

Purpose of this Trip Transcript

The purpose of this trip that I'm taking and the plan for the trip. So I found out from one of my jobs I get a eight week sabbatical. So I thought I would try and use it to it's maximum effect and go as far away as I can for as long as I can. Learn as much as I can.

So the trip itself is 3 1/2 weeks in South Africa, focused on attending Johannesburg Film Festival. Speaking to Durban International Film Festival, and also KZN films and trying to access as many film archives as possible and watch as many films as possible.

Following that, going to Burkina Faso, Ouagadougou to the Film Festival FESPACO, which is probably one of the biggest on the continent and most important, it's got a really strong history and legacy and support in the network of African filmmakers. So that's the next step to attend to that for a week to watch films and meet people and try and remember my French so I can actually have conversations with people.

And then from there go to Paris and spend 2 days on a training course run by FIAF, which is The International Federation of Film Archives to undertake a training course which is called programming, retrospective films or archive film programming.

Then following that staying on for an archive Film Festival and then after that coming home and spending 3 weeks left of the sabbatical, ruminating and thinking and trying to figure out what's now next with all of my hopefully big conversations I will have had.

Ultimately, across all of that, the main ambition as to just meet as many people as possible have a lot of conversations, widen my knowledge, and just feel more connected, I guess to the African sector, film sector, on the ground and get a better understanding of: What does it feel like on from this perspective? Because I feel like I'm coming at it very much from an English lens.

So and that's the other I guess purpose is to kind of feel understand a little bit more how I feel about myself within this whole process. What does it mean for me as somebody who is both English and South African, who is passionate about African cinema, particularly because it helped me feel more connected to my African side. So then to try and come here and see what does it feel like to be working in South Africa when normally I'm just here visiting family. What does it feel like to be confronted by the fact that I have limited languages or again, a lack of awareness of what it feels like? To be operating in the film sector on the ground. So I think purpose for me really is to learn and see what do I feel like in the aftermath of this.