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## Acclaimed film-maker visits Aberdeen University

### JOHN AKOMFRAH, WHO HAS FILMED WORLD'S LEADING BLACK FIGURES, GIVES TALK TO DIRECTOR'S CUT SERIES

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INFLUENTIAL: John Akomfrah visits King's College as part of the Director's Cut series at the University of Aberdeen. Kevin Emslie

AN AWARD-WINNING film-maker who has been responsible for directing films on some of the world's leading black figures was in the north-east yesterday to give a talk on his impressive career.

John Akomfrah, who is widely regarded as one of the most influential men in black British cinema, was at Aberdeen University as part of the institute's Director's Cut series.

Mr Akomfrah's features and documentaries include films on civil rights leader Martin Luther King, American black Moslem minister Malcolm X and jazz musician Louis Armstrong.

His 1986 production, *Handsworth Songs*, which explores race and civil strife in 1980s Britain, won seven international awards including the British Film Institute's prestigious Grierson Award for best documentary. Mr Akomfrah has also written widely about African cinema.

His most recent drama, last year's *Wetin Dey*, explores social realities facing young people in Nigeria.

The Director's Cut series at Aberdeen University has already seen talks from Elgin-born veteran film-maker Allan Shiach and Chilean director Raul Ruiz.

Last night, Alan Marcus, reader in film and visual culture at the university's film studies department, said that he was delighted to welcome Mr Akomfrah to the scheme.

"John Akomfrah has produced a wide range of innovative work which is considered to be some of the most distinctive and exciting to be produced in British film culture over the last 20 years," he said.

"His films have achieved international acclaim for their stylish aesthetic and penetrating insight into the human condition, and we're proud to welcome him to the Director's Cut."

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