

INITIATION

THUPO

BOTSWANA

MAIN DATA

Category	Coming-of-age Anthology Drama
Length	62 min
Language	English, Setswana
Shooting format	Digital
Shooting location	Botswana
Shooting dates	NA
Expected date of completion	May 2024

PRODUCTION

Budget	66.230 €
Financing in place	8.876 €
Production company	NIO Visuals, Cattlepost Films
Workshop & platform attended	PAS Jumpstart 2023

SYNOPSIS

A look at a defining moment in the lives of three Batswana who learn the values of compassion, respect and responsibility. Over the course of a single day in a village in Botswana, a little boy's relationship with his domestic helper is threatened, a dog's life is endangered, and the barren wife of a pastor discovers her albino niece is missing. A cautionary triptych about love, identity, and the struggle to reconcile one's morality and personal ambition in the face of injustice.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

There is a common Setswana proverb: "tlhako ya morago e gata fa e pele e gatileng teng", which loosely translates to "a child learns through what they see, not by what they are told". In a time when Africans are reclaiming their heritage and undergoing a process of introspection that encourages the reassessment of core values and beliefs, we must ask ourselves if we represent the very virtues we wish to instil in future generations. THUPO is an extraordinary story which deftly explores Botswana's most pertinent social issues, demonstrating that tyranny prevails only because it is supported by the corrupt morals of a community, leaving our children to pay the biggest price. This story is a call to action, demanding Batswana, Africans and ultimately the world to rise up against injustice. We must all choose to do what is right over what is easy because even the smallest choice made by a single person can change the course of a society's future. It only takes one; then it takes a village.

CONTACT

Producer - Frank Oteng - niovisuals@gmail.com

Director - Moreetsi Gabang - moreetsigabang@gmail.com



PRODUCER FRANK OTENG



Frank went to study in Malaysia and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Multimedia from Curtin University. He is the founder and director of Gaborone-based production company NIO Visuals, which has produced works for the likes of CNN Africa, Botswana Stock Exchange, The University of Botswana, JCB and the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany. In 2018, Frank was shortlisted for Forbes Africa 30 under 30 and voted the new 3 most inspiring Batswana under 30, by the Botswana Youth Magazine. He has produced several TV shows & Documentaries, including "Master Craftsmen" (docuseries, 13 episodes), "Go Green Africa" (docuseries, 13 episodes), "The Carpet Lounge Music Series" (Entertainment Show, 13 episodes) and several TV commercials for organisations and Institutions such as Botswana Accountancy College (BAC), Botswana Building Society Limited (BBS), and Orange Botswana.

DIRECTOR MOREETSI GABANG



Moreetsi graduated valedictorian from AFDA Johannesburg and is a Talents Durban 2017, Talents Berlinale 2018, and 2021-2022 DFM Institute Business alumni. He completed his Master's degree (First Class) after receiving the Vice-Chancellor Postgraduate International Scholarship to study at UAL: London College of Communication. His short film "Motswakwa" (Foreigner) was nominated for Best Short Film at the 2019 Africa Movie Academy Awards. He is a two-time recipient of the Bessie Head Literature Award and works at Gaborone-based production company NIO Visuals as Head of Film & TV working with brands like JCB, USN, Sir Robert McAlpine, Multi-Choice, Debswana, and Orange.



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Ateliers de formation à la coproduction internationale



A LADY CALLED SAYEDA

EGYPT

MAIN DATA

Category	Drama
Length	90 min
Language	Arabic
Shooting format	4K
Shooting location	Egypt
Shooting dates	July, Sept, Nov 2025, Jan 2026
Expected date of completion	November 2026
Stage of production	In development

PRODUCTION

Budget	571.430 €
Financing in place	23.076 €
Production company	Honey Bees Films, Cinematic Studio Productions
Workshop & platform attended	Workshop with Anne Zohra Berrached by Goethe Institute and Ismailia IFF, DFM PAS Jumpstart 2023

SYNOPSIS

Sayedra is a mother of four girls and pregnant for the fifth time, finally, with a boy - precisely what her husband Musaad was waiting for since the day they got married. While in lockdown during the Covid night curfew, amniotic fluids suddenly break out of her uterus, signaling a premature delivery. Alone, she attempts to reach someone willing to help her get to her village's health center. However, fear of the virus leads people to believe she will transmit the virus and ultimately infect them. A friend recommends a trusted midwife without telling her that Sayedra is infected. The midwife examines Sayedra and tells her that she must give birth at the central hospital in the city, considering the baby is in danger. Sayedra tries to reach the hospital as fast as possible to save her baby but is faced with many unprecedented circumstances.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I happened to know a pregnant lady who suffered to give birth, and there was my inspiration. Sayedra is a pregnant woman who is infected by the virus and is about to give birth, how will they deal with her, and how even she will go to the hospital if this happens during the curfew in a small village in Egypt where there are no hospitals and how the people in her village will deal with her if they know that she is infected by the virus.

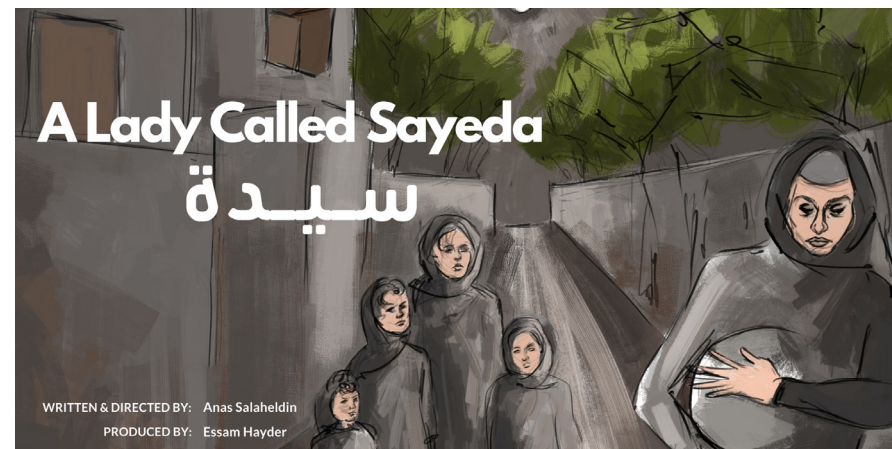
My parents have been born and grew up in villages in Egypt and my aunts are still living there with their families we were always going there on our vacations, and I know how bad the health care is they have, in addition to the poverty and poor education there.

Moreover, the film is to give a statement on how illiteracy, poor education, and poor health care can affect people's lives in a bad way, and the film can raise awareness for those people in all the Egyptian suburbs on how to deal with each other in such situations and times.

CONTACT

Producer - Essam Hayder - essamehayder@gmail.com

Director - Anas Salaheldin - anasalaheldin@gmail.com



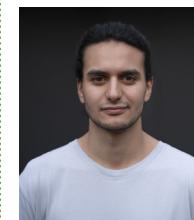
PRODUCER ESSAM HAYDER



Essam Hayder is an aspiring producer, screenwriter, and director, a DFM Alumnus who holds a bachelor's degree in Screenwriting from the High Cinema Institute and a BA in English Literature. He participated in several international workshops. He has worked as a creative director,

filmmaker, and producer with several agencies for the past five years. He produced and directed several commercials, content, and hours of documentary. In 2020, Essam founded Honey Bees Films, that through produced 2:30, which participated in many international film festivals, Stings, a short digital series of five episodes, which he created, directed, and produced, and Ferkry's Thoughts a documentary in post-production, and currently producing his latest in-development feature as a director, The Fence, and A Lady Called Sayeda, his first feature as a producer, and his latest short film Ladies' Room.

DIRECTOR ANAS SALAHELDIN



Anas Salaheldin is an Egyptian writer, director, and producer, based between Egypt and Germany. He studied Screenwriting at the Higher Institute of Cinema in Egypt, before relocating to Germany to work at the Open TV Channel in Magdeburg, where he initiated his work on documentaries.

He has written and directed several short films, his documentary "Sanftes Blech | The Trombone That Saved Me" achieved significant recognition, including winning Best Film at Germany's Bundes Festival Film in 2022, Best Film at JugendFilmPries in the same year, and the Best Documentary Debut award at the Egyptian National Film Festival. This documentary has also been screened at various International Film Festivals. In addition, he works as a producer in the advertising industry, working with the premium and luxury brands in Egypt, the Gulf Countries, and Europe. Also, he works as a Freelance Videographer at the Goethe Institute in Cairo. Currently, he is pursuing a master's degree in filmmaking at Weimar Bauhaus University in Germany.



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Liberté
Égalité
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INSTITUT FRANÇAIS
Afrique du Sud

HOTEL HILLBROW

SOUTH AFRICA

MAIN DATA

Category	Drama
Length	90 min
Language	English, Zulu
Shooting format	Digital
Shooting location	South Africa
Shooting dates	24 days
Expected date of completion	June 2025
Stage of production	In development

PRODUCTION

Budget	602.986 €
Financing in place	NA
Production company	Miss K Productions
Workshop & platform attended	PAS Jumpstart 2023

SYNOPSIS

The subterranean lows that come with the stratospheric highs of her sex, drugs and Gqom lifestyle were always inevitable, but she could never have foreseen the fall being a public humiliation and trauma broadcast live on national TV.

A year after the fall, Zee is picking up the pieces and the comeback is seemingly on, but first, Hillbrow is calling, as it did with her late father, the jazz icon – Cosmo. This historical downtown human port opens its mythical doors to the faded pop-star, playing muse and providing her talents with a blank city canvas.

Zee delves into the Hillbrow abyss and battles to find her way back. She finally embraces the darkness in hopes of attaining her artistic breakthrough and musicality, and a new song is born.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

It is said that to find the sublime beauty of your inner light, one must first believe it is there.

I am driven by this search for meaning through art. Hotel Hillbrow is a personal search for this uplifting beauty through cinema.

I hope to further this search by fusing together cinematic elements to take the viewer on a charathatic journey that resonates with the truth of their own lives.

CONTACT

Producer - Khosie Dali - khosie@misskproductions.com

Director - Malusi Bengu - malusi@filmadvinylclub.co.za



PRODUCER KHOSIE DALI



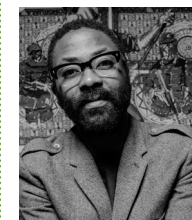
Khosie Dali is a Cape Town based producer specializing in narrative film. Her company, Miss K productions was founded, with the focus to unearth local talent, with a talented team with an obsessive eye for detail and a passion for storytelling and social justice.

She grew up in a small city called Port Elizabeth and after high school she returned to Cape Town to further her studies.

She is an alumnus at Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Durban Film Mart, Rotterdam Lab, EAVE Producer's Lab and Realness Development Lab.

Khosie has produced a dozen of commercials, short films and some music videos. Her first feature Sons of the Sea, directed by John Gutierrez, was released in 2021 and won Best Feature Film at the Durban International Film Festival, and showed on numerous film festivals internationally. Her next to features Pieces, directed by Imran Hamdulay and Vleese directed by Matthys Boshoff are set to film in 2024. Malusi's debut feature – Hotel Hillbrow will be filmed in 2025.

DIRECTOR MALUSI BENGU



Malusi S. Bengu is a storytelling shepherd with a passion for documenting and validating black experiences through the art form of film. Born in Port Elizabeth and raised on the radio dramas of the 80's that sparked his interest in storytelling, Malusi later moved to Johannesburg in his pre-teens

and was exposed to the multifaceted South African society. This sparked the desire to not only tell our stories but to do so in a way that shapes Black existence with a positive pen. This led Malusi to crafting a path in the TV & Film industry that has seen him contribute to drama's that speak to our shared experiences. He has directed two short films, 2 Grams and a Sunrise and Vinyl on Bones. In 2016 he filmed a concept promo for Hotel Hillbrow.



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MATERNAL

SOUTH AFRICA

MAIN DATA	
Category	Drama
Length	90 min
Language	English
Shooting format	4K
Shooting location	South Africa
Shooting dates	June 2024
Expected date of completion	September 2024
Stage of production	In development

PRODUCTION	
Budget	455,614.44 €
Financing in place	97,680.00 €
Production company	Blackhut Films, Parable Films
Workshop & platform attended	PAS Jumpstart 2023

SYNOPSIS

Viola, a resilient middle-aged South African woman, confronts the intricate web of infertility and the unyielding yearning for motherhood within her tight-knit community. To realise her lifelong dream of embracing motherhood, she embarks on an emotionally and physically gruelling journey through a series of IVF treatments. When Viola finally achieves pregnancy, she faces an agonising challenge as relentless contractions lead to the heart-wrenching premature birth and, tragically, the loss of her child. In the aftermath, Viola embarks on a poignant odyssey of mourning, one that fractures her relationships with loved ones as she embarks on a profound and soul-searching exploration of what the true meaning of motherhood signifies to her.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

My intention in relaying this story is for Maternal to courageously explore the sensitive subject of infertility, particularly from the perspective of a modern, black woman in contemporary South Africa. This film seeks to shed light on the emotional turmoil faced by a couple in love who have begun a life together, only to discover they cannot have children naturally. The narrative delves into their journey as they navigate the unfamiliar world of In Vitro Fertilization (IVF). Maternal examines issues of women's health, class disparities, and the secrecy surrounding IVF, all while capturing the raw and lonely emotional journey.

PRODUCER OMOLEMO NTHATHE



Omolemo Nthathe is a writer, director and producer from Pretoria, South Africa. She completed her BTech in Film and Television Production cum laude in 2018 from Tshwane University of Technology. Omolemo is a DFMI Business Lab alumna, selected as one of 30 producers for the 2022 Durban FilmMart Institute Business Lab. She achieved 100% on her Bachelor of Technology Research Methods Micro Dissertation, focusing on directing motion capture actors in live-action animation films. Co-founding Blackhut films after university, Omolemo wrote, directed, and produced their debut documentary, "Go nyelela ga puo | Death of language," which premiered on Showmax, aired on SABC 2 and reached audiences globally. She is currently involved in the development, production, and distribution of an animation short film, documentaries and two feature films as a writer, director, and producer.



© Singleton, J., Amadio, E. and Andron, D. (2021) Snowfall - Season 4 - Episode 6. Shotdeck.

CO-PRODUCER ANNA DUCKWORTH



Anna Duckworth, founder of both Canvas Casting Artist Management, popularly known as Canvas CAM, and Parable Films (PTY) LTD, graduated from Witwatersrand University with an Honours degree in Bachelor of Arts in Dramatic Arts in 2013. During her final year at Witwatersrand University, she worked as an intern at DV8 Films and it was during this internship that her dream to own a creative based business was cemented. In April 2018 Anna was nominated as the Vice Chairperson of the Personal Managers Association in Johannesburg. The PMA is an association for Talent Agencies in South Africa which was formed to assist and further the best interests of its members in their endeavours to promote and manage the facilitation of opportunities and contracts for their clients. Her hope is that she will be instrumental in upholding and influencing the industry standard for professional creatives.

CONTACT

Producer - Omolemo Nthathe - o.nthathe@blackhutfilms.africa
Director - Stephina Zwane - steph.zwane@gmail.com

DIRECTOR STEPHINA ZWANE



Stephina Zwane has 23 years experience in the TV and Film industry. She has worked as a scriptwriter and producer for various productions as well as some of the major broadcasters in South Africa. She has honed her skills as a director on films, TV series and some TV commercials. She has written and directed the comedy drama, Baby Mamas (2018), that has screened at film festivals in Toronto, New York, Los Angeles and Lagos. She also wrote and directed the mystery-drama, Home Wrecker (2023) that debuted on Netflix to worldwide acclaim. Her most recent film is the comedy drama, Love, Sex and 30 Candles (2023) that also debuted on Netflix to great reviews. She is currently working on other films that will be produced in the near future. She is passionate about stories told from a female perspective and believes we will never have enough of these told.



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