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**ArtsEmerson: The World On Stage Announces
A Special Free Screening of Ousmane Sembene's
*BLACK GIRL (LA NOIRE DE...)***

**Emerson/Paramount Center's Bright Family Screening Room
Friday, February 6, 2015 at 8PM**

Email for images and interviews.

[BOSTON, MA – January 14, 2014] ArtsEmerson: The World On Stage announces a free film screening of **Black Girl (La Noire De...)** by internationally-acclaimed Senegalese filmmaker Ousmane Sembene, Friday, February 6, 2015 at 8PM. The event takes place at the Emerson/Paramount Center's Bright Family Screening Room (559 Washington Street in Boston's historic theatre district). Admission is free with reservation by [clicking here](#) or calling 617-824-8400 (*snow date: Friday, February 13*).

This special screening is a tribute to the remarkable legacy of Ousmane Sembene, called "the filmmaker who found Africa's voice" (*The New York Times*), and his prolific body of work produced against tremendous odds over a forty-year career.

There will be both an introduction and a post-screening Q&A with Dr. Claire Andrade-Watkins, Associate Professor of Visual & Media Arts at Emerson College and Dr. Samba Gadjigo, the official biographer of Sembene. Dr. Gadjigo is the co-producer and co-director of the documentary *Sembene!*, an official selection for Sundance 2015 International Documentary Competition.



Still image from Black Girl (La Noire De...)

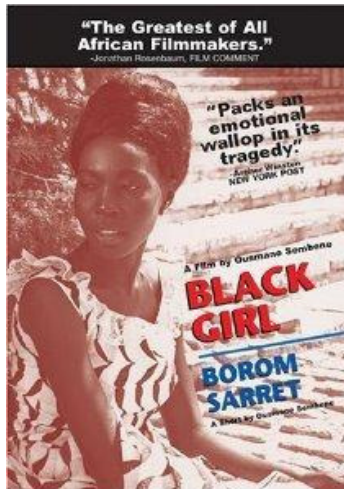
Synopsis: A Senegalese woman is eager to find a better life abroad. She takes a job as a governess for a French family, but finds her duties reduced to those of a maid after the family moves from Dakar to the south of France. In her new country, the woman is constantly made aware of her race and mistreated by her employers. Her hope for better times turns to disillusionment and she falls into isolation and despair. The harsh treatment leads her to consider suicide the only way out. [Click here](#) to view the trailer.

Black Girl

Friday, February 6, 2015 (snow date Friday, February 13, 2015)

Emerson/Paramount Center's Bright Family Screening Room

8:00PM Introduction by Dr. Samba Gadjigo and Dr. Claire Andrade-Watkins
8:10PM **Black Girl** Film Screening (65 minutes)
9:15PM Q & A with Dr. Samba Gadjigo and Dr. Claire Andrade-Watkins



Black Girl DVD Cover



Dr. Samba Gadjigo



Dr. Claire Andrade-Watkins

About Ousmane Sembene

Ousmane Sembene (1923-2007) born in the Casamance region of Senegal, left school in the sixth grade, rising from a laborer and dockworker to an internationally acclaimed novelist and filmmaker. *God's Bits of Wood*, his 1960 novel about the African railroad workers strike in colonial Senegal in the 1940's is considered a staple of world literature. At the age of 40 Sembene turned his focus from the written word to film to reach a wider audience. Recognized as the "Father of African Cinema," Sembene's **La Noire de... (Black Girl)**, released in 1960 is the first feature film by a director from sub-Saharan Africa.

About Dr. Samba Gadjigo

Samba Gadjigo is Professor of French and former Head of the French Department at Mount Holyoke College. He is the world's foremost expert on the life and work of Ousmane Sembene. He is the author of Sembene's official biography, *Ousmane Sembene: The Making of A Militant Artist; Ecole blanche, Afrique noir: L'image de l'école coloniale dans le roman africain francophone*; editor of *Ousmane Sembene: Dialogue with Critics and Writers*, and co-editor of *Un viatique pour l'éternité: hommage à Ousmane Sembène*. He is the director of the documentary *Making of Moolaade* and co-director of *Sembene!*, an official selection for Sundance 2015 International Documentary Competition.

About Dr. Claire Andrade-Watkins

Dr. Claire Andrade-Watkins, Associate Professor of Visual and Media Arts, 2014 Swearer Center Community Fellow, and 2015 Visiting Scholar in the Center for Slavery and Justice, Brown University, is an award-winning historian and filmmaker. Her scholarship focuses on French and Portuguese-speaking African

cinema. She has published in *Society for Visual Anthropology*, *Research in African Literature*, *The Independent Film and Video Monthly*, *American Historical Review*, and *CinémAction*. Her essays on Ousmane Sembene and his work have appeared in *Ousmane Sembene: Dialogue with Critics and Writers* and *Un viatique pour l'éternité : Hommage à Ousmane Sembène*. Her first feature film, *Some Kind of Funny Porto Rican: A Cape Verdean American Story*, was released in 2006.

About ArtsEmerson: The World On Stage

ArtsEmerson was established by Emerson College to program the beautifully restored 590-seat Emerson/Paramount Center Mainstage; the versatile, intimate Jackie Liebergott Black Box Theatre ("The Jackie"), which can seat up to 150 people; the state-of-the-art 170-seat Bright Family Screening Room (all located within the Emerson/Paramount Center, a cornerstone in the revitalization of downtown Boston); and the beloved, historic 1,186-seat Emerson/Cutler Majestic Theatre in the heart of the Theatre District, fully restored by Emerson in 2003. ArtsEmerson brings both American and international theatre, film and music, providing audiences a global perspective on a local platform its its four distinct venues. For more information, visit www.artsemerson.org.

About Emerson College

Located in Boston, Massachusetts, opposite the historic Boston Common and in the heart of the city's Theatre District, Emerson College educates individuals who will solve problems and change the world through engaged leadership in communication and the arts, a mission informed by liberal learning. The College has 3,750 undergraduates and 750 graduate students from across the United States and 50 countries. Supported by state-of-the-art facilities and a renowned faculty, students participate in more than 60 student organizations and performance groups. Emerson is known for its study and internship programs in Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., the Netherlands, London, China, and the Czech Republic. A new, permanent facility on Sunset Boulevard for its L.A.-based program opened in January 2014. For more information, visit www.emerson.edu.

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