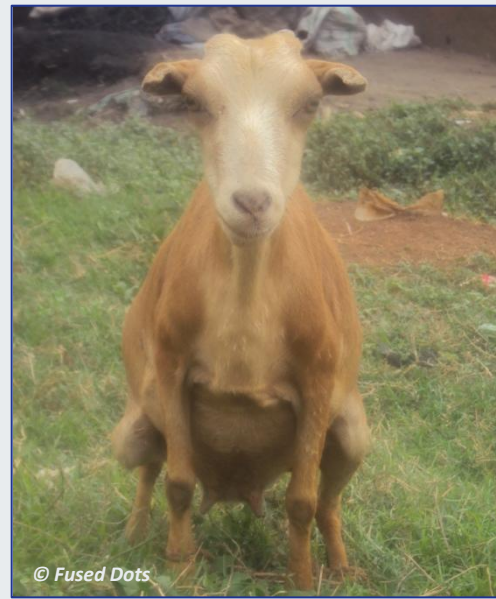




THE GOAT RUSTLERS

(Bayilibya Mbuzi)
Uganda/Rwanda



Category : Realism Crime Drama
Length : 90'
Shooting format : HD
Shooting language : Luganda & english
Shooting location : Kampala (Uganda)
Shooting dates : June 2015
Stage of production : Development stage
Expected date of completion : november 2015

Budget : 220 000 €
Financing in place : 36 000 €
Current situation : Seeking for European coproducer, international sales agent

Robert NYANZI – PRODUCER (Fused Dots)



Robert Nyanzi is based in Kampala, Uganda. He has a BSc. (majoring in Statistics) from Makerere University (2002) and a Diploma in Film and TV Production from Kampala University (2011). Robert Nyanzi attended the 5th Talent Campus Durban 2012, Durban FilmMart 2013 (Won Durban FilmMart award IFFR), Binger Film Lab 2013-2014, CineMart Rotterdam Lab 2014 and Berlinale Talents 2014. He is a Producer/Filmmaker and heads up Fused Dots, a Kampala-based production company. He also produces shorts and feature-length films around East Africa.

Jean-Luc HABYARIMANA – DIRECTOR



Jean-Luc Habyarimana is a Director/DOP based in Kigali, Rwanda, and has been attached to Almond Tree Films Collective since 2006. He attended the 2014 Berlinale Talents, where he was part of the Editing Studio. As DoP, he worked on *Behind the World* directed by Marie-Clementine Dusejamba (2014) and *Maibobo* directed by Yves Montand Niyongabo (30", 2009), which was premiered at the Rotterdam IFF in 2010 and awarded at the 2011 Festival Cinema Africano d'Asia e America Latina in Milan, Italy. Jean-Luc Habyarimana directed *SAA-IPO* (2010), shot in Kigali, Rwanda, funded by Tribeca Film Institute, premiered at the 2011 Tribeca FF and screened at the 2011 Durban IFF (South Africa) and AfryKamera IFF (Poland) in 2011.

SYNOPSIS

Having lost his savings from the time he served as a guard in Iraq to city conmen, Bruno (26) embarks on the mission of survival around Kampala city. He joins the lucrative goat trade through Drago and there is instant success. However, this success is short-lived as he loses his goats and money in a highway robbery. Drago offers to help out but Bruno is later astonished after realising that Drago and his associates are goat thieves in the villages and not genuine traders. Nevertheless, Bruno has already been tricked into their activities and has to escape Drago's blackmail. Bruno escapes and makes an alliance with the village communities to confront Drago and his goat-rustling racket.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT (extract)

«The cost of living and search for meaningful employment is rising like never before in Uganda and the Sub-Saharan region at large. Young people have diverted their focus from local casual jobs and focused their energy to flying to the Middle East to look for presumably more rewarding and less laborious work. Sometimes they find it, more often they don't.

Opportunity knocked when Saddam Hussein was overthrown by coalition forces and the US opened up several bases around Iraq. These bases had a labour gap especially for guards with a military background. [...] However from 2010, the US decided to reduce their presence in Iraq and this resulted into the closure of most of the military bases where most Ugandans were employed as guards. This was a new twist in form of disorientation for the men who had dedicated their souls to serving the Americans and protecting their interests in Iraq. [...]

With this backdrop and being an observer to the life of returnees from Iraq, I am motivated to make a ground breaking feature film about the aftermath of the closure of American bases on the returning Ugandans. Most of whom were naive about the pace and street smart people of Kampala. They were easily taken up by beautiful girls, booze and Kampala's night life.

Let's explore the challenges of making use of a fortune which has been dubbed by many as "The curse of Iraq money". »

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