

SPECIAL FLIGHT (Feature)
2011, 100 minutes

SYNOPSIS

Special Flight is a dramatic account of the plight of undocumented foreigners at the Frambois detention center in Geneva, Switzerland, and of the wardens who struggle to reconcile humane values with the harsh realities of a strict deportation system. The 25 Frambois inmates featured are among the thousands of asylum seekers and illegal immigrants imprisoned without charge or trial and facing deportation to their native countries, where they fear repression or even death. The film, made in Switzerland, is a heart-wrenching exposé of the contradictions between the country's compassionate social policies and the intractability of its immigration laws.

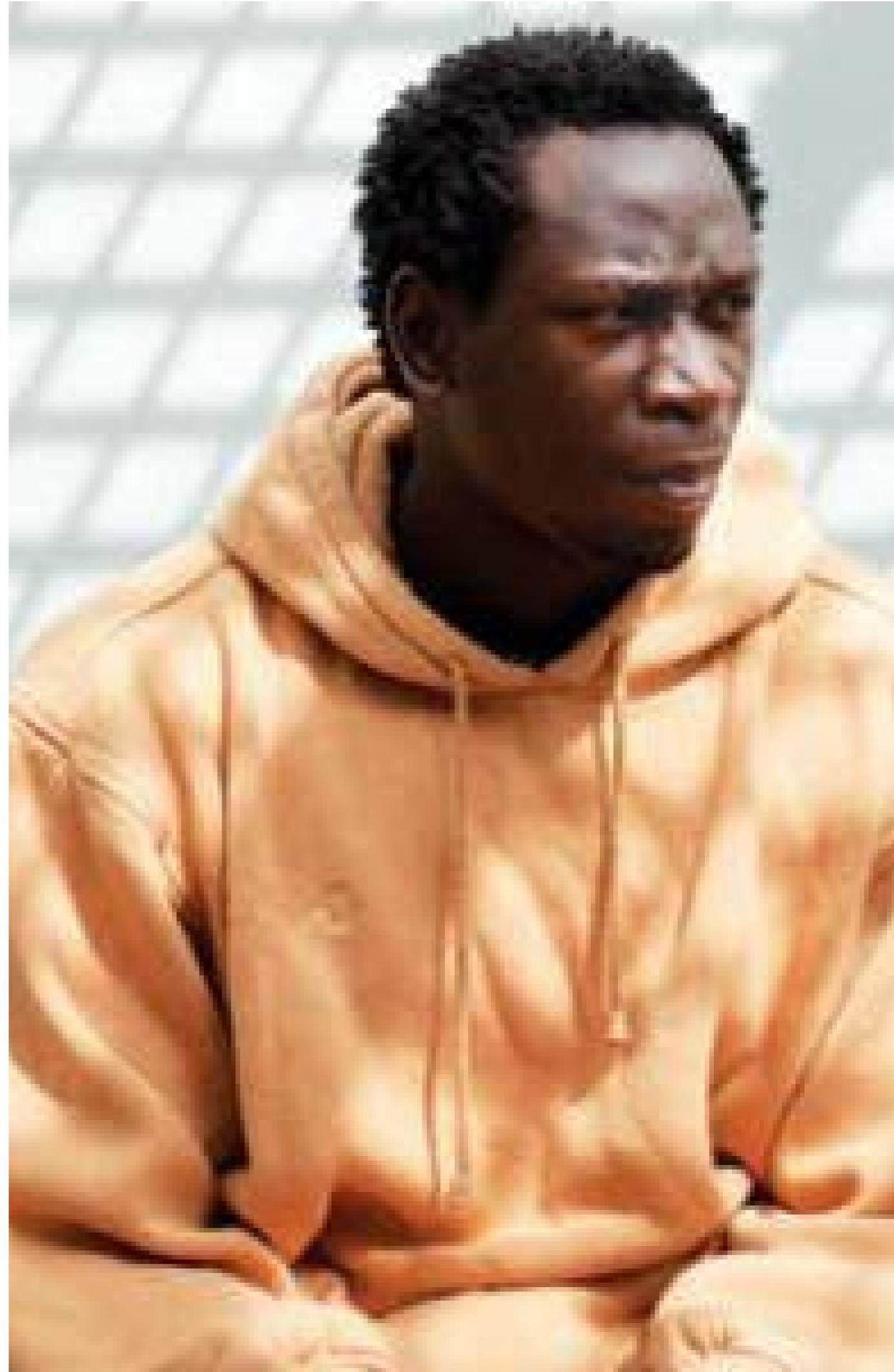
AWARDS & NOMINATIONS

35th Emmy Awards, 2014
AFI Silverdocs Documentary Festival, Special World Feature Jury Mention, 2012
One World Human Rights Film Festival, Best Film Award, 2012
Documentary Film Festival Prix Italia, 2012
TV IRIS Award, Prix Europa, 2012

RESOURCES

Filmmaker interview
New York Times article
<https://climage.ch/films/vol-special>

Trailer: <http://www.pbs.org/pov/specialflight/video/special-flight-trailer/>
<https://climage.ch/en/movies/special-flight/>



POST-SCREENING CONVERSATION QUESTIONS

1. How does the language used by staff members of the detention centre resemble spaces of hospitality: "I wish you a pleasant stay." What purpose does such language serve? What is the impact of such language choices on the residents and what are the potential dangers of using it?
2. What do you think about the relationship between detention staff and residents? Can there be a genuinely respectful relationship?
3. The word 'home' is frequently used in conversations between staff members and residents. What makes a country 'home' in your opinion?
4. "We just tried to find a better future here. Why? Because you came to Africa and destroyed everything, leaving wars behind. So we come here to seek a better life because we're human beings like you." What do Abdoul's words reveal in terms of the tension between refugees' request for asylum and state responsibility?

