



GENERATION Africa 2.0

**Decarbonise.
Decolonise.
Reset.**

DEVELOPMENT DOSSIER

30 PROJECTS

21 COUNTRIES



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FORE- WORD



FOREWORD

Climate action in Africa, a subject of profound importance for the global community, reflects the interconnectedness of our planet's ecosystems, economies, and societies. This critical issue, however, remains underrepresented in the realm of documentary filmmaking, an oversight that belies the significant role these narratives could play in fostering global awareness and action.

Africa's rich biodiversity, vital for global ecological balance, and its significant carbon sinks, like the expansive Congo Basin rainforest, underscore the continent's pivotal role in global climate regulation. Yet, the stories of these treasures and the efforts to protect and expand them are often overshadowed, missing from the mainstream discourse that documentary films could enrich. The immense potential of Africa's renewable energy resources to drive sustainable development and contribute to reducing global reliance on fossil fuels is another narrative ripe for exploration through the documentary lens.

The continent's frontline communities, bearing the brunt of climate change's impacts, from droughts to floods, embody resilience and adaptation strategies that the world can learn from. Documentary films focusing on these stories could serve as a bridge, sharing knowledge and solutions across borders, and inspiring global audiences.

On the heels of STEPS's groundbreaking documentary film collection, Generation Africa, we present this Generation Africa 2.0 collection, a follow up that continues to focus on Africa's youth demographic, women and indigenous peoples in order to understand how communities are responding to the climate crisis and finding innovative solutions through solidarity, actions and revival of indigenous practices centred on preserving the earth.

All projects have been through a development process that included story labs and one-on-one mentorship with grant support for research and initial filming. We invite you to be part of this journey as we also work to highlight Africa's next generation of documentary filmmakers and producers through the Generation Africa 2.0 collection.



30 PROJECTS, 21 COUNTRIES

Here in Africa, we are disproportionately affected by the effects of the climate crisis. Our countries are more vulnerable to extreme weather events, increased temperatures, and water scarcity than countries that are more responsible for the crisis. Additionally, we have been dispossessed of the resources needed to protect ourselves or to mitigate the effects of the climate crisis. Climate justice prioritizes the equitable use of resources in the face of our global struggle. Narratives of African-led climate justice stories promote our survival into the future where there are equitable ecosystems of life.



FEATURE LENGTH FILMS

50 DEGREES IN THE SHADE

BY DELPHINE YERBANGA

Sébastien Yaméogo, aka La Jaguar, a comedian and climate activist from Burkina Faso living in Ouagadougou, uses humour and activism to lead volunteers called the sanitation vagabonds, with whom they clean up the city, raise awareness and confront the devastating effects of climate change on their country. Soon, he and comedians from the West African region will be putting on a show about the climate crisis. With a mix of archive footage, interviews, sketches and immersion, the film shows their struggle against poor governance. They strive to do things differently, and inspire change in a city that heats up to 50 degrees in the shade.



BURKINA FASO



DELPHINE YERBANGA

DIRECTOR

Delphine Yerbanga is a director from Burkina Faso, winner of the Grand Prix du Président du Faso, best Burkina Faso film, at FESPACO 2021 with her film, Footsteps of a Migrant. She holds a Master I in audiovisual studies from the Institut de Formation en Technique de l'Information et de la Communication (IFTIC) in Niger and a Master II in creative documentary filmmaking from the Université Gaston Berger in Saint Louis, Senegal. She began her career as a director in 2012 and became a producer in 2016 when she opened her production company, Guetba Images Production. She completed an internship at FEMIS in Paris in 2013. She is currently a director and producer at RTB. For a long time she was a member of the organising committee for the Espace Junior at Fespaco 2011, before becoming a member of the national organising committee for FESPACO 2019 and chairing the Espace Junior committee for youth and children.



AQUIN ROAMBA

PRODUCER

Born in Burkina Faso, Aquin Quentin Noel ROAMBA is a lawyer and producer. He holds a DESS in Business Law from OUAGA2 University. He is a founding member of the Cinéma numérique ambulant du Burkina Faso (CNA-Burkina). He has several years' experience in the broadcasting, distribution and promotion of films in Burkina Faso and especially in African countries where there is a Cinéma Numérique Ambulant (CNA). For some years now he has been interested in film production. He has taken part in several film production training courses organised by the CNA and produced short films including PAWERE by Alassane Bangba and a feature-length fiction film Une si longue nuit by Delphine YERBANGA, produced in 2023. He is working with her on her second feature-length documentary, "50° celcius à l'ombre".

A GREEN GOD

BY MARZOUK BANKOLE

A Green God follows Chimène, an environmental journalist, to Cotonou in her quest to explore African spirituality and forest preservation. Through journeys to the schools, markets, homes and mangroves of Abomey Calavi and the forests of Sakété, she discovers the secrets of forests protected by divinities. The film explores the impact of voodoo as a guardian of heritage, highlighting its harmonious coexistence with local communities and nature. Chimène seeks to understand the link between religion, tradition, nature and conservation, highlighting the crucial role of voodoo in preserving African ecosystems.



MARZOUK BANKOLÉ

DIRECTOR

Marzouk Bankolé, born January 1, 1995, is a young Beninese author and filmmaker. A graduate in multimedia screenwriting from ENSTIC, he directed 'Le Mirage de l'Eldorado,' winner of the Grand Prix at the REBIAP Festival in 2020. His work, imbued with his culture, includes films like 'Igbo' and 'Fa un Art of Divination,' as well as contributions as a journalist for 'Affaire Mystic' on Canal+. In 2023, he worked on two Netflix projects in Nigeria as an assistant director. Currently, he is developing the documentary 'A Green God.' Marzouk is a promising talent in the African film industry.



ARNOLD SETOHO

PRODUCER

Arnold Setohou is a producer with a Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Business Management and a Master's degree in Audiovisual and Film Production Management. He has worked as a producer, line producer, UPM on many productions in Benin and internationally, among others: 'Mami Wata', by CJ Fiery OBASI (Nigeria-Benin, Fiction) as associate producer and UPM; 'Isabelle' (Ivory Coast, TV serie 26min x 45) as line producer, 'Afrykas et la Boite Magique' by Isabel Rivero Vilà (USA, Senegal, Benin,) as coproducer.

In 2022, he co-created with Barry Pearson (USA), Indig Films. A privately owned, web-based streaming service devoted solely to supporting independent indigenous filmmakers from around the world.

ARMANT MU-BAIKE (WATER IS COMING)

BY LANSANA MANSARAY

The film follows the mayor of Freetown who connects the disparate struggles against environmental degradation and climate disasters. She works with activists and communities as they face the fallout from the climate crisis including disaster events like flooding, mudslides, sinking islands and more. Having become wary of repeated extreme climate events in Sierra Leone, the mayor works with the residents of Freetown to create mitigating actions, offer short term solutions, and rescue when disasters occur. Outside of Freetown we see the interconnected climate struggles of the people of Yeliboya Island, the fastest sinking area in the country where a mosque is on the verge of being covered by rising sea levels. The 4000 inhabitants of this island are awaiting a relocation plan promised by the government and NGOs. Counterposing this story with testimony from elders who saw the destruction of the reef occur when the island was being mined for construction, this story weaves hope and despair for a town attempting strategies against climate disasters on many fronts.



SIERRA LEONE



LANSANA 'BARMMY BOY' MANSARAY

DIRECTOR

LANSANA 'Barmmy Boy' MANSARAY's work has been exhibited to acclaim internationally. His recent film, *New Boats*, debuted on ARTE in 2022 and has screened at festivals around the world. He received the Coastal and Island awards 2023 at the International Ocean Film Festival in San Francisco. In 2020 he was awarded Admiral of the Humber by the mayor of Hull City (UK) in recognition of an outstanding achievement in filmmaking. Lansana co-directed and co-produced 'Survivors' (2018), which received an Emmy nomination. He worked as a cinematographer on 'Decisions', 'Girl Rising', 'They Are We', and 'Meet The Africans: Many Rivers to Cross', which received a Primetime Emmy.

Lansana is a founder and Director of WeOwnTV Freetown Media Center, a collaborative media project that promotes self-expression and community engagement. Lansana collaborated and worked extensively with international organization including CNN, British Council, US Embassy Freetown, Generation Africa, BBC, UNICEF, Hull University, Defence for Children International, British High Commission, REUTERS etc. His work as a filmmaker has received grant support from ITVS, the NEH, Doc Society, Catapult Film Fund, and the Rockefeller Foundation, Bertha Foundation, Sundance, Generation Africa (STEPS), Nia Tero Foundation etc.



ADENIKE (NIKÉ) HAMILTON

PRODUCER

Adenike (Niké) Hamilton is a storyteller and multi media creator from Freetown, Sierra Leone. Her work spans across the documentary filmmaking, narrative change and the Impact production space with over 10 years of experience. She first learned the power of story as a child refugee living in Gambia, and seeing images of child refugees from the war in Kosovo and empathizing with their loved realities. After working in the film production space in New York she decided to return to her home of Sierra Leone where she's been able to use her passion in storytelling and film using narrative as a fuel for social and political change. Niké currently runs a transcontinental multimedia storytelling fellowship for girls in Sierra Leone, Kenya and Tanzania, training them in storytelling for movement building and resistance as well as equipping them with skills in audio visual production. She is a 2023 DW Constructive Journalism fellow, and the Impact Producer of the critically acclaimed film 'New Boats' which presents a riveting account of one community's attempt to protect their livelihood and way of life and their daily struggle and attempt to keep a new influx of international companies accountable for their actions and and preserve not just an important cultural symbol of Sierra Leone, but a critical food source that the country and region depends upon.



BARGNY

BY MAME WOURY THIOUBOU

Leading environmental campaigner Cheikh Fadel Wade heads a coalition of organisations fighting to protect Bargny, a small community in Senegal, from the devastating effects of climate change and industrial pollution. Wade is leading this relentless fight as the community faces increasing threats from a coal-fired power plant, a proposed steel factory and an ore port. Through Wade's lens and the resilience of Bargny's transformative women, the film reveals a post-apocalyptic landscape where survival, environmental justice and the struggle for a better future intertwine against a backdrop of crashing waves and belching chimneys.



MAME WOURY THIOUBOU

DIRECTOR

After a Master's degree in Geography from Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, Mame Woury Thioubou chose journalism. In 2009, she joined the Masters in Creative Documentary Directing at the Gaston Berger University of Saint Louis (UGB) where she directed her graduation film 'Face to Face'. Eager to support the struggles of Senegalese society, she began producing her first medium-length film 'Agora Braille' which deals with the inclusion of the blind in the Senegalese school system. A social dimension of documentary that we also find in her latest films 'Fifiire en Pays Cuballo' and '5 Etoiles'. Since 2018, she has created the production company Soubalo Media Group (SMG).



MAMADOU HADY DIA

PRODUCER

With six years' experience as a location manager and production manager in the film industry, Mamadou Hady Dia joined Karoninka as a producer in 2020, before setting up his own production company, Malaka Studiolab, in Senegal in 2022. Mamadou is also a cinema management trainer at schools in the sub-region.

Malaka Studiolab is a Senegalese film and audiovisual production company. In its first year of existence, Malaka Studiolab has made a name for itself with the production of two short films, 'Le Masque' and 'Le Sacre de la Poétesse' (in post-production). In early 2023, it joined forces with Karoninka and Dad film to produce 'A sept Bâtements d'Elles' by Franco-Ivorian director Bintou DIARRA. The company is also working on the development of 'Broken Drums', a feature-length fiction film by Marcellin DOSSOU. The same year, Malaka Studiolab launched production of the documentary 'Bargny' by Mame Woury THIOUB.

BETWEEN THREE WATERS

BY OLIVIA YAO

'Between Three Waters' delves into the precarious existence of Lahou Pkanda, an endangered village caught between the sea, a lagoon and a river. While the Avikam people, originally from Lahou Pkanda, face unemployment and dwindling resources, the Ghanaian community who live there defy the odds, sustaining their livelihoods through deep-sea fishing and entrepreneurship. Juxtaposing the contrasting perspectives of Papa Koffi, a hopeful Ghanaian fisherman, and Daniel, a nostalgic Avikam guide, the film explores their daily challenges, their unshakeable connection to the land and the desperate race against rising waters to save their vanishing home.



CÔTE D'IVOIRE



OLIVIA MURIELLE YAO

DIRECTOR

Olivia Murielle Yao is a dedicated and talented director who is working hard to position herself as a documentary filmmaker. Her drive, ambition and passion for cinema are assets that enable her to shine in the film industry. Born in Côte d'Ivoire, she holds a master's degree in film and audiovisual studies from the arts department of the Université Félix Houphouët Boigny. She is a dynamic and ambitious individual, who has carved out a place for herself in the film industry, holding key positions such as assistant director and executive producer on various films. Among the films she has worked on are the short film 'Pasteur Thro' by director Fatim Ouayogode, and 'Technologie Electorale' directed by Mariam Doumbouya. She has also worked for renowned production companies, including Lully Grâce Production, where she held the position of production administrator on the series 'Les Coups de La Vie' season 2 in co-production with Canal+ International and Aplus Ivoire. Olivia has also taken part in a number of competitions and training workshops, including the Best Film Analysis competition at the Henri Duparc Foundation's Festival Afiba - Abidjan Fait Son Cinéma, and the Yennega Academy at the 27th FESPACO. Thanks to her passion for the authenticity of reality and her sensitivity, she made her first documentary film, 'Abouadji', as part of the Impala 2022 project with Africadoc Côte d'Ivoire and Ateliers Varan.



FRÉDY BORIS AGBLO

PRODUCER

Young writer, director and producer born on October 9, 1992 in Parakou. From childhood, Frédy Boris AGBLO was destined to become a rich talent in the 7th art. After three years of professional training, culminating in a diploma as an Audiovisual Technician in Editing and Computer Graphics, Frédy became involved in film directing and production. With 10 years' professional experience in film and art, plus various training courses and complementary workshops, his filmography includes a series, three short fiction films and a short documentary. He has also produced films for Beninese, Burkinabe and Congolese directors. Frédy is currently developing his first feature-length fiction film. He is positioned as line producer on two feature film projects. 'La Fresque des Oubliés' by Gabonese director Amédée Pacome NKOULOLO is seeking financing, and 'Entretours Eaux' by Ivorian director Olivia Yao is in development.

He is the general delegate of the Allons au cinéma film festival, an itinerary festival in African countries.

FOR THOSE WHO WILL INHERIT THE EARTH

BY SARA CHITAMBO

The film follows the turbulent life of 42-year-old Ina-Maria, prominently known for fighting against the Namibian government and multi-national mining companies to protect the Okavango World Heritage site from fracking. As she balances activism, striving for mental and physical wellness, Ina-Maria embarks on a new project with indigenous women in Okavango Delta. Through her activism, the film exposes the intricate web of power, capitalism, and exploitation, ultimately questioning the sacrifices Ina-Maria has made as an activist and the value of her struggle.



NAMIBIA



SARA CHITAMBO

DIRECTOR

Sara Chitambo is a filmmaker based in Johannesburg. She's worked on award-winning productions such as Intersexions and MTV Shuga and holds a Master's Degree in Digital Documentary from Sussex University. As a director, she is passionate about telling authentic, emotionally compelling stories and serious about continually mastering her craft as a storyteller.

She has a wide range of experience in project management and content production for civil society, embassies and governments in Southern Africa. Sara is currently in post-production with a film about mental health on the African continent funded by the National Film and Video Foundation.



SOPHIE HAKALI

PRODUCER

Sophie is a creative entrepreneur, researcher and producer with a good network across the African continent and an interest in cross-country collaborations. As the co-initiator of the first Creative Industry Guide in 2018, profiling the creative industry ecosystem in Namibia. She contributed to the founding of Namibia's first online film festival in 2021. Her latest projects include the co-production 'Pepe, Imagination of the Third Cinema' (Namibia-Dominican Republic-Germany-France), which received Berlinale World Cinema ACP funding and the German cinema film 'The Measure of Men' by Lars Kraume. Our last short film 'Invisibles Kauna Pawa' was considered for the Oscars shortlist. She was part of the documentary film Jury for the Durban International Film Festival in 2022.

FORGOTTEN LAND

BY KARANJA NG'ENDO

In the documentary 'Forgotten Land', Ernest Sikoret a young Maasai student from the remote village of Kajiado faces the daunting challenge of completing the final year of school amidst the devastating losses faced by his family following the worst drought to have plagued the country in over four decades. As the film immerses viewers in the barren landscapes and cracked earth of the village, it reveals the profound impact that the drought has left on the student's daily life and their community's nomadic culture, forcing them to travel great distances in search of water and grazing lands, as well as losing most of their livestock. Through the lens of Sikoret's journey, the documentary explores the resilience of the Maasai people and the collective struggle to persevere in the face of climate change, culminating in a pivotal final exam that becomes a symbol of hope and determination for a brighter future.



KENYA



KARANJA NG'ENDO

DIRECTOR

Karanja Ng'endo is a Kenyan filmmaker born and raised in Nairobi and is inspired by the beauty and authenticity of African storytelling. He wants his audience to be moved by the stories he tells. His works have been selected and won awards at the AMVCA, Zanzibar International Film festival, Carthage Film Festival, Kalasha International, and Kisima Film Festival, among others. He was part of the inaugural class of the Multichoice Talent Factory program. He recently completed a film residency international class at Germany's FilmAkademie Baden-Württemberg, was awarded the One World Media 2020 Fellowship, and recently attended the Ouaga Film Lab 2022.



SARAH MPAPULUU

PRODUCER

Sarah Mpapuluu is an accomplished film festival organizer and social innovator dedicated to creating change through film. With a background in Development Studies and expertise in behavioural design, she curates film screenings and events focusing on social issues, fostering cultural understanding. Sarah also develops workshops and mentorship programs for emerging talent in Africa. Her passion for using film as a tool for positive social impact is evident in her commitment to promoting social good and human rights initiatives. Sarah is also working on 'Forgotten Land', which sheds light on the challenges faced by her own community. Through this film, she aims to bring attention to the struggles and resilience of her people, using the power of storytelling to make a positive impact on society.

LOOKING FOR THE MERMAID

BY YARA COSTA

In UNESCO world heritage Island of Mozambique, it is tradition for the fisherman to marry a mermaid who in turn assures good fortune at sea. Our protagonist, a fisherman named Jorge embarks on a desperate search for the elusive mermaid, and a connection to nature, to restore the broken bond between humankind and the sea. Facing the devastating consequences of violent cyclones and rising sea levels, Jorge must find the mermaid and uncover the sacrifices necessary to heal their relationship and save his community from further destruction. As the story unfolds, the mermaid's omnipresent perspective guides Jorge through a mesmerizing journey, challenging him to discover if reconnection is still possible.



MOZAMBIQUE



YARA COSTA

DIRECTOR & PRODUCER

Yara Costa is a Mozambican filmmaker and artist, with 4 films and 1 immersive experience XR/VR installation, whose work is deeply rooted in the urgent narratives, invisibilized by the colonial rule and white supremacy. She is the founder of YC Plataforma Criativa, which combines different forms of storytelling, art, multimedia and immersive technologies on themes such as cultural heritage, identity genocide and ecology. Her films include: 'Why Are They Here? Chinese Stories in Africa' and 'The Crossing', for Al Jazeera English Network Television. Her last film, 'Between God and I', tells the story of a young, independent Muslim woman who advocates for Sharia in the diverse Island of Mozambique but is filled with doubts and contradictions about her identity and the community she lives in. The film traveled around 40 countries and was screened at international film festivals.

PLASTIC ATLANTIS

BY SAMIRA VERA-CRUZ

'Plastic Atlantis' is a hybrid documentary that weaves together the stories of Ndaté, an enslaved woman from the past, and Tony, a young biologist in the present, as they both grapple with their connection to the lost city of Atlantis and the devastating impact of plastic waste on the Atlantic Ocean. Through the medium of an ouril board game, Ndaté reflects on her journey from Senegal to Cabo Verde, highlighting the historical trauma of the slave trade and drawing parallels to Tony's fight against modern-day plastic pollution. Cape Verde is an archipelago that is particularly affected by plastic waste that floats from the West African coastline and then continues through the Atlantic Ocean to Brazil. As the pink plastic bag travels through time and the ocean, it serves as a haunting reminder of the ongoing destruction we inflict on our planet and the urgent need for change.



CAPE VERDE



SAMIRA VERA-CRUZ

DIRECTOR

Samira Vera-Cruz is a Cape-Verdean film director and producer with experience working in Cabo Verde, where her production company Parallax Produções is based. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Film Studies and a minor in Global Communications from the American University of Paris (France). Samira is the director of the short film *Buska Santu* (2016) which won the Best Fiction award at the Oiá Film Festival (Mindelo, Cabo Verde). She also directed the short documentary *Hora di Bai* (2017) which was screened in over fourteen countries. Her feature film, *Sukuru* (2017) and her short film, recorded entirely with a cellphone, *'Filha da...'* (2022) are two of her most recent works. Her documentary project *'And Who Will Cook?'* was selected for Talents Durban 2019, where she received the PR Consulting Award; FIDADOC writing residency 2019; Durban FilmMart 2020; and Ouaga Film Lab 2020 where she won the IDFA and World Cinema Fund/Goethe Institute Awards. Samira's most recent short documentary, *Sumara Maré* (2023), was part of NEWF Producers' Lab — an initiative by Africa Refocused (a collaboration between NEWF and National Geographic Society) and was financed by NEWF and UNDP's Accelerator Lab. Through the Africa Refocused initiative, Samira has participated in the African Science Film Fellowship in the Gorongosa National Park, Mozambique, and has become a advanced adventurer scuba diver which allowed her to participate in their first underwater cinematography lab.



PEDRO SOULÉ

PRODUCER

Pedro Soulé is a Cape Verdean producer based in the city of Mindelo, a leading cultural hub in the Portuguese-speaking world and the cultural heart of the archipelago.

A business management graduate, Soulé worked in various industries before co-founding Kriolscope Agency with writer/director Nuno Miranda and finding himself immersed in film and media production. Soulé produced Miranda's *Kmêdeus* (Eat God), a 2020 Rotterdam International Film Festival and Tribeca's *We Are One* Festival hit and was the local producer for Pedro Costa's acclaimed *Vitalina Varela*, and RTPs show *Club Atlas* feat. DJ Branko and Dino D'Santiago. In 2020 he co-founded Baobab Film Collective to produce Afrocentric TV drama.

POLYPHONY OF THE FOREST

BY LOUIS PATRICK MANDENGUE EPAPÉ

In the heart of the equatorial forest in the small village of Missoumè, locality of about 500 inhabitants located in the east of Cameroon, lives a people, devastated and impotent in the face of the abusive exploitation of its lands ancestrals by forest businesses that loot its environment. Lead by their Queen Mama Helène, the Baka musicians compose, sing and dance the polyphonies of lamentations. From the heart of the forest they record their music in order to challenge the destruction that gradually transforms their ecosystem into pandemonium.



CAMEROON



PATRICK EPAPE

DIRECTOR

Patrick Epape, is a 40-year-old computer engineer, documentary filmmaker graduated from the Stendhal University of Grenoble 2 in France, he also studied history specializing in cultures at the University of Douala and works as a teaching-researcher filmmaker. He has already produced and directed numerous documentaries.



**DALYNA BELININE
OBOKOBE**

PRODUCER

Dalyna Belinine Obokobe, is a 33-year-old Cameroonian who graduated from the Higher Institute of Cinema and Television of the Saint John Paul II Catholic University. She works as a producer at Green Light Seven Production, after having accumulated years of experience working with renowned filmmakers.

MOTHER OF THE RAIN

BY DENIS ONYODI

'Mother of the Rain' vividly captures the daily struggles of Eastern Uganda's coffee farmers during the coffee harvesting season. Against the backdrop of the constant threat of landslides, intensified by the onset of the rainy season, we follow a group of boys set to undergo the circumcision rite of passage at the end of the harvest season as they grapple with their changing world, age-old traditions, and uncertain future. Through stunning visuals and an intimate portrayal of the community's culture and beliefs, the film offers a poignant reflection on the delicate balance between tradition, humanity, and environmental risk.



UGANDA



DENIS ONYODI

DIRECTOR

Denis is an artist and storyteller using film and photography to tell authentic African stories with great potential for impact. He has been involved in content development supporting international nonprofit and development causes in Eastern and Southern Africa for over 10 years. His work telling development and humanitarian stories in Eastern and Southern Africa has been globally published, most notable being his coverage of the impact of Cyclone Idai in Beira Mozambique that was published by CNN, BBC, The New York Times, Aljazeera, Sky News, The Guardian and a host of other international media outlets. Denis's photography work was also recently published by the National Geographic magazine.

He started his career in brand and marketing communications, before branching out to specialize in documentary film and photography. His experience spans television, documentary, and film production in a plethora of roles ranging from writing and cinematography to producing and directing.

Denis is a recipient of a 2023 Skoll Foundation grant through Video Consortium's Solutions Storytelling Program and has just completed his film - 72 Hours, a short about the polio outbreak in Mozambique and how an organization is working to improve health care services at the last mile.



SHARON NAKAYENZE

PRODUCER

Sharon is a writer and production manager and hails from the Elgon area, where the film is set and is the producer of the film. In 2019, her screenplay Blue Trigger was shortlisted for the Fivefor5 fund and she has since written projects for television such as; 'Mama & Me', a TV series for Pearl Magic Prime, and 'The Guest Wife', a feature film for Maisha Magic Movies. She also created and wrote a 30-minute radio drama for Quiet Garden, a Christian publishing house. Sharon was 1st Assistant Director on 'Mama and Me', a TV series by Dilstories, 'Pieces of Me', a feature film by Nanna Kaggwa, 'Vanilla', a short film by Aganza Kisaka and 'The Kojja', a TV series for Pearl Magic Prime. She is an imaginative writer and storyteller who brings the power of nuance to the film, informed by an intimate knowledge of a land and people she calls her own. Sharon is passionate about empowering and educating audiences on the values of humanity.

RESTORATION— BEFORE WE VANISH

BY KATYA ARAGÃO

'Before We Vanish' exposes the devastating consequences of illegal logging in São Tomé and Príncipe, where forest engineers Meyer António and Rute Cruz embark on daring expeditions on the island. Journeying through remote regions, they confront firsthand the environmental and societal devastation caused by illegal logging, talking to locals, loggers, and officials to uncover the root causes and challenges faced by conservationists. Their quest for solutions serves as a powerful call to action, urging their communities to champion forest preservation and sustainable practices before these islands vanish forever.



SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE



KATYA ARAGÃO

DIRECTOR & PRODUCER

Katya Aragão is a film director, producer, writer and journalist from São Tomé and Príncipe. With over 10 years dedicated to the communication, journalism and cultural and creative industries, she had her cinema directorial debut in 2017 with the shortfilm 'Mina Kiá'. She is one of the Top 20 Emerging Filmmakers Shortlisted for Netflix & UNESCO's 'African Folktales, Reimagined' Competition in 2022. Her works include 'The Battle of the Giants', documentary short film; 'Nas Nossas Mãos' ('In Our Hands'), Fiction limited series; 'Agora Podemos' ('Now We Can'), documentary short film; and 'Mina Kiá' ('LiLle Maid'), fiction short film.

STANDING UP

BY BABUCARR MANKA

In the Gambia, where physically disabled individuals often rely on begging, a group of determined women led by Isatou Ceesay strive to empower disabled women by teaching them the art of recycling waste for a living. Their initiative, Women Initiative the Gambia, challenges societal norms and sheds light on the country's waste management practices while addressing the oppression faced by women. As one woman navigates the challenges of transitioning from begging to waste management, she is faced with the harsh realities of both societal stigma and the struggle for financial stability. However, with perseverance and guidance from previous beneficiaries, she learns valuable skill and witnesses the growth of her own business. This film traces the experiences of marginalized people creating opportunities to better their lives by participating in environmental action.



THE GAMBIA



BABUCARR MANKA

DIRECTOR

Babucarr Manka has worked at the leading audiovisual company in the Gambia 'State Of Mic'. He is a journalism student who is passionate about telling intimate stories of resilient people rising from challenges. His first film, 'Gifts From Babylon' was selected in more than 100 film festivals and won 28 international awards. His last documentary, 'Home Again' premiered at DOK.fest Munich, one of the biggest documentary festivals in Germany. He is right now filming a climate change story that has been selected as one of the top 12 climate change stories at Sunny Side Global Pitch 2023. He is currently selected as part of Durban Talents 2023 where he is undergoing mentorship. Babucarr is also the Spokesperson for the Film Producers Association of the Gambia since 2019.



ALHAGIE MANKA

PRODUCER

Alhagie Manka is a Producer, Director, Photographer, Award-winning Cinematographer and Creative Facilitator with vast experience in filming and photography in Gambia, other countries in Africa, the Middle East, North America and Europe. He works in a diverse range of documentary projects, television shows, local and international concerts, corporate videos, international news features, award winning short and feature films. His company and platform 'State of Mic Multimedia', is a functioning and inspiring platform for young Gambian creative entrepreneurs. He is passionate about his work as a tool for social and community development; this has led him and his partners creating the first Gambian International documentary series, 'Welcome to the Smiling Coast', a 10-episode documentary series in 2015 which tells the story about a new generation of Gambian youth and their pursuit of escaping the Gambian ghetto life, fused with messaging on how to use creativity as a key to success. He also lead a team at State of Mic to produce 'Gifts From Babylon', a docu-fiction on Gambian migrant returnees, which has been screening across the globe and won many awards.

THE GREEN MIGRANTS

BY ARY MISA RAKOTOBÉ

The filmmaker follows a small Antandroy family from southern Madagascar as they embark on a journey away from their climate-ravaged village. With the guidance of Tsibara, an environmental activist and village native, they seek refuge in a national park in the northwest, where they aim to cultivate maize while preserving the fragile ecosystem. Through the eyes of each family member their daily struggles with drought and famine unfold, highlighting the human impact of climate change and their determination to build a sustainable future in their new home.



ARY-MISA RAKOTOBÉ

DIRECTOR

Ary-Misa Rakotobé is a Malagasy documentary filmmaker. In 2016, he completed a Master II study in creative documentary as part of the Docmonde and DocOI project. His latest documentary was released in 2023, entitled 'Taste of the Sun', retracing the story of a goat breeder and cheese producer in the south of Madagascar. The director is attracted to this region of the country because of its rich culture and attractive landscape. But its people face problems linked to drought and climate change. Other films by the director: 'Aketo' (2016). 'Vary aloha, le riz fait de la résistance' (in progress)



**PATRICIA
MALALALHARISOA**

PRODUCER

Patricia Malalalharisoa is a producer with a Master degree in Information and Communication Sciences, and apart from her specialization in advertising and organisation, the producer studied semiotics and collaborated with the Cinema Fund of the Malagasy Ministry of Culture as Director of Arts within this same institution from 2011 to 2015. She also followed training as part of the 'Rencontres du Film Court' festival in 2012. Later, she collaborated with Ary-Misa Rakotobé as his producer. Notably with the film 'Taste of the Sun' released in 2023 and a film about the resistance of Malagasy peasants facing the grabbing of their land.



TRIDOM

BY CHERIQUE POHL

An unassuming village in the heart of the Congo rainforest is the unlikely stage of several dramas with international significance. For centuries, this globally important rainforest and its elephants have evolved in harmony with the indigenous Baka. Today this balance is threatened as elephant populations crash and Baka communities are forcefully displaced from their homes. All in the name of conservation. TRIDOM unravels the global significance of this story as two seemingly distinct storylines – a Baka defender and a South African wildlife filmmaker – come together to demonstrate how the rights of autochthonous people must form part of conservation efforts if the world is to preserve the forest and its giants.

CONGO



CHERIQUE POHL

DIRECTOR

Born and raised in South Africa, Cherique has worked in mainstream wildlife television for fifteen years. After concluding four years at National Geographic Television's sales, distribution, acquisitions and co-production department, she joined the BBC Natural History Unit and for the last decade has been developing, producing and directing programmes in the most remote corners of the world. At the BBC she specialised in programming relating to conservation and wildlife crime, giving her a great understanding and sensitivity for the people and wildlife she films. From following teams who rescue bears from the illegal wildlife trade in Laos and cheetahs from being sold as trophy pets in Somaliland, to filming wildlife rangers in South Sudan and across Africa. Cherique is also an experienced impact



REINA-MARIE LOADER

PRODUCER

Reina-Marie has been conducting practice-based research for over a decade. Her work predominantly focuses on docudrama and documentary storytelling that promote movement building, reconciliation, human rights, and conservation. She completed her practice-based Ph.D. on the concept of "documemory" and the ethical representation of war trauma on screen. Her independent films have received several awards from international film festivals including, for example, the Durban International Film Festival. Her documentary experience in conservation is longstanding, having previously produced and directed the award-winning documentary HORN - which focuses on the social side of rhino poaching in South Africa. She seeks to integrate impact producing as part of the students' education and training.



ZAMBA

BY ARNOLD AGANZE

This film follows the Congolese collective of environmental artists called Fulu Miziki who create art and wildly popular music using recycled materials. Using recycled materials for music instruments, these maverick artists create an orchestra of sounds that carry their message of artistic liberation, peace and ecological sustainability that has travelled across the world. Meanwhile, the band also confronts the complex issues around environmental degradation, resource extraction and conservation and land sovereignty that play out in the DRC.



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



ARNOLD AGANZE

DIRECTOR & PRODUCER

Arnold Aganze is a multi-award-winning film director, writer, culture activist, music producer and artist manager from the Democratic Republic of Congo. In 2013, in Kampala he joined Maisha Film Lab where he directed his first short film, 'Rastasophical Mood', an introspective essay on an alternative community in Kampala. In 2015 he worked as personal assistant to Mira Nair during the shooting on Disney's 'Queen of Katwe' in Uganda. In 2016, he wrote and directed his first feature film N.G.O 'Nothing Going On' a satire comedy based on his cultural critique of the aid sector in East Africa, which was screened in over 35 film festivals across the globe and won 7 awards. Since 2014 till today, he has been working on 'Kongo Is Burning' a series of documentaries capturing incredible moments of joy and celebrations in Congo. Since 2019 he has been working as manager of the international music band called Fulu Miziki and have been involved in shaping the underground art in Kinshasa.



ALI MUSOKE

PRODUCER

Ali Musoke is an award-winning, multifaceted filmmaker and artist. He works as a producer, director, and director of photography across fiction, documentary, and branded content. With over a decade of experience, he has built a strong reputation for managing creative projects from concept to completion. His portfolio includes writing and directing four acclaimed short films: Connected (2016), Black and White (2019), Faded (2022), and The Last Shoemaker (2023). His work has received major accolades, including Best Short Film at the AMAA 2024, Best Short Film at the Uganda Film Festival 2024, and Best Production Design in Brazil. Ali has also produced more than a dozen short films, two feature films (Nothing Going On and Be A Good Girl), and a limited series.

He is currently producing four feature-length documentaries: Waters of Life, Kange, Kongo is Burning, and First Women, all at various stages of production. In 2014, Ali founded Stone Age Pictures, an award-winning independent production company focused on developing and producing bold African Stories. In 2018, he launched Film Possible, a nonprofit foundation that supports African filmmakers through training, film labs, screenings, and distribution support.



MEDIUM LENGTH FILMS

ANGRY MOTHER NATURE

BY NDIMBIRA CLAUDINE SHENGE

In this film 'Angry Mother Nature', a team of dedicated heroes from the Rwandan National Police Rescue Unit, Red Cross Rwanda, and the brave citizens, face the unpredictable wrath of natural disasters during the rainy season. As the weather patterns shift, fear ensues when, at any moment, the scorching heat can transform into violent winds, engulfing many districts in Rwanda in dust and darkness. During relentless downpours, deadly lightning strikes, floods, and landslides, the film delves into the daily lives of these brave rescuers, while also capturing the compelling stories of survivors and witnesses caught in the chaos.



RWANDA



NDIMBIRA CLAUDINE

DIRECTOR

Ndimbira Claudine, also known as Shenge, is a prolific filmmaker hailing from Rwanda, currently residing in Kigali. After completing high school, she pursued a 3-month short course in digital filmmaking at Kwetu Film Institute. Since then, Shenge has attended several workshops, and masterclasses in various filmmaking departments, and was part of the International class at Film Akademie Baden-Württemberg in Germany. As a scriptwriter, director, and producer, Shenge has created numerous internationally recognized films. Her work has been featured in various film festivals, including the Pan African Film Festival in Los Angeles, the AFRIKAMERA Film Festival in Berlin, the Vancouver Queer Film Festival, Afrika Filmfestival in Leuven, DOK.fest München, Sheffield DocFest, Cartagena Film Festival. Shenge's films have garnered multiple awards, such as the Lovie Awards and Cannes Media Awards.



FLORIANE KANEZA

PRODUCER

Floriane Kaneza is a filmmaker from Burundi, currently residing in Rwanda. With over 14 years of experience in various domains of the film industry, including acting, casting, and event coordination, she is an expert in her field. She has a background in Communication Studies and Inspirational Leadership and has received extensive training in film and TV production, content development and distribution, audiovisual research, cultural management, and advocacy. The individual has worked on personal projects, local and international organisations, and businesses. She has been a jury member for five international film festivals and has been involved in the production of over 15 films. In 2021, she founded Productions AMATUTA in Rwanda, which produces films addressing social issues and offering a regional perspective.

CHIKUKWA CUSTODIANS

BY JACQUELINE VAN MEYGAARDEN

Zeddy and his community from Chikukwa in eastern Zimbabwe strive to restore their deep connection with their spirit ecology. With traditional customs around food growing and eating, they organically build resilience, transforming challenges into opportunities for learning. Spurred to action by the devastating loss of heirloom seeds during the recent Cyclone Idai, the community organizes a Seed Fair to educate young people about the indigenous seeds from the valley and foster the age-old agricultural practices that are core to sustainable food production. As they battle extreme climate events, the community's determination in the face of loss and uncertainty and their proactive spirit becomes a powerful narrative of resilience and community.



ZIMBABWE



JACQUELINE VAN MEYGAARDEN

DIRECTOR

Jacqueline van Meygaarden is an experienced producer and director, having worked for 20 years as a storyteller using documentary film and visual theatre to share stories. Her journey began in live theatre, creating multimedia feminist visual theatre, and then moved to non-fiction filmmaking to reach wider audiences. She has spent over 15 years developing documentary content about the climate crisis, environmental justice and regeneration, and has worked in southern Africa and Cambodia.

Jacqueline was awarded the Commonwealth Vision Award (2007) for her short film 'Free Energy'; co-curated Out the Box visual theatre festival (2008-2011); produced factual content for the national broadcaster (SABC), directed the short film 'Farm to Fork' for the Food Series, and produced climate justice campaign content for 350.org in Africa. Her first documentary, 'Nosy Mena' (2011), about communities vulnerable to climate change in Madagascar inspired her to share similar strong African stories. She is currently co-producing and directing on HOTSPOT, a 6-part feature doc series on Southern African climate justice activists, and is the co-producer of 'Water Stories', an interactive storytelling platform about freshwater & ocean pollution. Jacqueline is the co-chair of Mycelium Media Colab, a collaborative enterprise sharing stories about African social and environmental regenerative solutions. She is based in Cape Town, South Africa.



RUMBI KATEDZA

PRODUCER

Rumbi Katedza is a Zimbabwean filmmaker and writer who has directed narrative films and documentaries that have been broadcast across Africa and screened at dozens of international festivals and conferences. She has lived in the USA, Japan, Italy, Canada, the UK and Zimbabwe. She produces corporate and independent narrative and documentary content through her production company, Mai Jai Films, a company focused on pioneering a new generation of Zimbabwean films and filmmakers through creative co-productions.

HERDING GREENWARDS

BY STEVE TERUNGWA LORDYE

Idris and his Fulani family, confront the realities of climate change as it threatens their traditional ways of nomadic practice. Faced with the farmer-herder crises, desertification, and drought, they have acquired land in Rabukka village and try to adapt to their new home, while struggling with water scarcity. We witness their perseverance in digging wells, maintaining cattle, and integrating into the local community despite these challenges. Their story, from open grazing to becoming landowners and engaging in local trade, reflects resilience and adaptability. Amidst environmental and societal upheavals, Idris's journey underscores the importance of cooperation and sustainable living, offering a beacon of hope for coexistence and environmental stewardship.



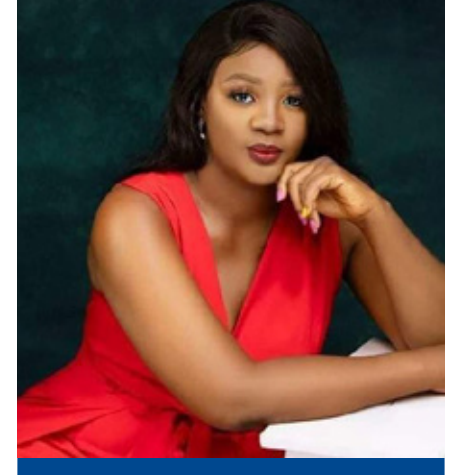
NIGERIA



STEVE TERUNGWA IORDYE

DIRECTOR

Steve Terungwa Iordye is an accomplished filmmaker with a rich and impactful body of work spanning over a decade. His films include 'Benue Valley' (2015), 'Hope Rekindled' (2016), 'Cost of Corruption', 'Shadow Girls'. Steve has worked with organizations and initiatives, including UN Women, the Central Bank of Nigeria, Aliko Dangote Foundation, WaterAid, MacArthur Foundation, and The World Bank Group (AGILE). He has done video journalism for TRT World (Turkey) and RT Africa (Russia).



NENROT GOYOL AKINROWO

PRODUCER

Nenrot Goyol Akinrowo is an accomplished creative producer, boasting extensive experience collaborating with major international donor agencies. Her journey began after graduating with honors from the National Film Institute in Jos. Early in her career, she contributed high-quality audiovisual content for renowned companies like Consolidated Media Associates in Lagos. Progressing as a Writer, Director, and Producer, Nenrot transitioned to Abuja, spearheading significant projects for global entities such as USAID, European Union, BBC Media Action, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, MTV Stay Alive Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, and Save The Children International. Her unwavering passion lies in crafting top-tier entertainment that provokes thought, specifically tailored to serve demographics she feels are underserved. While dedicated to producing compelling content for Nigeria's underrepresented audiences, she occasionally shifts gears from working with international donors to manage commercially successful projects, notably the groundbreaking 2016 TV series 'Sons of the Caliphate' for Ebonylife.

HOPE

BY CYNTHIA GAËLLE AYISSI ETABA

“Hope” follows Esperance Noubou, a resilient young environmental activist, as she creates her own environmental organization called “Veh-Hope”. After becoming disillusioned by the greenwashing of a local recycling company with which she was collaborating, she is determined to make a positive ecological impact. Espérance plans to publish a comic book to educate the younger generation about greenwashing. Along the way, we witness her unwavering determination, hidden doubts and personal struggles, as she seeks to overcome obstacles to complete her project and help eradicate the growing scourge that is slowing down environmental protection.



CAMEROON



CYNTHIA GAËLLE AYISSI ETABA

DIRECTOR

Born in Yaoundé, Cameroon, on February 23, 1996, Cynthia Gaëlle Ayissi Etaba studied fundamental private law at the University of Yaoundé 2. After obtaining a Master's degree in Human Resources Management, she began working as a scriptwriter, a profession she has always been passionate about.

To do this, she learns directly in the field while drawing on professional training courses such as Khan Academy's storytelling course from July to August 2021.

She was then selected to take part in the Heritage-Heritage workshop led by documentary filmmaker Jean-Marie Teno from October to November 2021. At the end of this workshop, she directed the film 'Les fantômes de Sa'a', which was honored to be selected at the Clermont-Ferrand short film festival. In 2022, she took part in the 10 days for a film platform organized by écrans noirs, and directed a short film entitled 'Le goût'.



CYRILLE MASSO

PRODUCER

A pioneer in the world of independent production in Cameroon, Cyrille MASSO is one of the young African filmmakers who has influenced his generation. After completing his secondary and university studies, he took part in numerous internships and training courses at film institutes and conservatories. His time at the FEMIS in Paris in 1998 marked a decisive turning point in his young career. In 1999, he founded MALO PICTURES and produced a number of fiction and animation films, as well as co-producing a number of documentaries, some of which have won prestigious awards at film festivals around the world.

IMVULA

BY OMELGA MTHIYANE

In the aftermath of the devastating floods in Durban, a documentary filmmaker from the neighborhood of Inanda in Durban, sets out to shed light on the colloquial understanding of climate change and its impact on her community. Through the lens of a peri-urban community facing regular rains and flooding, understanding their struggles, the filmmaker embarks on a mission to bridge the gap between intellectual conversations and everyday understanding, ultimately seeing what action the community takes. As the clock ticks towards an uncertain future, they uncover the urgent need for collective action before it's too late. This film looks at what this resilient community does, to overcome displacement caused by the floods.



SOUTH AFRICA



OMELGA MTHIYANE

DIRECTOR

Omelga Mthiyane has directed and produced several documentary films for the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), ETV, BBC World and Aljazeera. Her first film, *Ikhaya* was premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and more international Film Festivals. Other films directed and produced by Omelga Mthiyane are, 'Different Pigment', 'Ikhaya Malawi', 'Inanda, My Heritage'. She has also directed TV series including 'Headwrap', 'Khumbulekhaya' and 'Yobe'. She co-directed 'Baraka' which was a reaction documentary against xenophobic attacks that happened in 2008 in South Africa. *Baraka* premiered at the Berlinale before it was broadcasted by BBC World. Omelga's documentary film 'Lefu' deals with one of the many devastating realities of Covid-19. It was nominated for three Saftas. 'Lefu' won the best short documentary at Jozi Film Festival and Kukastream Online Film Festival (2021). She received her Bachelor in Video Technology from the Durban University of Technology and a Certificate in Documentary filmmaking from the Binger Institute.



JACK CHIANG

PRODUCER

Born in Taiwan and raised in South Africa since the 80's, Jack started his interest in films by writing film reviews for the campus in his college days. In 2006, Jack joined the programme panel for Durban International Film Festival, the longest running film festival in Southern Africa. From 2016, he served as Associate Programmer at Joburg Film Festival, and Cape Town International Film Market & Festival. He also advises several international film festivals for their African selection and continues to support African filmmakers.

Jack is based in Durban, IMVULA will be his 6th film as a producer.

LIVING WITH WATER

BY FAMA NDIAYE

Every year for over 10 years, the onset of the rainy season brings recurrent floods to Keur Massar, a vast neighborhood at the entrance of Dakar. While some areas benefit from drainage solutions funded by international cooperation agreements, the population of Sotrarc Keur Massar remains frustrated, without seeing the promised drainage solutions touted in the media. Armand Seck and his friends organize each year to pump water out of their neighbourhood, but their efforts are often ineffective and lead to neighbourhood problems. Similarly, Fatoumata Sy, living in a house threatened by stagnant water and rising groundwater, tries to build her daily life for herself and her two children, despite the presence of rainwater. Their approaches, balancing between action and resignation, reflect a resilience in the face of climate challenges often overlooked by authorities.



SENEGAL



FAMA NDIAYE

DIRECTOR & PRODUCER

Fama Ndiaye, a documentary filmmaker based in Dakar, Senegal, has a diverse international career that spans different sectors. Her journey has been guided by a deep conviction in the influential role of images as a tool for raising awareness and a means of challenging our perceptions. Fama was drawn to the world of cinema because she needs to see more nuanced stories about Africa and African people. She firmly believes in the power of documentary to reconnect communities, as a mediation tool and to highlight individual experiences. With professional experience coordinating film festivals and creating cinematic experiences, Fama most recently served as Program Coordinator for Center Yennenga, Dakar's post-production training center. As a director, Fama is part of a thriving film scene in Dakar, Senegal and has the support of the community to see her projects through to fruition.

NGOCK NSOUOH

BY EDWIGE NZOUTAP YEMPO

In the documentary film 'Ngock Nsouh', we follow Jeauberte Djamou, an ecological activist and founder of Volunteers of the Ocean. Through her relentless efforts in recycling plastic waste, Jeauberte fights to protect the oceans and restore climate balance. As the film delves into her personal story intertwined with the collective struggle against atmospheric pollution, we witness how Jeauberte mobilizes the local community, embarking on missions to clean up coasts and rivers while promoting a shift in our perception of the environment and its preservation.



CAMEROON



EDWIGE NZOUTAPYEMPO

DIRECTOR

Born in Cameroon in 1973, Edwige Nzoutapyemmo obtained a degree in Modern French Literature and went on to study Performing and Cinematographic Arts, where she obtained both a Master's and a Master's 2. She is currently working on a PhD thesis entitled "Documentary cinema and representations of African social realities". Over the last 10 years, her love of documentary cinema has led her to attend writing workshops and master classes to familiarise herself with creative documentary filmmaking and the poetic exploration of reality. She has also made a number of films. The place and experiences of women and children in society are central to her various films and projects, and she has been teaching performing arts and film at the University of Yaoundé 1 since 2010, and at the Fouban Fine Arts Institute since 2018.



CYRILLE MASSO

PRODUCER

A pioneer in the world of independent production in Cameroon, Cyrille MASSO is one of the young African filmmakers who has influenced his generation. After completing his secondary and university education, he went on to do a number of internships and training courses at various film institutes and conservatories. His time at the FEMIS in Paris in 1998 marked a decisive turning point in his young career. In 1999, he founded MALO PICTURES and has produced a number of fiction and animated films, as well as co-producing a number of documentaries, some of which have won prestigious awards at film festivals around the World.

THE BLACK POW(D)ER

BY LARA SOUSA

In the heart of Mozambique's illegal coal mine, Joaquim and his fellow coalminers risk their lives in search of the elusive black powder that promises power amidst a life change. Cut off from the outside world, they rely on a small radio for news as Mozambique transforms from a land of opportunity to a nightmare of war and climate disasters. Amidst the constant threat of collapse and death, Joaquim clings to the belief that a brighter future awaits, despite the fragile state of their existence and the desolate landscape that ravages their dreams.



MOZAMBIQUE



LARA SOUSA

DIRECTOR

Lara Sousa from Mozambique, studied documentary at the EICTV (Cuba). Sousa short films have an essayistic and self-referential aesthetic. She combines her political vision with a poetic language, searching for a “non-place” between Mozambique and other realities. Lara's movies has been selected for several festivals, including Dakar's Biennale 2020. She was recently selected to Creative Producers Indaba is a year-long professional development programme offered by Realness Institute, in partnership with EAVE, International Film Festival Rotterdam's IFFR Pro and the Sundance Institute

THE LAND OF MY MOTHERS

BY DOREEN FONJU

“The Land of My Mothers” chronicles Cécile Ndjebet’s journey from a young girl making a promise to defend rural women’s rights to a seasoned activist. Through intimate interviews and observations, we witness Cécile’s evolution as she navigates personal and professional challenges. From her childhood in a Cameroonian village to encounters with Nobel laureate Wangari Maathai, Cécile’s experiences shape her advocacy for women’s land rights and climate action. The film follows her efforts to empower women in communities, push for land ownership, and overcome cultural barriers. As Cécile balances her activism with family obligations, the documentary serves as a rallying cry for a more equitable society.



CAMEROON



DOREEN FONJU

DIRECTOR & PRODUCER

Doreen co-produced and co-directed her first feature film (straight to DVD) – ‘Entangled’ in 2004, which was one of the first Cameroonian films to be aired on Africa Magic (DSTV).

Since then, she has worked in television and a wide variety of productions in Cameroon, Kenya, Ghana, South Africa and the Congos.

Doreen holds a Master in Filmmaking with Distinction from Goldsmiths, University of London and is the founder of Calix d’Or Films. She is fluent in English and French and loves travelling.

THE SCIENTIST SANGOMA

BY DELA GWALA

As a newly initiated sangoma and a pioneering scientist in physical oceanography, Dr Moagabo Ragoasha works to reconcile the vast differences between her two worlds. Her traditional training in divination, healing herbs, and spiritual journey blend with her scientific pursuits in studying global ocean currents, placing her in a unique position to be a powerful force in the collective fight against climate change. As she advocates for ocean literacy, she discovers that science and indigenous practices of spirituality may not be mutually exclusive after all, and that the future of our planet may require a merging of the two worlds.



SOUTH AFRICA



DELA GWALA

DIRECTOR

In 2011, Dela Gwala directed a short comedic film for the UCT residence, Rochester House, for the UCT residence film festival. In 2016, she was a consultant for and starred in a documentary called 'Line by Line' which traced the rise of the UCT Survivors movement. This was an organisation that advocated for survivors of sexual violence on the University of Cape Town campus. Then she was part of promoting the documentary when it was released on Cape Town TV in 2017. In 2022, she edited a short film called 'Untitled' - an intimate portrayal of a queer couple dealing with the ups and downs of being cast in the film industry. This film was screened at Bertha House in Cape Town and was part of a Bertha funded initiative called 'Free Film School'. In 2022, she also completed a short film called 'Mistakes and Outtakes' for an online course run by the Berlin Art Institute titled: 'Experimental and Personal Filmmaking'. In 2023, she edited a short film called 'Surprise'. This film is a tragi-comedy that is an initiative created by Free Film School and the Queer Writer's Incubator- partly funded by the NFVF. This film is an official selection for the Congo Film Festival in Kinshasa. Dela Gwala was selected for the 2023 IDFAcademy - an intensive 4 day filmmaking programme run by the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA).



ANTOINETTE ENGEL

PRODUCER

Producer of documentary films and immersive storytelling projects, committed to the collaborative spirit that underpins all creative projects. Antoinette's work has screened at the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA), DOK.fest München, Encounters South African International Documentary Film Festival and on Al Jazeera. She has executive produced VR experiences which have premiered at IDFA, SXSW, Sheffield and Sunnyside of the Doc and worked with partners Meta, the British Council, UNESCO, Atlantic Institute and South Africa's National Film and Video Foundation.

Previously co-chair of the Documentary Filmmakers' Association and jury member for Durban International Film Festival (2024), Fak'ugesi Digital Lab Africa (2023) and goEast XR (2022). In 2025 Antoinette joined the DFMI as industry programme manager of the Durban FilmMart, Africa's premier film finance and co-production market

TREES OF LAISAMIS

BY THOMAS BUNDI

In the aftermath of the worst drought to hit the Horn of Africa in 40 years, Boniface Lengoyiap joins the newly formed Nyuat Tree Growers Group. He lives in Gatab, a settlement of about 4,000 that sits beneath the Mt. Kulal forest in Marsabit, Kenya's second largest county. His cousin, Peter is a local herder who dropped out of grade 7 due to financial hardship but embraces a more traditional nomadic way of life. His herd has diminished since he was attacked by rustlers from the neighboring Turkana community. Boniface comes full circle to embrace his ancestors role as custodians of the Kulal forest. Meanwhile, their Member of Parliament, the suave Harvard educated Joseph Lekuton, pushes for a national Carbon Credit Trading and Benefit Sharing Bill 2023. On a constituency tour, he meets members of the tree planting group and highlights what passage of the bill will mean for the residents of Gatab.



KENYA



THOMAS BUNDI

DIRECTOR

Thomas is a Kenyan screen media producer with a background in news and factual programming. His short documentary 'Devoted Dreaming' was invited for the 2023 Visions du Réel and Oberhausen Film Markets. He is a 2023 One World Media Fellow.



ANN KINYANJUI

PRODUCER

Ann is a filmmaker, producer and social justice advocate based in Nairobi. As a public relations practitioner, she has worked on humanitarian stories centred around improving the lives of groups historically marginalised. Her work has been aired in community radio and TV stations in local dialects as well as screening during Open Society Initiatives.

WAKASHIKO

BY ALEXANDRA LASSEMILLANTE AND JULIE LAURENZ

This film chronicles the environmental disaster caused by the grounding of the Wakashiko, a massive bulk carrier, on the coral reef surrounding Mauritius. When the authorities downplayed the situation, ordinary Mauritians took matters into their own hands, risking their health to clean up the 1,000-tonne oil spill using ingenious methods such as sugarcane biomass and their own hair. As the island's residents unite in a massive protest, 'Wakashiko' reveals their relentless quest for accountability and justice, highlighting the indomitable spirit of a nation determined to protect their beloved home.



MAURITIUS



ALEXANDRE
LASSEMILLANTE

PRODUCER DIRECTOR

Alex was born and raised in Pointe D'Esny, Mauritius, where the spill happened. In 2009, he studied cinematography at ESRA Rennes, France and New York. He worked as a drone pilot & camera operator for SAR Production, in Mauritius for 5 years, and won several awards for his drone work.

Since 2020 he has worked as a freelance cameraman. He is also a video editor, working on DaVinci Resolve. In 2021 he joined Julie and formed Etaa! Films. "Etaa!" means "Surprising" in Creole.



JULIE LAURENZ

PRODUCER DIRECTOR

As a filmmaker, journalist & writer Julie has covered a wide spectrum of subject matter; from human interest to human rights, education & health issues, lifestyle and conservation & wildlife documentaries. She understands the importance of having the narrative lead by strong characters and can tell sensitive and deeply personal stories with empathy while still maintaining an objective eye. AWARDS: Best Environmental & Human Rights Short Documentary (AHRFF), Lorenzo Natali European Commission Award for Human Rights Democracy and Development First Prize, 2x CNN African Journalist of the Year - TV Feature, Bridgett Bardot Genesis Award-Commended, South Africa Film & Television Award (SAFTA), Current Affairs, 5x SAB Environmental Journalist of the Year, 2x National Vodacom Journalist of the year - Features & Finance.



SHORT FILMS

A TIME OF COWS

BY FASSA MAURICE SARR

This film embarks on a thought-provoking journey through the eyes of a cow, as it navigates the consequences of human actions on the environment. From the serene village, where the bond between the cow and the village shepherd flourishes, to the bustling and polluted streets of Dakar, the capital of Senegal, we witness the drastic contrast in living conditions for the cow. Through the cow's poignant voice-over, we are compelled to analyze the causes of environmental pollution, leaving us questioning who (or what) ultimately bears the responsibility for global warming and pollution?



SENEGAL



FASSAR MAURICE SARR

DIRECTOR

Fassar Maurice SARR began writing fantasy and horror stories for children's literature at the age of 13. In 2013, he published two collections of poems. After studying literature at the University of Dakar, he went on to study film directing at ESAV Marrakech, a film school in Morocco, from 2017 to 2021. There he made a number of short student films, including 'Au Fil du Temps', which won the Audience Award at the Festival Court Derrière. In February 2023, he took part in FESPACO (Festival Panafricain du Cinéma de Ouagadougou) with this film.



SOULEYMANE KEBE

PRODUCER

Souleymane Kébé is a producer based in Sénégal. With Sunuy Films and Astou Productions, he has been producing documentary films, series and fiction since 2012. 'Sira' by Apolline Traoré won the audience award in Berlinale and Etalon d'argent in Fespaco, 'Banel & Adama' by Ramatoulaye Sy in official competition at the Cannes festival... For two years, he has been mentoring in workshops such as Up court métrages Dakar, Yaoundé film Lab, Impala Abidjan. Since 2015, he co-organized the Saint-Louis international documentary film festival Stlouis' Docs.

INTO DARKNESS

BY NAISHE HASSAN NYAMUBAYA

'Into Darkness' is a visually driven documentary film that unveils the hidden costs of coal mining in Zimbabwe. The film follows the journey of electricity itself, from the households that use it, across the national grid, to its origins deep in the earth as coal. This thought-provoking journey observes how coal fuelled illegal mining in the majestic Hwange National Park, the nation's largest wildlife reserve, devastating both the park and the town of Hwange. As the struggles of local residents, park rangers, farmers, and environmental activists converge, the film exposes the destructive forces at play and ignites a powerful call for change, leaving audiences questioning the price of progress.



ZIMBABWE



NAISHE HASSAN NYAMUBAYA

DIRECTOR

Naishe Hassan Nyamubaya is a Zimbabwean-Egyptian filmmaker, passionate about telling African stories. Blending fantasy and fiction, he is a firm believer in telling unique, authentic, character driven stories, which challenge social issues. His 2019 short film, 'Mum, I need Oil For My Car', was selected at the BFI Future film Festival, a semi-finalist at the Pan African Film and Arts Festival, a finalist at the ASA International Humanitarian Festival and won Best African Short Film at the Zimbabwe International Film Festival. His second film, 'Taming Kara' (2019), was selected at the Chicago International Film Festival, was a semi-finalist at the Africa Film For Impact Festival, and won Best Short Narrative at the Kukastream African Film Festival. 'Four walls And A Roof' (2021), was selected at the Jozifilm Festival, nominated for Best Short at the South African Film and Television Awards (SAFTAS), and won Best Diaspora Film at the European Film Festival in Zimbabwe. 'Chimbo Chebere' ('The Hyena's Song'), his latest film project, won the Jury Prize for development at the Red Sea International Film Festival in 2021, and was selected for Cinefondation's L'atelier at the Cannes Film Festival in 2022. He completed his postgraduate studies in Motion Picture in 2021, and is an alumni of the TIFF (Toronto International Film Festival) Filmmaker Lab, class of 2022.



JÉRÉMIE PALANQUE

PRODUCER

Jérémie Palanque is a French producer. He has been constantly immersed in a multi-cultural environment, which has influenced the line-up of his short and feature film projects. During his master's degree, he created the production company, Wooo Pictures, which specializes in the international co-production of feature films, and A Table Productions, with Laurent Mizrahi, which focuses on documentary film and TV productions. He completed his Master's degree in Film Production in 2019 under the direction of Serge Lalou (Les Films d'Ici). Thanks to the renowned Zimbabwean novelist Tsitsi Dangarembga, Jérémie met Naishe Nyamubaya in 2019. Together they developed and are now preparing Naishe's first feature film, 'Chimbo Chebere', which has already garnered various prestigious film festival selections and awards, as well as national and international support. After several visits to Zimbabwe, Naishe and Jérémie decided to team up on Naishe's next project, 'Into Darkness'.

CREDITS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Fibby Kioria, Ibee Ndaw, Teboho Edkins,
Iikka Vehkalahti, Tiny Mungwe, Don Edkins

STORY DEVELOPMENT PLENARY

(2 – 3 February 2023)

Presenters: Judy Kibinge, Iikka
Vehkalahti, Kumi Naidoo, Elaine Maane,
Sarah Summers, Tiny Mungwe, Don
Edkins

STORY DEVELOPMENT LAB 1

(13 – 17 February 2023)

Mentors: Emma Davies, Sarah Dawson,
Dylan Valley, Khalid Shamis,
Iikka Vehkalahti

Facilitators: Tiny Mungwe, Cornélia Glele,
Don Edkins

Experts: Pauline Owiti,
Tunica Phillips-Jegels

STORY DEVELOPMENT LAB 2

(20 – 24 March 2023)

Mentors: Christilla Huillard-Kahn, Aurélien
Guégan, Rama Thiaw, François Scullier,
Teboho Edkins

Facilitators: Tiny Mungwe, Cornélia Glele,
Don Edkins

Experts: Inés Kuassi, Valère Sossou

STORY DEVELOPMENT LAB 3

(27 – 31 March 2023)

Mentors: Sarah Dawson, Dylan Valley,
Siam Mohamed, Teboho Edkins, Iikka
Vehkalahti

Facilitators: Tiny Mungwe, Cornélia Glele,
Don Edkins

Experts: Zubaida Mabuno Ismail, Harrison
Ashwanga

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