

A List of Notable Movies Set in the Third-World

By Phillip W. Weiss

Hotel Rwanda (2004), directed by Terry George, with Don Cheadle, Sophie Okonedo, Joaquin Phoenix, Fana Mokoena, and Nick Nolte. A hotel manager provides shelter for refugees during a time of tribal conflict in Rwanda. This movie was nominated for three Academy Awards.

Shaka Zulu (1987), directed by William C. Faure, with Henry Cele, Edward Fox, Trevor Howard, and Christopher Lee. This is a miniseries about the life of Shaka, leader of the Zulus, and his contacts with British colonialists.

Zulu (1964), directed by Cy Endfield, with Stanley Baker, Jack Hawkins, Michael Caine, and Patrick Magee. British soldiers prepare for an attack by Zulus.

Khartoum (1966), directed by Basil Dearden and Eliot Elisofon, with Charlton Heston, Laurence Olivier, Richard Johnson, and Ralph Richardson. British General Charles George Gordon defends Khartoum against a Muslim army.

Black Orpheus (1959), directed by Marcel Camus, with Breno Mello, Marpessa Dawn, and Lourdes de Oliveira. The story of Orpheus and Eurydice set in Rio de Janeiro. This movie won the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language film and Golden Globe Award for Best Foreign Film.

Meokgo and the Stickfighter (2006), directed by Teboho Mahlatsi, with Mduduzi Mabaso and Terry Pheto. Set in Lesotho, this is a story of a stickfighter who struggles to free the spirit of a beautiful woman enslaved by an evil horseman.

Story of a Beautiful Country (2004), directed by Khalo Matabane. A documentary about South Africa several years after the end of Apartheid.

U-Carmen eKhayelitsha (2005), directed by Mark Dornford-May, with Pauline Malefane, Andile Tshoni, and Zamide Gantana. Set in South Africa, this movie is a musical based on the Georges Bizet opera Carmen.

Saint Louis Blues (2009), directed by Dyana Gaye, with Umban Gomez de Kset, Mbègne Kassé, and Anne Jeanine Barboza. Set in Senegal, passengers in a taxi traveling from Dakar to Saint Louis tell their stories in song..

The Importance of Being Elegant (TV) (2004), directed by George Amponsah and Cosima Spender. A documentary about African emigres living in Europe.

From a Whisper (2009) directed by Wanuri Kahiu, with Ken Ambani, Abubakar Mwenda, and Godfrey Odhiambo. Set in Nairobi, Kenya, two people discover that they both suffered personal loss from the bombing of the United States embassy ten years before.