

A New Global Initiative

Discover Benin from the past and today through film screenings, fine art exhibitions, musical performances, and talks and panel discussions ranging from politics to social justice, literature to art.

Our inaugural (T)HERE event is a three-day festival and conference to celebrate the culture and history of Benin, West Africa, and to introduce Purchase's new global initiatives.



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Artist in the Studio: Hector Sonon

Location: Printmaking Studio, Visual Arts Building, Room 1009

Time: 2:30pm

Join us in the printmaking studios to meet artist-in-residence Hector Sonon, Beninese fine artist and political cartoonist, as he presents his art and demonstrates works-in-process.

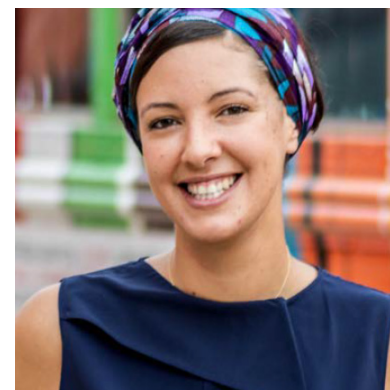
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Jandon Business of the Arts Distinguished Lecture: Marie-Cécile Zinsou

Location: Neuberger Museum of Art

Time: 6:00pm

Beninese art historian and entrepreneur Marie-Cécile Zinsou will give a talk on contemporary Pan-African art. Lecture series is made possible by the Jandon Foundation.



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Exhibition Opening: Echoes of the City: Ancestral Figures to Urban Heroes

Location: Upper Lobby,
The Performing Arts Center

Time: 4:45-5:30pm

Photography by Audace Aziakou, art by Hector Sonon and Purchase College printmaking students.



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Invited Speaker: Deborah G. Plant on Zora Neale Hurston's *Barracoon: The Story of the Last "Black Cargo"*

Location: Humanities Theater, Humanities Building, Room 1030A

Time: 12:30pm

Deborah G. Plant, editor of the recently released *Barracoon*, will give a talk titled "From Benin to Alabama: The Journey of Oluale Kossula."

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Short Film Screening and Panel: Transnational Student Filmmakers

Location: PepsiCo Theatre, The Performing Arts Center **Time:** 3:00pm

View short films created by Purchase College students in collaboration with students from Benin, West Africa and Haiti, and participate in the discussion to follow between filmmakers and heads of the three film schools.



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

U.S. Premiere Film: *Wax in the City* Directed by Élie Séonnet

Location: PepsiCo Theatre, The Performing Arts Center

Time: 5:00pm

Flora Coquerel invites us into the fast-paced, cosmopolitan lives of young African and Afro-French designers for a success story in the hues of wax, which has become the symbol of cultural mix for an entire generation. (2018, 54 min.)

Tickets: \$15



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

New York Premiere Film: *In Search of Voodoo: Roots to Heaven* Directed by Djimon Hounsou

Location: PepsiCo Theatre, The Performing Arts Center **Time:** 7:30pm

This origin story weaves together a personal, cultural, and spiritual journey—capturing the vibrant tales of Voodoo, West Africa, and the return home of two-time Oscar-nominated actor Djimon Hounsou. (2018, 65 min.)

Tickets: \$15

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Panel Discussion: North-South Partnerships, Redefined

Location: Upper Lobby, The Performing Arts Center **Time:** 2:30pm

Join panelists including His Excellency Hector Posset, the Ambassador of the Republic of Benin to the United States and Mexico, for a discussion about the status of global North-South relationships in a rapidly changing world.



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Artist as Activist: A Conversation with Angélique Kidjo

Location: PepsiCo Theatre, The Performing Arts Center **Time:** 5:00pm

Three-time Grammy Award-winning singer, activist and humanitarian Angélique Kidjo, named one of *The Guardian's* 100 most inspiring women in the world, will discuss the responsibility of artists to use their platform for social justice, the many ways in which we can all give back, and the enormous impact each of us can make in the world.





SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

VIP Meet & Greet with Angélique Kidjo

Location: Upper Lobby, The Performing Arts Center **Time:** 7:00pm
Meet Angélique Kidjo, the first woman to appear on *Forbes*'s list of the Most Powerful Celebrities in Africa, and is included on the BBC's list of Africa's 50 most iconic figures. Limited capacity.
Tickets: \$50 (Can only be purchased in combination with Kidjo Conversation or BIM U.S. Premiere performance)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

U.S. Premiere Performance: Benin International Musical (BIM)

Location: PepsiCo Theatre, The Performing Arts Center **Time:** 8:00pm

Associating voodoo rhythms and traditional songs, electronic melodies in piquant Beninese style with trip pop grooves, hip hop and rock, this collective of Beninese artists has all it takes to make us travel.

Tickets: \$52.50 **Ticket Combo:** Kidjo Conversation and BIM Concert: \$87.50)



ONGOING

Exclusive: Ayodele Pop-Up Store

Location: Upper Lobby, The Performing Arts Center
Time: Fri. 9/28 & Sat. 9/29, 12:00-8:00pm
For the first time in the U.S., Benin's Ayodele wax fabric creations will be available for sale. From jewelry to furniture, linens to handbags, festival participants will discover chic, fun, affordable designs. Proceeds benefit Purchase College partner The Zinsou Foundation, an arts and education organization, located in Benin.



ONGOING

Food Trucks

Location: West 2 Parking Lot
Time: Fri. 9/28 & Sat. 9/29, 12:00pm-8:00pm
Enjoy cuisine from West Africa and the U.S.

ONGOING

Art and Photography Exhibition: Echoes of the City: Ancestral Figures to Urban Heroes

Location: Upper Lobby, The Performing Arts Center
Time: Fri. 9/28 & Sat. 9/29, 12:00-8:00pm
Photography by Audace Aziakou, art by Hector Sonon and Purchase College printmaking students. (See Thurs. 9/27 for opening details).



ONGOING

Tours of the African Collection

Location: Upper Gallery, Neuberger Museum of Art
Time: Fri. 9/28, 2:00-2:30pm; Sat. 9/29, 12:15-12:45pm
Take a guided tour of rare objects from a range of countries throughout the continent.
RSVP: purchase.edu/globalfestival
Tickets: \$15

