

# Airtel, AMAA welcomes stars to Nigeria

Telecommunications services provider and [official sponsor](#) of the eighth [Africa Movie Academy Awards](#) (AMAA), Airtel Nigeria, the government of Lagos and organisers of the awards, have welcomed stars to the country for the pan African movie festival.



Many international and African movies and cinema stars are in Nigeria for Africa's movies academy awards which is set to take place yesterday, 22 April 2012, at the Expo Hall of Eko Hotel and Suites, Lagos.

A roster of big names in Lagos comprise numerous recognisable faces from Hollywood, including Morris Chestnut (*American Horror Story*, *Boyz in the Hood*); Emmy winner and Golden Globe nominee, Lynn Whitfield (*The Josephine Baker Story* and *Without a Trace*); Rockmond Dunbar (*Prison Break*, *Sons of Anarchy*) and Maya Gilbert (*General Hospital*, *Days of Our Lives*). They have been joined in Lagos by movie stars and professionals from across Africa.

Organisers of the awards have assured all that the awards ceremony will be a night to remember as Airtel's ambassador and Africa's iconic pop star, 2Face Idibia, France based Nigerian singing sensation, ASA and Senegal's Viviane Ndour were expected to provide entertainment. The host for the night was *Heroes* star, Jimmy Jean-Louis.

## Top contenders

Over 300 entries are vying for awards in the various categories. Nigeria leads the pack with 52 nominations while South Africa, Ghana and Kenya fill the other top spots with 45, 17, and 14 nominations each. *Otelo Burning*, *How 2 Steal 2 Million* and *Adesuwa*, a Benin (Nigeria)-set historical epic are top contenders for the glitzy stage with 13, 11 and 10 nominations respectively.

"The AMAAs is entirely unswerving committed to encouraging and rewarding creativity and celebrating the best, and thereby providing bringing joy to our people" says Peace Anyim-Osigwe, CEO of AMAA.

## The jury

The jury for the 8th AMAA include Dr. Asantewa Olanunji (the director of programming and head of the jury), June Giavanni (programmer for Planet Africa at The Toronto International Film Festival); Keith Shiri (founder and film curator at the London festival, Africa at The Pictures); Dorothee Wenner (a curator at The Berlin Film Festival); and Ayoko Babu (executive director of The Pan African Film Festival).

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