

## Developing Africa's women filmmakers

The development and recognition of women within the film industry was a reoccurring theme throughout both ZIFF and the inaugural DISCOP Zanzibar, as African women topped the winners lists, dominating many of the top categories.



The ZIFF Ladiina Adiaha Award for New Moon.

The Zanzibar International Film Festival (ZIFF) announced its awards on Saturday night, 14 July 2018. Amongst a record number of over 4,000 entries across all categories and from over 140 countries, East African filmmakers also featured prominently with the stunning Kenyan film *Supa Modo* taking home the coveted Golden Dhow for Best Feature Film.

The films in selection crossed a broad spectrum of topics and genres and represented over 40 countries including Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, South Africa, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Iraq, Western Sahara, Niger, Iran, The United States, France, Ghana, Belgium, Tunisia, Swaziland, India, United Kingdom and many more.

Women filmmakers took home a total of 10 awards, with the documentary *Silas* directed by [Anjali Nayar](#), [Hawa Essumant](#) taking home two awards; Best Documentary and Best International Film.

The Chairman's Bi Kidude Award, named after the legendary Zanzibar musician, was awarded to Rahmatou Keita from Niger for her moving and romantic plea for cultural preservation, *The Wedding Ring*.

The Emerson Foundation's Award for Best Film from Zanzibar was also awarded to a woman, Barke Ali, while the SIGNIS

East African Talent Award went to Ugandan woman Kemiyondo Coutinho for *Kyenvu*.

In the inaugural version of the category for Best TV Series, South African Lucilla Blankenberg won for her series *Jab*.

The Ousmane Sembene Awards for Short Film went both to women, with Tanzania's Esther Mndeme and South Africa's Rea Moeti, both taking home the honours for their films *Leah* and *Mma Moeketsi*, respectively.

“ Shetta and Dj Rickie Mfalme open at #ZIFF2018                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    