

# MAMA AFRICA

by Mika Kaurismäki



## SYNOPSIS

Miriam Makeba was the first black African musician who won international stardom and whose music was always anchored in her traditional South African roots. Miriam Makeba was forced into exile in 1959. She sang for John F. Kennedy, performed with Harry Belafonte and Nina Simone, was married to Hugh Masekela and also Stokely Carmichael. Her life was tumultuous. She always stood for truth and justice. She fought for the oppressed most importantly for black Africans, as a campaigner against apartheid. She died November 2008 after a concert in Italy. Mika Kaurismäki's documentary, traces fifty years of her music and her performing life. Through rare archive footage of her performances and through interviews with her contemporaries we discover the remarkable journey of Miriam Makeba.

WITH:

Zenzi Monique Lee, Nelson Lumumba Lee, Hugh Masekela, Angélique Kidjo, Bill Salter, Leopoldo Fleming, Kathleen Cleaver, Lorraine Gordon, Dorothy Masuku, Abigail Kubeka

## FESTIVALS

2011

Seal of Approval 'highly recommended'

61 Berlinale PANORAMA - world premiere

2013

RUHRPOTT-Leserfilmpreis

## CAST AND CREW

DIRECTOR Mika Kaurismäki

Germany 2011

90 min

### FORMAL CATEGORIES

Biographie/Portrait, Gender, History, Human Rights, Music, Politics, Social issues

### CONTENT CATEGORIES

Music video

### ORIGINAL LANGUAGES

English, German

### PREMIERE

Germany (2011)

### COPRODUCTION COMPANY

[Starhaus Filmproduktion GmbH](#)

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