



**NGALABI
SHORT FILM
FESTIVAL**

**FESTIVAL
GUIDE**

2022

WELCOME

“That’s the beauty of short films: their strength lies in delivering a message creatively and simply.”

Sanam Saeed

The thing with short films is, after all, that on the one hand they are harder to have shown and a lot harder to find and see as an audience, since they are passion driven and not following the taste and will of the masses. On the other hand it is so wonderful that shorts don’t have to answer anything but still have power. Film festivals bring people together who share the same passion – not only in the audience but also on a professional level. That’s why we are here: let’s dive into the world of short films together, into the portraits and poems, the stories and adventures. The Ngalabi Short Film Festival is back with the sixth edition and a big bang!

After the festival had to be cancelled due to the pandemic in 2020 and could only take place online last year, we are proud to present the 2022 program fully live again: three days full of masterful short films from Uganda, East Africa and larger Africa. We are also happy to be able to showcase three German shorts in collaboration with Independent Days Film Fest Karlsruhe. As a very special highlight, this year for the first time we will present awards for the best film, for the best director and an audience award. And all this happens in the big auditorium of the International University East Africa, in the magical atmosphere of the Wonderworld Amusement Park.

We promise to take you on an unforgettable journey of stories stretching from one corner of the globe to the next. The daily screenings are accompanied by Q&A Sessions with selected filmmakers and directors from Uganda, moderated by our amazing Sharon Rwaky.

You can also meet and interact with our media and film partners from Uganda and Germany at the partners bazaar and stroll through the stalls at our crafts market. We would like to extend our appreciation to our local filmmakers for their continued partnership with us in helping grow short films as an art form in Uganda.

Last but not least, we want to give our sincerest gratitude to all our partners and contributors: International University East Africa, Film Board Karlsruhe e.V., Independant Days Film Fest, Kampala Film School, Sauti Media Hub, Cinema UG, Media Challenge Initiative, the German Embassy. We appreciate all your support and hard work in helping us make this years sixth edition a success.

Dear audience: follow the drums into the cinema hall, let's gather in front of the screen and enjoy, reflect, learn, and discuss after the films.

The Ngalabi Team: Christian Kettelhut, Ann-Kristin Schulz, Barbra Emolot, Joel Tugaineyo, Kanyike Julius, Sharon Rwaky.



OFFICIAL PROGRAM

OPEN DOORS: 5PM
START: 6:30PM // DRUMS START AT 6:10PM
WELCOME GZK
FADED (UG) - 8 MIN
THE DARK BOX (NG) - 8 MIN
ALWAYS KEEP POSITIVE (GER) - 31 MIN
PARTNERS TALK; START 7:30PM - 30 MIN
KWETU KWANZA (UG) - 13 MIN
LOKOZA - 20 MIN
16 ROUNDS (UG) - 38 MIN
Q&A SESSION; START 9:15PM - 20 MIN
END 10PM

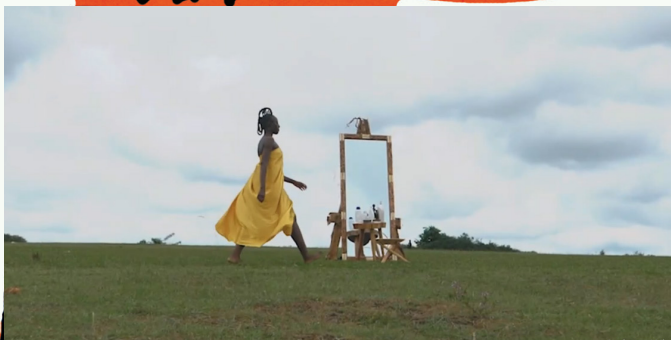
THURS
28TH

FRI
29TH

OPEN DOORS: 5PM
START: 6:30PM // DRUMS START AT 6:10PM
WELCOME GZK
LITTLE FAITH (UG) - 22 MIN
NYABINGI RESURRECTION (UG) - 8 MIN
NYAMA (MEAT) (UG) - 16 MIN
Q&A; START 7:20PM - 20 MIN
THE BEAST (SA) - 20 MIN
MASEL TOV COCKTAIL(GER) - 30 MIN
AL-SIT (SUDAN) - 20 MIN
Q&A SESSION; START 9:00PM - 20 MIN
END 10PM

OPEN DOORS: 4PM
START: 5:30PM (DRUMS START AT 5:10PM)
INTRODUCTION GZK
THE ANT-QUEEN (ALGERIA) - 15 MIN
ADA & NAEMI (GER) - 28 MIN
MUKAZI - FAITH AWEKO (UG) - 19 MIN
Q&A SESSION; START 6:55 PM - 20 MIN
VANILLA (UG) - 22 MIN
SATISFACTION (UG) - 7 MIN
SUNGURA (KE) - 21 MIN
Q&A SESSION; START 8:15PM - 20 MIN
CLOSING WORDS GZK + AWARD GIVEAWAY
AFTER-PARTY; END MIDNIGHT

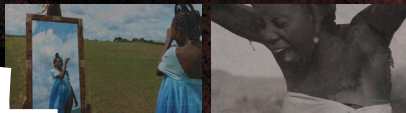
SAT
30TH



FADED

2022 | NABAGGALA LILIAN MAXIMILLIAN | 7 MIN | EXPERIMENTAL/DANCE | UGANDA

FADED is a dance film based on a dance theatre piece with an idea that focuses on identity, an issue that has risen through colorism among African women along with the youth and their perception/idea of beauty as a lighter skin complexion which has led to the skin bleaching epidemic. This dance-theatre piece poses a question and stirs up discussions on "what defines beauty? Is it through skin shade and tone or their personality and character in the community?"



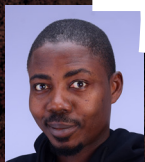
Nabaggala Lilian Maximillian is a creative and dance practitioner based in Kampala, Uganda. The Ugandan traditional and urban / street dance background has molded her into a performer, choreographer, and director experimenting with other art forms. She dares to tell historical and societal topics/ stories through dance theatre pieces and experimentation with other art forms such as; film, photography, etc., in a contemporary approach.



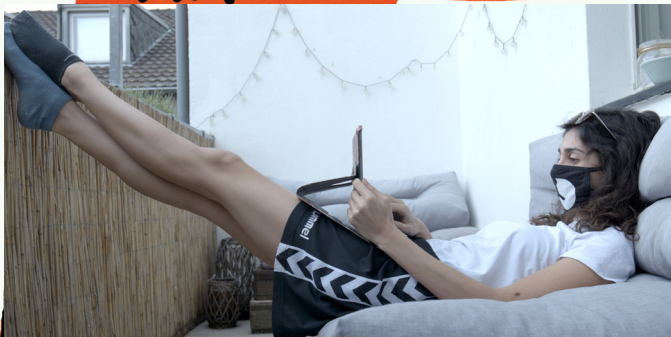
THE DARK BOX

YEMI JOLAOSO | 8 MIN | ROMANCE/COMEDY | NIGERIA

Fido is feeling rather proud of his little technological marvel that allows him to travel back in time precisely one minute. It's the perfect tool for trying to seduce the beautiful Kiki who is sitting on a park bench, enjoying the sun. If he makes a mistake or receives a rejection, he just hits the little red button and tries again. Unfortunately for Fido, he learns that his machine hasn't been working the way he thought, and he must now face the dark reality of his actions.



Yemi is a Director, Producer and Editor, whose body of work has spans an incredible range of genres and subjects. He released his first short film titled *Abducted* in 2014. In 2016 On completion of a scriptwriting workshop for filmmakers he got chosen to direct a funded short film titled *Beautiful Mistake* sponsored by Homevida and Google. In 2019 he was included in "The 100 most influential Nigerians in film in 2019" According to Ynaija.com. Today, he has two feature films to his credit, "Bonny&Clara" and his latest movie titled "Toxic".

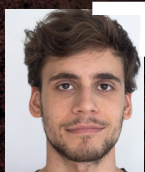


ALWAYS KEEP POSITIVE

TILL VILL | 31 MIN | COMEDY | GERMANY

The Corona crisis threw the whole world into complete chaos! Roommates Luna and Cora try to make the best out of their peculiar circumstances with a very questionable plan ...

"Always Keep Positive" gives a glimpse into an alternate reality from all of us and answers the question what wild ride we could have experienced if we were a little bit more badass and a little bit more stupid.



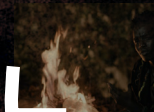
Till Vill began his studies as a film director at the Ruhrakademie in North Rhine-Westphalia in 2017. His focus lies in narration and development of characters rather than on extravagant and time-consuming camera shots, he also leads larger film sets as a director or production manager to produce marketable corporate films for different customers. Most recently he has begun receiving international awards for his works, which he mostly writes in English, and is expanding the production output of his company into a stable workflow.



KWETU KWANZA

DEVIS AHIMBISIBWE | 13 MIN | DANCE | UGANDA

Kwetu Kwanza is a dance and poetry film exploring themes of nature, pollution and sustainability. Humanity's incautiousness has led to great harm and in order to create a sustainable community further action is needed. Two dancers in a quest of developing a kinesthetic understanding of their surroundings.



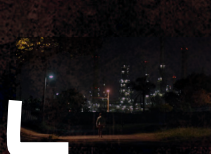
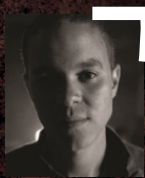
Devis Ahimbisibwe aka Chief Smokie is a dancer from Kampala, Uganda. Through dance he has embraced a fanatical interest in creating stories about humanity and nature. As a dancer and environmentalist he has represented his country Uganda at different festivals like Schöne Aussicht in Germany or Ejo Heza in Rwanda. In his directing debut project Kwetu Kwanza he expands his vision and message through tools of filmmaking, guided by co-director Noah Grothe.



LOKOZA

2016 | ZEE NTULI | 20 MIN | DRAMA | SOUTH AFRICA

In the Durban South Basin, Themba, a boy in his early adolescence, lives with his father near to the local oil refinery. He's secretly in love with Khanya, who has been his best friend for years. Khanya has a new boyfriend, KG, a truck driver who promises her a safe future. The more their relationship grows, the more Themba must fight to get her back, until he goes one step too far.



Zee Ntuli is a passionate young South African filmmaker who has already achieved numerous successes. He co-wrote and directed *Hard To Get*, his debut feature film produced by Helena Spring and Junaid Ahmed. *Hard To Get* was selected to open the 2014 Durban International Film Festival, selected to close the African International Film Festival, as well as selected to screen at the BFI London Film Festival.



16 ROUNDS

2021 | LOUKMAN ALI | 38 MIN | THRILLER/CRIME | UGANDA

A marriage falling apart has the couple trying to pin blame on one another in increasingly outrageous ways.



Loukman Ali is a Ugandan screenwriter and filmmaker with a background in animation and graphic design. He fell in love with film at the age of eight and mastered a variety of skills by watching videos on YouTube. Despite working mostly in marketing and directing TV commercials, he spends his spare time making feature and short films in order to enhance his art. He has honed his talent as a director, editor, cinematographer, and animator through self-motivated training and his art background and he looks forward making many more genre films and eventually developing international shows.



LITTLE FAITH

2021 | AFRIE | 22 MIN | DOCUMENTARY/COMEDY | UGANDA

In a region severely plagued by poverty, strong patriarchal traditions and poor education, a light hearted Afrie travels from Kampala to Karamoja to meet Dr. Faith Nangiro, a girls' education advocate who despite having been cast out by her community, chose to return to serve her people. Afrie explores the ongoing feminist movement as charged little girls now choose to finish school despite the many obstacles in their way.



Afrie is a Ugandan musician and filmmaker. Her witty and bold compelling voice as a storyteller resonates with that of the African girl. Afrie is an ambassador of the African Union -AU/CIEFFA- campaign to educate girls post Covid-19. She is the founder of the Afriem Community through which she mentors and supports young female creatives. Under this community, Afrie has written and directed three short films that explored topics of mental health awareness, love and sexual harassment of women in public spaces. She is currently a film student under Multichoice Talent Factory.



NYABINGI RESSURECTION

2022 | SEMULEMA DANIEL KATENDA | 8 MIN | DOCUMENTARY | MUSICAL | UGANDA

To celebrate the release of a unique album of new Nyabingi music, East African Records and Switchstance Recordings have produced a musical documentary about the Ugandan Nyabingi group, Nilotika Cultural Ensemble. Featuring smokey interviews, live studio performance and historical revelations, this is... Nyabingi Resurrection: The Movie.



After graduating from Kampala Film School in 2013, Semulema worked extensively in the film industries of Uganda and Rwanda. In Kigali, he set up and managed a local TV station, Yego TV. He has worked on NGO films, travel films and documentaries for social development in partnership with the Makerere School of Social Sciences. He co-produced international feature film *Imperial Blue* (2019). He is now head of music video production at East African Records.



NYAMA

2022 | ASHER ROSEN | 16 MIN | DRAMA | UGANDA

When an indigenous woman is evicted from her home, she must do anything she can to feed her young son.



Raised for long periods in India and Sri Lanka, Asher Rosen developed a passion for international stories that rarely get told. A friend introduced him to their own NGO project in Uganda. This eventually led to Asher's first feature script, set in Uganda, based on over a year's experience in the region. This, in turn, evolved into Asher Rosen's collaboratively created debut short, Nyama. Nyama also involved a training program which allowed Asher to use his background in tutoring and teaching, developing the filmmaking skills of everyone who collaborated on Nyama. Nyama is his first short film.



THE BEAST

2016 | SAMANTHA NELL | 20 MIN | DRAMA | SOUTH AFRICA

An ordinary day at a Zulu cultural village. Shaka, their star performer, expresses his frustrations to his co-workers as he sits on display for tourists. On this day he reaches the end of his tether and his protest takes on Shakespearian proportion.



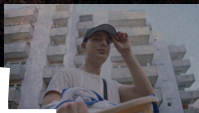
Samantha Nell, 28, is a South African writer, director, and producer. She completed her MFA at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts Asia in Singapore in 2014. She has directed and produced short films on four continents and worked in countries including Singapore, South Korea, Hong Kong, Japan, India, South Africa, Finland and the United States. Her short film "Stiff" (2014) was selected for the Palm Springs International Shortsfest and won Best Short Film at the Africa International Film Festival in Nigeria. She is currently based in Johannesburg, South Africa.



MASEL TOV COCKTAIL

2020 | ARKADIJ KHAET | 30 MIN | COMEDY | GERMANY

Dimitrij Liebermann (18) is Jewish and punched Tobi in the face. Now he's supposed to apologize to him. But Dimitrij doesn't exactly feel sorry. While on his way to meet up with Tobi, he encounters a diverse representation of German society. Again and again, Dimitrij faces one struggle he needs to overcome: his German-Jewish identity. An analysis of the status quo.



Arkadij Khaet was born during the final moments of the Soviet Union. A few weeks after his birth his family left the Republic of Moldova and immigrated to Germany. After graduating highschool he lived in Israel for a while, and then moved to Cologne to start his undergraduate studies in Film and Television. During his studies he met his colleague Mickey Paatzsch with whom he started a collaboration on several projects. As of October 2016, Arkadij Khaet is studying Film Directing at the Film Academy Baden-Württemberg and is currently living in Southern Germany.



AL-SIT

2020 | SUZANNAH MIRGHANI | 20 MIN | DRAMA/COMING OF AGE | SUDAN

In a cotton-farming village in Sudan, 15-year-old Nafisa has a crush on Babiker, but her parents have arranged her marriage to Nadir, a young Sudanese businessman living abroad. Nafisa's grandmother Al-Sit, the powerful village matriarch, has her own plans for Nafisa's future. But can Nafisa choose for herself?



Suzannah Mirghani is a writer, researcher, and independent filmmaker. Mixed-race Sudanese and Russian, she is interested in stories about the complexity of identity. Her latest short is the experimental documentary/social media satire *VIRTUAL VOICE* (2021), which premiered at Tribeca Film Festival. Suzannah is working on her first feature *COTTON QUEEN*, a magical realist tale set in the cotton fields of Sudan.



THE ANT QUEEN

2016 | LEILA ARTESE | 15 MIN | DRAMA/MAGICAL REALISM | ALGERIA

Amel, a 10-year-old girl, lives with her big sister Fatma and her grandmother. In the harsh reality of everyday life she has to reinvent her world to escape the taboos imposed on it. Her dream is to turn into queen ant to have the freedom to choose her destiny.



Graduated in philosophy and at the ACT academy of cinema and television in Cinecittà Rome (Italia), I had the opportunity in 2010 until 2018 to work in cinema as assistant director, editor, sound engineer, media manager for several films, short films and documentaries shot in Algeria and Italy. In 2016 I made my first short film as a director, as well as being both the performer and the editor. I am currently preparing my first feature-length documentary on the Touaregs that will be shot in the Algerian Sahara.



ADA UND NAEMI

2021 | WIEBKE BECKER | 27 MIN | DRAMA | GERMANY

When Naemi decides to meet her father for the first time in 19 years, there's not only a journey into the unknown ahead of her, but also a half-sister she didn't know about yet.



Before studying directing at the HMS, Wiebke graduated from Dortmund University of Applied Sciences and Arts and worked for five years as an assistant director for international cinema, series and advertising film productions. In order to realise her own projects, she founded "Knallrot Filme UG" together with cinematographer Maren Heyn. Since then the two have been working together on films of all kinds. From experimental to documentary and integrative feature films, everything is included



THE MUKAZI SERIES

2021 | HEDDWYN KYAMBADDE | 19 MIN | DOCUMENTARY | UGANDA

A pioneer documentary series about inspiring Ugandan women (Luganda: woman - mukazi) who are striving to change the stereotype around the traditional role of women in Uganda and to inspire young girls and women to not give up on their dreams. The first episode features Faith Aweko, a social entrepreneur and founder of Reform Africa, who battles family conflicts and education expectations to forge her career as a pioneer in tackling Uganda's plastic waste problem, and pollution.



Heddwyn Kyambadde is a producer and director from Uganda, with over 15 years of experience in documentary and short filmmaking. He is passionate about telling powerful african stories believing this will have a direct impact on learning, identity and the future of the continent. He is currently Creative Director at Marula Creative Consultancy, a social impact creative agency that supports brands, NGO's, social enterprises and CSR teams to communicate their social, behavioural and environmental impact to make a genuine difference in the world.



VANILLA

2022 | AGANZA KISAKA | 21 MIN | DRAMA/FAMILY | UGANDA

Vanilla is a short film that tells the tale of a single mom who has dedicated her life to taking care of her daughter who has Down-syndrome. After a long, fruitless day of looking for work-placement for herself and her daughter, Miriam is confronted by Jessica, her hip, vibrant younger stepsister about the staleness of her life. This a story that highlights the difficult decisions that parents, caretakers and guardians constantly face when looking after someone with intellectual disability.



Aganza Kisaka is a Ugandan playwright, director, theatre producer and award-winning actress. She has participated in various capacities in films, theatre works and performance programs in Uganda and abroad. Kisaka made her debut as a playwright at the Kampala International Theatre Festival in 2016 with "Black" which tackles issues of race, and identity. Kisaka is the founder of Yenze Theatre Conservatoire (YTC) that trains performing artists in acting, movement and voice in Kampala, Uganda. Her work is inspired by how unique spaces and movement inform our identity, behavior and interactions.



SATISFACTION

2021 | YVONNE SEWANKAMBO | 7 MIN | COMEDY/ROMANCE | UGANDA

An embarrassing incident forces a woman to choose between sheltering her surprise witness and finding her sexual voice.



Yvonne Sewankambo is a Ugandan-Canadian writer, director and publicist. She has worked on campaigns across several industries, including film, television, publishing, education and the not-for-profit sector. An avid reader, she is passionate about telling stories that transcend borders. Yvonne's short film, *SATISFACTION* (2021) – which she directed virtually – is one of the inaugural winners of the Fivefor5 film fund and her directorial debut.



SUNGURA

2019 | LYDIA MATATA | 20 MIN | DRAMA | KENYA

Kemunto is struggling to fit in at a friend's bridal shower when a traditional sexologist or Senga arrives and draws her into the fun by bringing out her colourful collection of dildos and vibrators, and Kemunto becomes obsessed with Sungura (the rabbit). She must however navigate this crowded party to get Mama Asali alone in order to buy one; or find the courage to buy it in front of the other women, who believe she shouldn't need a vibrator in the first place.



Lydia is also one of the writers of the TV series Igiza (Showmax) and Country Queen, produced by Good Karma. her documentary short, Utapata Mwingine (You Will Get Another One), recently received the Best Emerging Filmmaker Award at the UN Women's Global Voices Film Festival. In addition, Lydia recently won the NBO Film Festival Writer's Prize for her first feature film script, Pepo Kali. While debut short film Millet won the scriptwriting competition, Shorts, Shots, Shots by Docubox (EADFF) in 2018.

**FOR THE FIRST TIME WE ARE GIVING OUT NGALABI AWARDS
IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES: BEST DIRECTOR, BEST
SHORT FILM AND PEOPLE'S CHOICE.**

**MEET THE JURY: MOLLY NAKAMYA (KAMPALA FILM SCHOOL),
MZEE BWANIKA (PEARLWOOD) AND AARON JEH TAMALE
(SAUTI+ MEDIAHUB)**



**YOUR VOTE COUNTS AS WELL! VISIT NGALABSHORTS ON
FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM, FOLLOW THE LINK AND VOTE
FOR THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD! THE AWARDS WILL BE
GIVEN OUT ON SATURDAY THE 30TH OF JULY AFTER THE
SCREENING OF THE SHORT FILMS. MAKE SURE TO STAY FOR
THE AFTER-PARTY!**

NGALABI SHORT FILM FESTIVAL PROUDLY PRESENTED BY:
GOETHE-ZENTRUM KAMPALA / UGANDA GERMAN CULTURAL SOCIETY

GOETHE-ZENTRUM
KOOPERATIONSPARTNER



OUR PARTNERS:



INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY
OF EAST AFRICA
'Learning to Succeed'



CinemaUg

filmboard
karlsruhe e.V.



independent
★ Days
International
Filmfestival Karlsruhe

FILM POSSIBLE