

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DaVinci International Film Festival Partners with Swahili Village Media to Present *FilmAfrica: Nations In Focus. Stories in Motion.*, a new initiative that will showcase the vibrant and dynamic film scene of Kenya.**



**Los Angeles, CA – January 20, 2025** – DaVinci International Film Festival (DIFF) is thrilled to announce a groundbreaking partnership with Swahili Village Media, an innovative global media company, to present **FilmAfrica: Kenya**, a new initiative that will showcase the vibrant and dynamic film scene of Kenya.

FilmAfrica: Kenya will debut at DIFF's Seventh Edition (D7), taking place October 10-12, 2025, at The Grove in Los Angeles. This exciting program aligns perfectly with DaVinci's mission to celebrate the arts across cultures, uniting nations through the shared passion for cinema.

"We are incredibly excited to partner with Swahili Village Media to bring the captivating stories of Kenyan filmmakers to the global stage," said Chadwick Pelletier, Chairman

and Executive Director of DIFF. “This collaboration will not only showcase exceptional films but also foster cultural exchange and deepen appreciation for African cinema.”

The FilmAfrica: Kenya program will feature a curated selection of narrative and documentary films, followed by engaging Q&A sessions with filmmakers. A distinguished panel discussion and a keynote address from an industry leader will further enrich the program.

The partnership will kick off at DIFF's inaugural **Masquerade**, a glamorous black-tie event taking place during the Cannes Film Festival on May 16, 2025, at the prestigious Carlton Hotel. The Masquerade marks DaVinci's strategic entry into the European market, establishing a strong presence and delivering a high-end experience for industry professionals and esteemed guests. This exclusive, invite-only event will offer live entertainment, networking opportunities, and exquisite food and beverage, creating an unforgettable experience within the vibrant festival circuit.

Swahili Village Media is a top-tier sponsor of the Masquerade and will also serve as the Presenting Sponsor for FilmAfrica: Kenya.

To further solidify this exciting collaboration, Kevin Onyona, CEO of Swahili Village Group, has been appointed Chairman and Ambassador of the FilmAfrica event at DIFF. The initiative will be directed by Fredrick Song, a member of DaVinci's Advisory Board, with the continued support of Mr. Pelletier.

“This partnership with DaVinci International Film Festival perfectly complements Swahili Village Media's commitment to promoting cultural understanding and supporting artistic expression,” said Kevin O Onyona, CEO of Swahili Village Media. “We are honored to collaborate on celebrating the rich cinematic heritage of Kenya.”

FilmAfrica: Kenya promises to be a highlight of D7, offering a unique platform for Kenyan filmmakers to connect with international audiences and showcasing the power of cinema to transcend borders.

### **About DaVinci International Film Festival**

The DaVinci International Film Festival (DIFF) is a premier boutique awards platform, produced annually by the 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, DaVinci Film Society Inc. Dedicated to celebrating cinematic excellence from around the world, DIFF showcases exceptional independent films and fosters a vibrant community for filmmakers, industry professionals, and film enthusiasts. The festival provides a platform for filmmakers to connect, gain recognition for their work, and inspire audiences through the power of storytelling.

**Learn more:** [davincifilmfestival.com](http://davincifilmfestival.com)

## **About Swahili Village Media**

Swahili Village Media is the storytelling arm of Swahili Village USA, a pioneering restaurant concept with multiple fine-dining locations along the eastern seaboard, offering the the best in African cuisine, and a purveyor of premium spices, coffees, and teas, known for its commitment to quality and its dedication to supporting sustainable and ethical sourcing practices. Swahili Village Media aims to share the rich panorama of African stories and cultures through compelling and impactful content.

**Learn more:** [swahilivillages.com](https://swahilivillages.com)