



Film Kenya... Capture Africa!

# KENYA FILM COMMISSION

"The Kenya Film Commission is mandated by the government to market Kenya as a filming destination to both local and international film markets. The commission specifically promotes the production of local content and the expansion of local audience."

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## HOME GROWN PRODUCTIONS DOMINATE DISCUSSION AT THE MULTICHOICE HOSTED LOCAL CONTENT SUMMIT

The Kenya Film Commission represented by the Chairman Chris Foot was among the speakers that engaged on various topical issues around local content uptake and innovation in the Kenyan film industry at a recent summit on local content.

The one day summit organized and hosted by the MultiChoice with the theme titled 'Investing in East Africa local content industries to spur economic growth' saw over 200 local producers, content developers and students in attendance besides other renowned Kenyan producers Appie Matere of Zamaradi Productions Limited, Ken Oloo of Zindua Limited and Mwaniki Mageria CEO Riverwood.

And towards raising Kenyan audio-visual production standards to international levels, Multichoice and Electronic Media (PTY) Limited Mnet, committed Sh400Million towards the production of 15 original local productions this year. MultiChoice and M-Net are one of Africa's biggest supporters and funders of local television content.

Speaking at the forum, Chris Foot encouraged the initiative, "It is quite encouraging to see the broadening of placement of local content on cable TV such as we are witnessing on Maisha Magic East. This is a great opportunity for the creative economy to invest in creation of more local shows to spur economic growth. The audiences are thirsty for good quality shows and as the entertainment industry grows, we should take the opportunity to serve audiences with more of what they want."

GOtv Kenya General Manager, Simon Kariithi reiterated the MultiChoice's commitment to invest in local productions on DStv and GOtv. "MultiChoice is rooted in countries where our customers live. That means we are proud of the contribution we are making in our local communities. As a leading funder of local productions in Kenya, we are proud to announce a half a billion shillings investment, via Mnet, in 15 original local shows to be produced and broadcast in the year 2017-2018, and will air exclusively on Maisha Magic East which is the only show in the country with 100% local content," said Simon

M-Net East and Southern Channels Director, Timothy Okwaro lauded Bollywood top thespians for partnering with Maisha Magic producers in the knowledge sharing session. The summit which took place at Local Production Limited studios in Nairobi also featured two of Bollywood's renowned and award-winning producers and directors at Shakuntalam Telefilms in India, Neelima Bajpal and Shyamashis Bhattacharia. The two Bollywood producers gave presentations that focused on the drivers of success of the Indian telenovela productions including budgeting for Bollywood films, script writing and casting. Also featured was the importance of post-production in film production.

The summit was organized in an effort to help increase local production skills through knowledge transfer and idea sharing following a directive by the Communication Authority in 2014 to increase local content programming from 40% to 68% by 2018.



**2017**

## Diary of Upcoming Events

17th – 22nd Oct 2017  
KALASHA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

August 2017  
MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

September 2017  
INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING CONVENTION-AMSTERDAM

11th – 15th Sep 2017  
COAST FILM FESTIVAL-7th Edition

September 2017  
VENICE FILM FESTIVAL

October 2017  
TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

October 2017  
ABUJA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, NIGERIA

October 2017  
MIPCOM Cannes, FRANCE

October- November  
TOKYO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

November 2017  
AMERICAN FILM MARKE

The 90th Academy Awards preparations are in top gear with a call for submissions for the Best foreign language category already out! Consequently, approved selection committees are invited to submit only one film for the Foreign Language Film award. The selection committee in Kenya has already started the process. To be eligible this year, films must have been released in Kenya for a run of at least seven consecutive days beginning no earlier than October 1, 2016 and no later than September 30, 2017.

Although stakeholder centric, Kenya Film Commission coordinates this activity by facilitating the local film industry in the submission of the films presented; the commission continues to encourage exportation of Kenyan films in order for local content to compete internationally.

#### AWARD RULES

DUE BY 5 P.M. PT ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2017:

Selection Committee Information - Completed and reviewed by the chairperson.

This year's submissions forms must be completed online, pending Academy approval.

DUE BY 5 P.M. PT ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2017:

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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OSCAR  
FOREIGN  
LANGUAGE FILM



90<sup>TH</sup>  
OSCAR  
ANNUAL ACADEMY AWARDS

## > JUDY KIBINGE JOINS THE OSCARS ACADEMY

Following in the footsteps of fellow Kenyan Lupita Nyong'o, who joined Hollywood's most prestigious club after winning an Oscar three years ago filmmaker and DOCUBOX founder Judy Kibinge has been hand-picked by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences to join the ranks of voting members.

Judy will be one of the Academy judges for the categories of documentary, international features and animation. She became the first Kenyan to join the Oscar Academy among 774 people invited to join the club this year. In the new class, Judy is representing 57 countries which are 39 per cent female according to the Academy. Her nomination comes after black actors and activists in Hollywood complained that the Oscars were too white owing to the fact that no person of colour was nominated for the prestigious awards in 2014 after Lupita Nyong'o won the Oscar in 2013.

During an interview with CNN ONLINE, Judy expressed gratitude for the honour saying "I was really surprised, really taken aback, the news is something really special and this goes to show the world is really beginning to question the content they watch. They're beginning to want films and documentaries and features that reflect the diversity in the world.

Judy is credited for having kicked off the wave of contemporary film making in Kenya after producing her first film in 1999 namely Dangerous Affairs. She has made two other feature films and two short films that have screened around the world. But perhaps she is well recognised as the power behind DOCUBOX which she founded in 2013 where three times her documentaries have won for Best Documentary at the African Academy Awards, with one winning best short, Coming of Age. We at KFC are proud of you Judy!





The super talented Nyokabi Gethaiga has been nominated for African Pride Awards 2017! The actress has been making waves in the movie industry and was once considered for a role in Steve McQueen's 12 Years a Slave. She gave an exceptional performance in the Award Winning movie Kati Kati, as Kaleche, was in the 2010 'I am Slave and also played Dada on Going Bongo, a film by American Gregory Zymet.

Nyokabi describes herself as an artiste, dreamer, pathfinder, and student of life. Vote here xxx and help Nyokabi bring the trophy home.



### **> KENYAN FILM MAKERS REPRESENT AT THE 38TH DURBAN FILM FESTIVAL 2017**

A selection of seven renowned filmmakers comprising producers, directors & screenwriters were in South Africa representing Kenya at the 2017 Durban International Film Festival (DIFF) held from the 13th to the 23rd of July 2017. The annual event, now in its 38th year is one of the oldest and largest film festivals on the continent presenting short films, feature films and documentaries from across Africa.

This year's festival had a special focus on Kenya by showcasing films that span the award winning feature film 'Kati Kati' by Mbithi Masya, 'Soul Boy' by Hawa Essuman, the fashion film 'To Catch A Dream' by the Nest Collective, the animated short film 'Yellow Fever' by Talents Durban alumni Ngendo Mukii as well as her recent Virtual Reality film 'Yellow Berries', amongst others.

Film Producer Carol Kioko the City Producer for the 48 Hour Film Project- a worldwide competition that challenges filmmakers to create a film in just one weekend and is the only 1 of 6 Producers on the African continent who run the annual event in various cities led the Kenyan delegation, a new generation Kenyan film makers. "They draw attention to the film industry's diversity and immense untapped potential of this generation story tellers. There's a global conversation currently going on about the African voice in film and DIFF provided the ideal platform to ensure that this voice - the voice of the Kenyan filmmaker is heard. It was an incredible honour to not only have our films screened at the festival but to also be part of conversations on the growth of film on the continent", observed Carol.

Kenya Film Commission has been keen to encourage co-production between South Africa and Kenya while at the same time work with like-minded organisations. To this end, KFC is looking forward to signing a working agreement with the Kwa Zulu Natal Film Commission in due time making it easy to facilitate opportunities of doing business.



### **> LOCAL SCHOOLS CONTENT GET A NOD FROM ZIFF**

By the time curtains closed for the 2017 drama festivals, Dr. Simon Peter of AIFPEK (Association of Film Producing Educational Institutions of Kenya) was so thrilled by the level of talent he had witnessed and thought-provoking storylines in the films screened at the annual event.

His enthusiasm was validated after 18 films out of the 233 screened were nominated for the Zanzibar International Film Festival (ZIFF) 2017 that ran from 8th July to 16th July 2017 in Zanzibar. The 18 films are listed below alongside the schools that produced them;

1. Moi University-Detox
2. Kenya Coast National Polytechnic-147
3. Asumbi Teachers Training college-A Second Chance
4. Njiris School-Thinking Otherwise
5. Lukenya School-Omosh
6. Kangaru Girls School-Credible Lies
7. Kamandura Girls High School-Sankok
8. Makunda Muslim Sec.School-Mtihani
9. Loreto Msongari-Boomerang
10. Nyakach Girls High School-A new Dawn
11. State House Girls High School-Crimson Circle
12. Rwathia Girls High School-Guardian Angel
13. Giachanjiru Boys High School-Tumaini
14. St Clare Girls Secondary School-Bertha
15. Kangubiri Girls High School-Return to Planet Earth
16. Thitani Girls High School-The Syndicate
17. Gilgil Hills Academy-The Vulnerable
18. Nairobi Primary School-A journey Through School
19. Kayole One Primary School-Unknown Angels

At the festival, Kangaru Girls School- Credible Lies won the best-Long feature film while Makunda Muslim Secondary School- Mtihani won the Short feature category. But of interest was Kayole One Primary School-Unknown Angels- that was a science fiction and an awesome narrative by between 9 and 13 year olds. "This was for me the ultimate piece and so much talent was displayed at that tender age. I encourage universities to take the challenge since a lot of their films were below standard, observed Dr. Simon.

He is concerned though that schools are not well supported financially to market their content when opportunities like this arise noting that out of the 18 nominated, only 6 schools managed to go to ZIFF all by way of sponsorship.

A mobile competition dubbed 'My Kenya, My Story' and run by the commission will launch soon whose ultimate business objective is to inspire creative Kenyans and armature filmmakers to live to their potential and realize the opportunity to fulfill their dream.

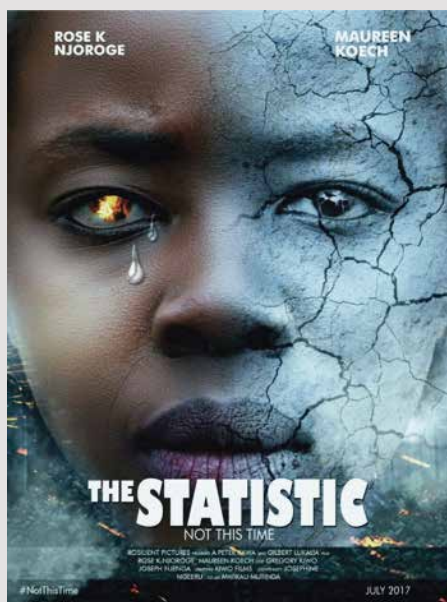
The mobile phone has been identified as an important and growing platform to reach out to stakeholders, film content producers and consumers. This will be an annual event that will be running between the months of March and May. The competition will take up genres across Adventure to Romance as long as it is within the stipulated theme of 'My Kenya, My Story'. Keep it here to get updates on Call for submission, the voting criteria as well as the award ceremony event.

> **MOVIE PREMIERS**

**KIDNAPPED** was officially launched on Thursday 6th July 2017 at the Planet Media Cinemas – Prestige Plaza, Nairobi. A classic femme fatale tale of passionate love turned to consuming hate; a gripping tale of survival for the fittest. Any weakness will be exploited. When love turns to hate nothing can stop the destruction in its wake. Consumed by the need for vengeance, Zelma (played by the talented Lydiah Nyambura Gitachu) sets up Baraka (played by John Kararahe) her ex and his new young girlfriend on a roller coaster of terror.



The film was in Nairobi theatres for a month, if you missed it avail yourself for the outdoor premiere screening on September 9th at the Elephant, 2 Hours of Sunset. Tickets available at ticketsasa.com



**THE STATISTIC** written by the talented scriptwriter Rose K Njoroge launched on Wednesday 26th July 2017. The short film is based on PEV violence and its effects on the innocent. Written and produced by Rose with support in direction by the award winning Gilbert Lukalia and Peter Kawa, it is a good reminder of why we should safeguard peace by all means necessary for the sake of our beloved country-Kenya.

It is not the jam-packed itinerary that we had ahead of us of seven days traversing from Amboseli, Mt.Kenya and finally the Mara that unsettled me, neither was it managing expectations of a team of over 20 wildlife photographers keen to capture the very best; perhaps it was the long evening drive to Amboseli but an hour on the road trip later, everyone had made themselves comfortable which was evident at the first stop over we did to sample curios and take away some as souvenirs. Relaxed, we soaked up the sunset warmth enjoying the picturesque scenery on the long stretch to the Amboseli. One thing is for sure though, Kenya delivered for us– wildlife safari at its best.

Besides, Kenya has great infrastructure and connectivity for the discerning film maker and photographers alike - from 4 hours on the road to Amboseli, and slightly less than hour on flight to the opposite side of the country i.e. Mt.Kenya, and even less time back to Nairobi on chartered flights where you also get a variety of firms to choose from. Every game reserve is connected to an airstrip if a road trip proves to be way too long for you.

On arrival at the Amboseli National Park, the breath-taking Kilimanjaro stood out on our left, as if peeping from its foothold - another opportunity to shoot only this time it fascinated from afar since we were several miles from it. The Amboseli is home to the largest number of elephants, 1,600 to be precise though this has decreased over the years due to poaching. The Amboseli Elephant Research project is housed here well over 40 years now. It is here that the 2003 action movie- Tomb Raider -the Cradle of Life- starring Angelina Jolie was shot finishing with a domestic gross of \$65million.

The elephant was a favourite among the photographers and it felt like a movie shoot every time we got leads that a clan has been spotted with seven land cruisers driving fast to outdo the other leaving a heap of dust behind that was a cue for others to follow; every photographer left Amboseli happy with well over a 100 shots of 2 of the big 5- the elephant and Buffalo. Our guides and drivers did not disappoint giving us rich information about the parks, culture and animals - a virtue that the guests were quite impressed with, appreciating the patience displayed by the guides.

After two days in Amboseli, our next stop was Nanyuki, North West of Mt. Kenya region where we visited the famous OI Pejeta Conservancy. The Conservancy is on a 90,000-acre piece of situated on the equator west of Nanyuki that conserves wildlife and provides a sanctuary for great apes. It boasts the largest black rhino sanctuary in East Africa, and in 2013 reached a population milestone of 100 black rhino. It also houses the three remaining northern white rhino in the world among them the only remaining male- his name is Sudan- he is the epitome of passion and hope that conservation brings about. Sudan is 35 years and under 24hour



guard with a load of pressure to continue the lineage which in turn weighs heavily on its keepers – they cannot start to imagine his demise considering that the life expectancy of rhinos is between 40 to 45 years.

Kenya is renowned for its conservation efforts, which offer hope in the battle to protect its wildlife- one of Africa's most diverse. Besides the national parks and reserves run by our government, privately owned wildlife reserves have increasingly emerged and this is where the future of conservation lies – there are at least 15 such conservancies in northern Kenya alone, which complements Kenya Wildlife Service efforts to protect the wild. KWS notes that up to 70 per cent of Kenya's Wildlife lives outside of the protection of the national parks and reserves.

Accommodation and general hospitality was top notch at the Mt. Kenya Safari Club, one of Kenya's high end properties. So enchanting was it that the photographers were in awe even one lamenting to our amusement, "...back home we are sold so much of the cultural aspect yet there is London here - I mean the Fairmont Safari Club, the golf courses! ". It was a joke amongst us as we left for Mara that if any of us is missing then they are definitely held up at the Fairmont Safari Club and we should get them out by all means necessary.

On the fourth day and an hour and fifteen minutes later by flight from Nanyuki, we landed at the Maasai Mara – a complete change of climate from freezing to literally sun bathing in the heat of Mara. Of the 58 National Parks and Reserves in Kenya, Mara is among the top 5 most popular besides Amboseli, Tsavo, and Samburu largely due to the epic great

migration that is the 8th wonder of the world. The Mara is one of the most expansive game reserves we have in Kenya and sits on 1,672 sq km of Narok County. Due to the erratic weather conditions Kenya is experiencing now, the park was quite dry, infact, twice we crossed the Mara River with our landcruiser comfortably in pursuit of short cuts to catch the action, a stark opposite of the green lush and flowing river I had witnessed the last time I was here in 2015. Though we were dying to witness the epic drama of the wildebeest migration which we missed since our camp was far from where the action was, it is here that we finally, witnessed a kill! A lioness had just captured a warthog and even though we had missed part of it we found the victim holding on to its last breath, terrified to boot- eyes popping out until it fell silent to our relief - a sight to both behold and unsettle- thrilling but ruthless. Harsh- nature can be harsh.

And before we bid goodbye to our group, we had to throw in the last ultimate experience – lunch at the Carnivore Restaurant twice voted among the world's 50 best restaurants by Britain's Restaurant Magazine– to enjoy a feast of a sumptuous variety of all-you-can-eat meat buffet both wild and domesticated roasted over charcoal. They promised to revenge when we visit India.

Bush breakfast at the parks and early morning game drives were rated best experience by our group but one thing is for sure, magical Kenya delivers for you whether searching for big cats, filming locations, landscapes, or birds and smaller animals- did you know Kenya has the highest number of the antelope species for instance? Yes, over a dozen species- we bet you only knew about the Thomson gazelle and perhaps the waterbuck just to make you feel good- go figure.

This trip was made possible by the Kenya Tourism Board (KTB) by way of a photography master class following a Wildlife Photographer of the Year Competition with Network 18 in India; a global opportunity to recognize and reward the very best nature photographers for their expertise, knowledge and passion for photography. Through the photographers artistic skill and talent, Magical Kenya did not disappoint neither did the itinerary which was masterfully prepared by KTB – a perfect reward for the group of winners.

Article by Cathy Gitahi



*Eland - the beauty!*



*Hippos basking in the Mara River Photo: Satish Gala.*



*The taste of Kenya Photo: Shridhar Kunte*







*Sudan - The only remaining Northern White Rhino*



*Quick connections - LEWA Conservancy Airstrip*



*The Magnificent Fairmont Mount Kenya Safari Club*



*Our Mentor- wildlife photographer & film maker  
Feisal Malik of Visual Africa Films*



*Bush breakfast catch up*