIL)** 276 min. 2008. An English family moves to the South African bush to set up and run a game reserve and sort out the problems within the family itself. Danny Trevanion (a widower and vet) is living in England with his seventeen-year-old daughter Rosie, Sarah (his wife of six months) and Sarah's two young children from her previous marriage. Family tensions are running high, but when Danny brings home an illegally smuggled monkey whose life he saved, Sarah decides that the family should return the monkey to Africa. As they adjust to life in a very different land, the family faces elephant poachers and bush fires as they attempt to build a new and exciting life for themselves. Will they succeed?

***Wildlife Photographers: Christine and Michel Denis-Huot* (779 DVD WIL)** 70 min. 2009. These wildlife photographers are renowned for their award-winning images of lions, elephants, rhinos, and giraffes. This documentary follows the couple across Kenya capturing animal behavior, from pink flamingos congregating along the shores of Lake Bogoria to the spectacular Great Migration that occurs every July as wildebeests, zebras, and gazelles travel from the Serengeti to the Masai Mara park reserve in search of food.

***Yeelen* (DVD FOREIGN YEE)** In Bambara with English subtitles. 105 min. 2002. This is a film adaptation of a great oral epic of West African folklore and of the Bambara people. Set in the 13th century, in the powerful Mali Empire, young Nianankoro is destined to destroy a corrupt older society, the secret Komo cult, with it his father, and, finally, himself. The flash of light which ends the film ushers in a new, purified world order and captures the Bambara belief in time as circular – always returning to that initial brightness of creation.

***Zulu* (DVD ACTION ZUL)** 139 min. 1964. Zulu is set in Africa in 1879 only hours after the battle of Isandhlwana. A small group of British soldiers stood their ground at a farm house against an onslaught of wave after wave of Zulus.