

ABOVE: *Angela Nanor, wife of a Swiss engineer and daughter of a Paramount Chief, who in the film plays the part of Adobia*

LEFT: *Two struggling figures, one with a knife upraised, are pictured in this Salage Market scene in Accra. Kumasenu, on the ground, has tried to bring the rascally Agboh to book for his crime*

ABOVE RIGHT: *Sean Graham, who has been Producer-Director of the Gold Coast Film Unit since 1949, previously worked as a director in a number of British film studios*

Film Production in The Gold Coast

THE Gold Coast Film Unit is the official film unit of the Gold Coast Government, and part of the Government's Department of Information Services. It was founded in 1949, and consists of Sean Graham, director/producer, and George Noble, cameraman, these two being the only English technicians employed. The remainder of its staff are African assistants. It was strengthened in June 1952 by the addition of a second cameraman, Ray Elton, and a sound-recorderist, Peter Hoyle.

For the past three years the Unit has made a number of short films for African audiences, notably "Amen's Child" (1949)—a film dealing with

infant welfare which was shown at Edinburgh and Venice in 1950—and "New Horizons" (1950)—a short film dealing with education in the Gold Coast.

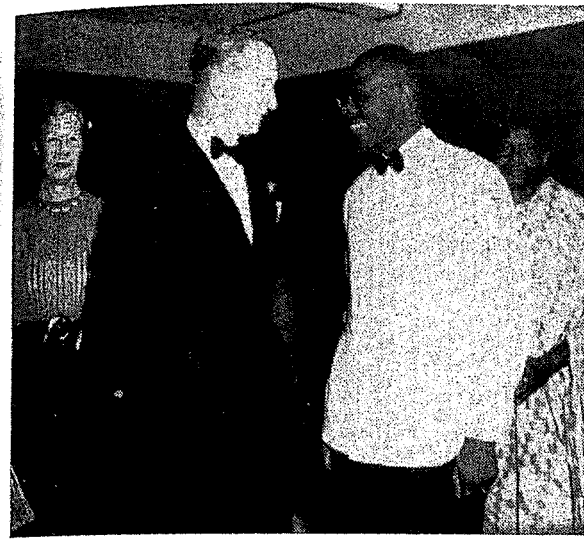
In October 1950 the Unit began production of "The Boy Kumasenu", by far its most ambitious project to date. Lacking all but rudimentary equipment and facilities for feature-production the shooting of the film was not completed till September 1951; nevertheless, the fact that this film was made at all under what can only be described as trying conditions must be regarded as a remarkable feat of persistence and ingenuity.

An engineer from Accra radio

station was temporarily attached to the Unit for sound-recording, and additional unskilled African staff was taken on as occasion required. Sound post-synchronising and editing was done in London. The editor was Helga Cranston.

"The Boy Kumasenu" was completed in May of this year and had its premiere in Great Britain at Edinburgh last month. It is noteworthy because it is the first time that a feature-film has come from West Africa; it is also the first full-length film to be attempted by a government film unit working from the Colonies on a limited budget without a professional cast.

Future production plans depend to some extent on the reception of "The Boy Kumasenu" in the United Kingdom, but the Unit hopes to follow this film with a similar story at a future date. At the moment the Unit is in process of re-equipment and expansion and is planning to make a number of educational films for African audiences.

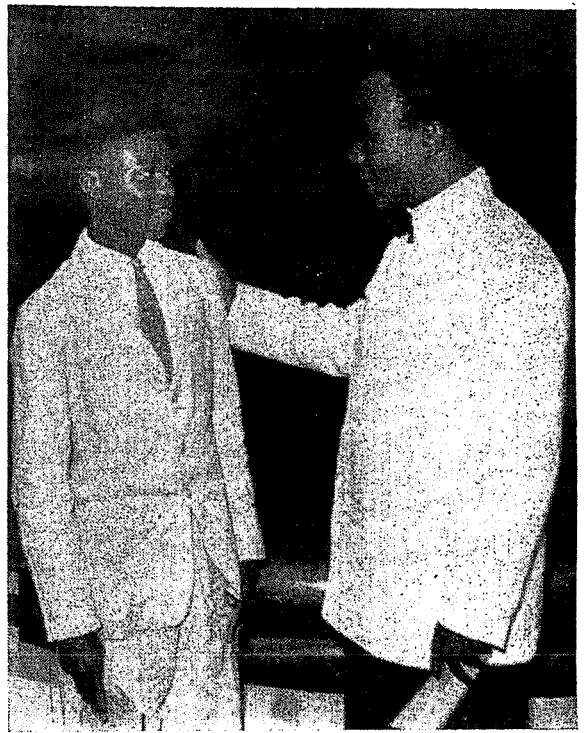


During the meeting of the West African Inter-Territorial Council in Accra, the Governors of Nigeria and the Gold Coast attended a showing of "The Boy Kumasenu" at the "Opera" Cinema in Accra. After the performance members of the cast were introduced to the two Governors and Lady Macpherson and Lady Arden-Clarke by Mr. Sean Graham, the director of the Gold Coast Film Unit

ABOVE: Sir John Macpherson, Governor of Nigeria, chats with Robert Baffour, who played the rôle of Lawyer Mensah in the film. On the left is Lady Macpherson and behind Mr. Baffour is Robert Nunoo, who was cast as Fiawoo the fisherman

RIGHT: The Prime Minister, Mr. Nkrumah, was the guest of honour at the Gold Coast premiere of "The Boy Kumasenu". After the show he personally congratulated Nortey Engmann on his performance

BELOW RIGHT: Sir Charles Arden-Clarke, Governor of the Gold Coast, has a chat with Nortey Engmann and other members of the cast



LEFT: Mr. George Noble, director of photography in the film