

Freedom

The first
African
full-length
colour film

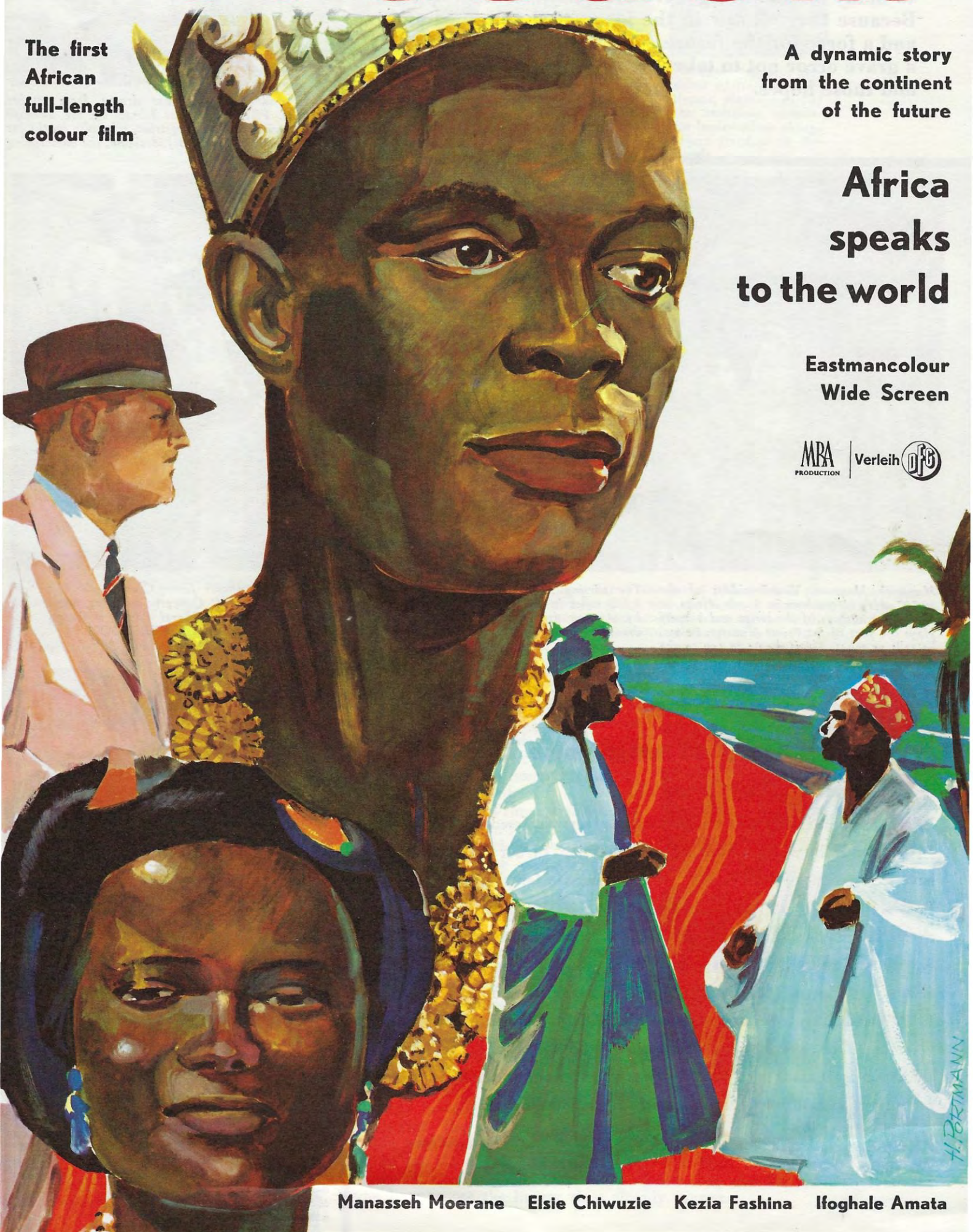
A dynamic story
from the continent
of the future

Africa
speaks
to the world

Eastmancolour
Wide Screen

MBA
PRODUCTION

Verleih



Manasseh Moerane Elsie Chiwuzie Kezia Fashina Ifoghale Amata

Ten thousand Africans, without asking for a penny, have provided a spectacle such as no director could have assembled, even at the cost of millions. Why did so many human beings give their time in this way? Because they all saw in the ideas of the film a hope and a force for the future. I believe that it would be a grave error not to take into account that force and those hopes.

ANDRÉ MAUROIS
of the French Academy



The production unit was drawn from twelve nations. FREEDOM was filmed by the Swedish cameraman, Rickard Tegström, who also works for Walt Disney, and Aimo Jäderholm, the outstanding Finnish cameraman.



Manasseh Moerane, Vice-President of the 10,000 African teachers in South Africa, is one of the authors of the script and himself plays the part of the Prime Minister. Below, he tells us what Africa wants to say to the world through this film...

The stirring music was written by the American Negro composer James Owens, who travelled 3,000 miles in Africa recording authentic folk melodies. The BBC Concert Orchestra, augmented by African drummers, has recorded Owen's music. The Calabar Choral Party, a singing and drumming group popular on the African radio, makes its film debut in FREEDOM.

...the authentic voice of Africa

Money, munitions and manpower can never win freedom. Wealth never buys it. Power never secures it. In our lifetime we have seen nations of wealth, power and numbers forfeit their freedom. Freedom is a matter of character, not of colour, and when its character crumbles, a nation is inevitably on the high road to slavery. A nation with division in the family, racial discrimination and bitterness in industry, is a nation in danger of losing its freedom. We wrote the play and made the film FREEDOM. It is the authentic voice of Africa. A leading American Negro educator called it "the boldest, most audacious approach to the solution of the fundamental problem of human relations that has been made in our time".

Manasseh Moreane, South Africa



Matthew Elebesunu, son of a Nigerian Chief, plays the part of the King of Bokondo.



The part of the Queen is played with natural dignity by Elsie Chiwuzie from Nigeria.



The founder of the militant Youth League of the African National Congress, Dr. W. Nkomo, plays the part of the leader of one of the nationalist factions.



Mrs. Kezia Fashina is the leader of the market women in the capital city of Nigeria. She plays her own part in the film, with charm and humour.

Prince WAN, Chairman of the UN General Assembly: « Everyone must see this film »



Lionel Jardine, for 34 years a British civil servant in India, plays the part of the representative of «Imperia».



Onumara Egwunwoke is General Secretary of the Marine Floating Staff Union. He plays the part of an agent of an ideology that feeds on hatred and bitterness.

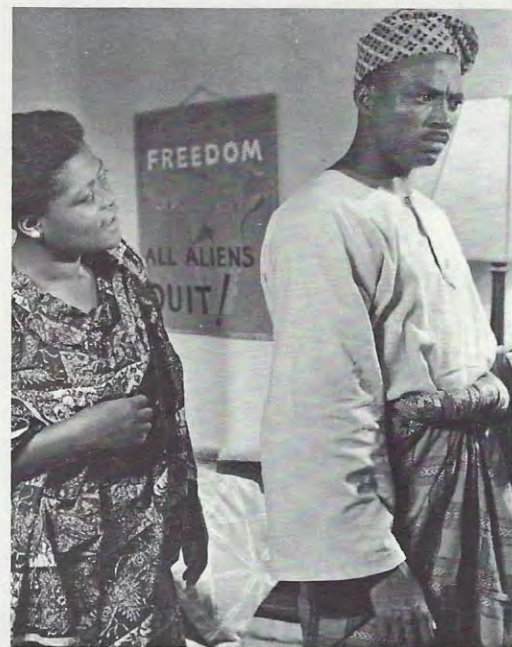


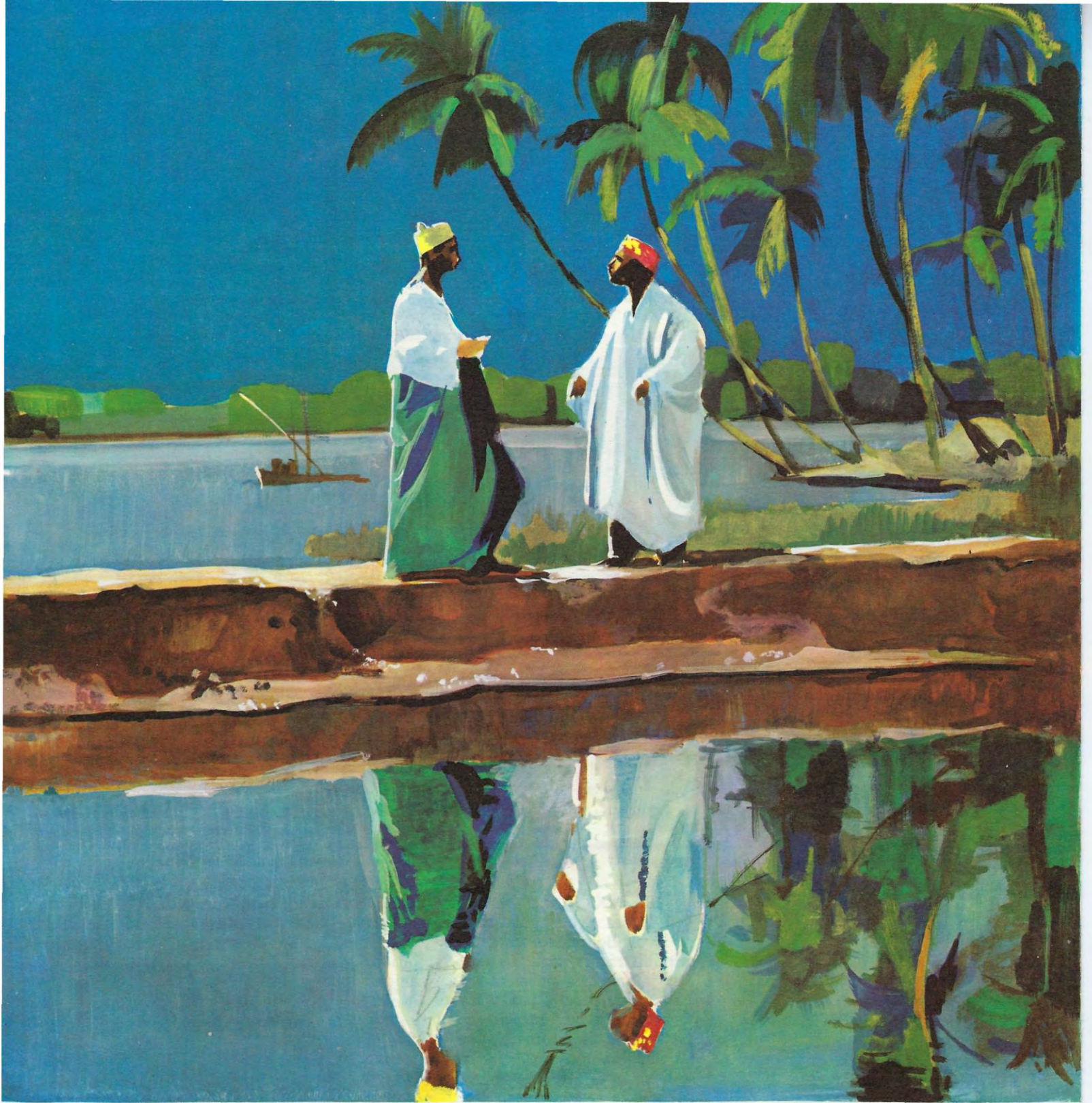
The former student president of Nigeria, John Amata, plays the part of the ambitious nationalist leader whose change brings freedom to Bokondo.



FREEDOM was shot, not in a studio, but in the actual places where the story unfolds — in palaces, homes, market-places and forests — with the authentic costumes and decor. African Chiefs, nobles and parliamentarians made available some of the settings for the interior shots. Many of these men are among the 10,000 who appear in the film.

FREEDOM was born out of the experience and conviction of Africans from every part of the continent. The story turns around the King of Bokondo, whose domain is torn by the injustice of the imperialist administrators and by the ambitions and jealousies of political leaders among his own people. Open revolution threatens when a new tax, deemed unjust by the people, is imposed. At this moment the Prime Minister goes to Geneva to attend a session of a world council. He is struck by the fact that there, too, the same obstacles as in Bokondo are hampering negotiations. In company with other delegates who are not content to remain mere spectators in face of this tragic situation, he meets a great idea. He returns to his country. There, however, an attempt on his life sets off a revolution. Angry masses gather from the villages. Weapons are distributed. Bokondo faces a bloody civil war. But Prime Minister Adamu brings a greater revolution to his people, a revolution that does not replace one imperialism with another, but goes farther by bringing change to men. He realises that "the greatest reactionary is the man who wants to change the world but is not prepared to change himself". And he has the courage to take the road that leads to freedom, not only for the nations that long for their independence, but also for those that do not know how to use the liberty they already possess.





PEIX
DU MINISTRE DES COLONIES
DE BELGIQUE
LILLE - OCTOBRE 1957

Special award, International Festival of Overseas Films, Lille, October 1957.