

# 2021 NANTES/ PAS WORKSHOP

## THE DAY & NIGHT OF BRAHMA SOUTH-AFRICA



### MAIN DATA

Category	Drama
Length	90 minutes
Language	English
Shooting format	HD
Shooting location	South-Africa
Shooting dates	February 2023
Expected date of completion	May 2023
Stage of production	In Development

### PRODUCTION

Budget	709.978 €
Financing in place	None
Production company	ATMAN MEDIA
Workshop & platform attended	Cannes South Africa Factory Realness Writers Residency 2017 / Jumpstart Lab 2018 / IFFAM 2019

### CONTACT

**Producer** Carol Kioko - carolkioko@gmail.com

**Director** - Sheetal Magan - smagan86@gmail.com

### SYNOPSIS

Gita sits pensively, her doctor advises her that it is time to make a decision between termination and motherhood. Having struggled with depression Gita is reluctant to gamble stability on an unplanned pregnancy. But when it is made known to her husband Sanj and his extended family Gita submits to social pressures and decides to have the child. In time her mental state deteriorates. Kamla, Gita's mother-in-law moves in. Gita and Kamla form an unexpected spiritual bond which begins to mask a manic cycle. After the birth of her son Gita suffers a psychotic episode. Will the birth of their son inspire a resolve to rebuild their family, family or will it ultimately be a force that tears them apart?

### DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"The Day and Night of Brahma" speaks to the Vedic metaphor for 'the big bang'. In 1986, the South African government declared a state of national emergency, deeply influenced by the waves of political change at the time, my parents defied both custom and caste, marrying in secret and conceiving of their relationship as a revolutionary act. My arrival into the world marked the beginning of mother's struggle with postpartum psychosis and chronic mental illness. Through her struggle, I am questioning whether or not the life of one human being is a fair trade for the sanity of another? As an Indian woman today I am deeply aware of the crisis of autonomy that exists within Indian culture for women. I question to what extent the unconscious realities of these phenomena in my own community are a deep raging cry for the realities of personal freedom. Through 'The Day and Night of Brahma' we are also prompted to question the conflict between the secular and traditional attitudes to mental health.



### DIRECTOR SHEETAL MAGAN



Sheetal Magan is a South African talent who studied screenwriting and directing at the South African School of Motion Picture and currently completing her master in Visual Anthropology at HMKW Berlin. She has completed several short films including a God Dank vir Klank (2011) a mockumentary exploring 'Zef culture', City of Ashes (2014) a dystopian nativity story set in Johannesburg, The Fall of Ganesh (2015) a slice of life look at race in Suburban Johannesburg. She participated in Cannes South Africa Factory making 'Paraya', one of four short films to open the Director's Fortnight in Cannes in 2016. Sheetal is presently in development on her debut feature film 'The Day and Night of Brahma' which was awarded for creative excellence at the Macao International Film Festival. She is interested in dramatic storytelling that demands cultivating a lens to explore contemporary African problems.

### PRODUCER CAROL KIOKO



Carol Kioko is the CEO of Lemon Slice Pictures, an African Film Production company focused on the elevation of African Identity through storytelling. She has a vast 19-year experience in both TV and Film across Kenya and South Africa. Her eclectic skills have seen her produce both narrative and documentary content for the likes of MTV Base, BBC, Al Jazeera and most recently CNN International. Carol's strong focus on Pan-African storytelling drives her to co-produce with like-minded individuals on the African continent. In 2020 Carol was selected as one of a handful of producers from across the world participating in the inaugural Creative Producer Indaba, a professional training and empowerment program for Africa's emerging producers with creative vision and leadership skills. She is currently producing 3 fiction feature films, and various fiction episodic projects.