

## Document Citation

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**Africa Ama**  
**(Africa Loves)**  
**(ITALIAN—DOCU—COLOR)**

Rome, Nov. 22.

PEA release of PEA-Sahara Film co-production. A feature documentary directed, photographed and edited by Angelo and Alfredo Castiglioni, Oreste Pellini and Guido Guerrasio. Text and narration, Guido Guerrasio. No other credits. Reviewed at Roxy Theatre, Rome, Nov. 22, '71. Running Time: 110 MINS.

The four documentarists credited with assembling PEA's feature-length entry traveled 100,000 kilometers in 20 African countries, according to the narrator, to come up with a documentary as shocking and provocative as "Mondo Cane." There is sufficient ethnological value in still existing rites and mores to satisfy intellectual curiosity, but the film is obviously framed to provide shock entertainment for spectators with steel stomachs or who are prone to violence.

Film is saddled with an undistinguished commentary that often belies or diminishes the terrifying images of this documentary compilation of death, birth, and especially sex, among African primitives. Yet, for all the tepid talk, "Africa Ama" contains super-exploitation of death, birth and es-cabre nature and natives in the raw.

The shockumentary unleashes a running parallel of fascination and repulsion for spectators as it demonstrates certain tattoo rites, death ceremonies, survival cuisine, and the massacre of domestic pets. Appalling crescendo is reached in scenes depicting tribal circumcision of young boys and girls reaching the age of puberty, close-up of childbirth, and animal butchery. Other documentary exclusives include black homosexuality and a drug orgy.

Credit the documentary team for determination in tracking down shock originality which often betrays an obsession for the sensational in primitive sex life as seen in excessive closeups. Goal behind the expedition was always a film for mass audiences and the filmmakers professionally assembled the ingredients of flesh, blood and violence (however crude or repulsive in spots) to warrant ready exhib acceptance in Italy and abroad.

Werb.