



REALNESS 201



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REALNESS 2017

A SCREENWRITERS RESIDENCY, EMPOWERING WRITERS ACROSS THE AFRICAN CONTINENT.

As part of our mission to discover and nurture the best emerging talent from the African continent, it is our great pleasure to present to you on the next few pages the selection of Residents who will inhabit our creative home in 2017 at Nirox, in the Cradle of Human Kind, Gauteng, South Africa. Nirox is a multi-disciplinary, year-round artist residency situated in the heart of a beautiful sculpture park. Providing an inspiring setting for the development of the 5 selected scripts. For the six weeks that Realness takes place, one could call it a safe haven for the art of moving image.

It is no easy task to evaluate over 120 projects from 23 countries and have to only pick 5 at the end. This would not have been possible without the assistance of our volunteer readers from all over the world; a panel of 18 distinguished professionals in the international independent film scene with a stake or interest in African Cinema. The panel consists of producers, writers, actors, sales agents, directors, distributors, funders, festival directors and programmers.

The feedback from the panel on the projects submitted by the talent is the starting point for this year's participants. Guided by script consultant Nadja Dumouchel, the Residents will enjoy a week of input and workshops, followed by 5 weeks of complete focus and hopefully, nothing else but writing.

At the end of this incubation period awaits the most prolific film market on the continent. Due to our partnership with Durban Film Mart, Durban Talents and Durban International Film Festival, in 2017 not only the writer/directors, but also the producers of the Realness projects will be invited to attend DFM and will receive pitch training from our partners at Produire Au Sud and Berlinale Talents, under the mentorship of Stefano Tealdi and Selina Ukuwoma respectively.

The writers will have 6 weeks from home to wrap up their final submission scripts for the awards consideration. In order to maximize the potential cross-over from the page to the screen, Realness partnered with a number of international Initiatives who will ensure the projects keep evolving. The most promising projects to emerge out of Realness will stand the chance to be invited to Torino Film Lab Meetings Event, EAVE Producers workshop, La Fabrique Cinéma de l'Institut Français, Locarno Filmmakers Academy and Midpoint Feature Launch.

Let the good work begin! We hope you will love our second edition selection as much as we do.

Elias Ribeiro

Realness Founder and Director

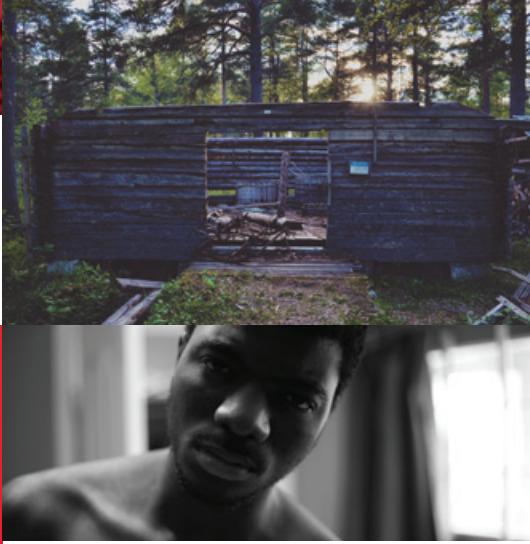


FRADIQUE (MÁRIO BASTOS)

THE KINGDOM OF CASUARINAS ANGOLA

ABOUT RESIDENT

Fradique is an emerging voice in Angolan Cinema. In 2009, he made a short called *Alambamento*, which won Best Short Film at Luanda International Film Festival and was part of the Official Selection at the Vancouver International Film Festival and played all over the world. His first full-length documentary, *Independence*, was released theatrically in Angola in 2015 and won the Angola's Culture National Prize for Cinema. It was recognized as a remarkable step towards recovering Angola's collective memory. Independence also won Best Documentary at Cameroon International Film Festival and was selected for the Durban International Film Festival, Luxor African Film Festival and the Pan African Film Festival. Fradique is currently writing his first feature film, "*The Kingdom of Casuarinas*", based on a novel by the Angolan writer José Luís Mendonça.



PROJECT SYNOPSIS

It's 1987, Angola. Nkuku re-encounters his fellow comrade Primitivo, who is suffering from memory loss and post traumatic stress syndrome. Primitivo is living in the Kingdom of Casuarinas, a small community formed by war victims and veterans suffering from mental disorders.

While Nkuku tries to figure out who Primitivo is today, he is forced to face his own violent memories. After a mysterious mass-murder of the members of the Kingdom of Casuarinas, Nkuku is left without hope and his sanity is lost forever.



GLORIA HUWILER AND JAHMIL X.T. QUBEKA

VICTORIA FALLS ZAMBIA

ABOUT RESIDENTS

Born and raised in Zambia Gloria Huwiler trained as an actress and writer at Oxford School of Drama and Brown University. Seeking to give a cinematic voice to her unique experience as a first-generation, mixed-race Zambian. Gloria approached acclaimed South African writer/director Jahmil X.T. Qubeka to collaborate with her on her first feature film. Jahmil has enjoyed much success, his 2nd feature film *Of Good Report* went on to garner much international plaudits and awards, premiering in Toronto in 2013. His latest film is participating in the Cannes L'Atelier program (2017).



PROJECT SYNOPSIS

Victoria Huber, a struggling actress in America has spent years unable to fit into the Hollywood mold as an artist of mixed-race. In her darkest moment an unexpected phone-call summons her to return to her Lusaka hometown after learning that her Zambian maternal grandmother is gravely ill. Victoria's arrival triggers new tensions as she is reunited with her estranged Swiss-German father whom she is forced to make the journey to a rural village in Northern Zambia with. Their small plane crashes and father and daughter must battle the elements and make their way through a daunting jungle to collect her ailing grandmother before it is too late. Through this arduous expedition Victoria learns that she not only resents her father for being the source of her livelihood but also for unapologetically representing the aspects of herself she is at odds with.



LEMOHANG JEREMIAH MOSESE

THIS IS NOT A BURIAL IT'S A RESURRECTION
LESOTHO

ABOUT RESIDENT

Lemohang Jeremiah Mosese is an award-winning filmmaker. He was born in Lesotho and now spends most of his time between Lesotho, South Africa and Berlin. Two of his short films, *Mosongoa* (2014) and *Behemoth* (2015), have been screened at over a hundred film festivals. *Mosongoa* was awarded the Best Short Film Award and the special award “PremioAssociazione Sunugal” in Milan in 2016 while *Behemoth* won the Jury Price at the Kinodot Film Festival, the Signs Award at Festival International Signes de Nuit Student Jury Prize and the Special Jury Prize at Moscow International Experimental Film Festival, all in 2016. Mosese is also an alumnus of the Berlinale Talents (2011) and the Focus Features Africa First programme (2012).



PROJECT SYNOPSIS

Having lost all her family due to the forces of nature, Mantoa, a 70 year old widow, struggles with the harsh reality of a world without her husband and children. She longs to die and starts to get her earthly affairs in order, preparing to leave this world. Meanwhile her village is on the verge of resettlement due to the construction of a new dam. Villagers are adamant to resist and protest, except Mantoa, who is focused on her departure, hiring a grave digger in her preparation. While at the cemetery she discovers, a mountain of trash. She pleads with the local government to remove the trash, stating that it gives a bad impression to the dead. Her resolved detachment however, is rocked when she learns that the graveyard too will be moved because of the dam construction. She vows to fight with the villagers and it is in this dramatic moment that she finds a reason to live.



RAMA THIAW

LIFE IN A SPIRAL SENEGAL

ABOUT RESIDENT

Rama Thiaw was born in Mauritania in 1978. She grew up between Senegal and Europe and after achieving a Master's degree in International Economics at the Sorbonne University, she chose a career in cinema and graduated from the University of Paris 8 in 2004. She has directed two acclaimed documentaries, the most recent of which won the FIPRESCI Prize at the Berlinale in 2016 and the special jury prize at the Carthage Film Festival (*The Revolution Won't Be Televised*). Writer, director and producer, she lives in Dakar, the Senegalese Capital where she founded her film production company BOUL FALLE IMAGES. Life In A Spiral will be her fiction feature film debut.



PROJECT SYNOPSIS

'Life in a Spiral' follows the meteoric life of Yamba (marijuana) dealers in 1970s Senegal. It is set in the dark underbelly of the country; brothels, corrupt church ministers, bent cops and judges paint this vibrant world, along with some wild French expats who are as lost as three hairs on a bald man's head. A "film noir" coloured with the verve of Wolof, the image-laden language of hoodlums of the time, as well as some music, fashion, mysticism and a whole lot of raw, trashy sex!



SAMANTHA NELL
MILES FROM NOWHERE
SOUTH AFRICA

ABOUT RESIDENT

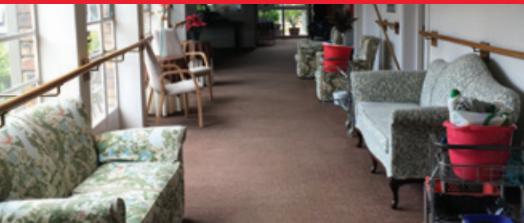
Samantha Nell is a South African writer and director. She completed her MFA at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts Asia in Singapore in 2014. She has directed and produced short films on four continents and worked in countries including Singapore, South Korea, Hong Kong, Japan, India, South Africa, Finland and the United States. Her short films have played at festivals including: Cannes Film Festival, Palm Springs International Shortsfest and Durban International Film Festival. In 2017 she participated in Berlinale Talents. Her debut feature film *Miles From Nowhere* is in development with the support of the National Film and Video Foundation.



PROJECT SYNOPSIS

Miles From Nowhere is an absurdist dark comedy set in an old age home on the outskirts of Johannesburg.

The film follows four residents in their seventies: Ben, Mandla, Lebo, and Tanisha. All four residents are confined by their age, economic and familial situations to Lily Parks Government Home for the Aged. Due to financial constraints, the facility announces that it will begin requiring residents to share rooms. This, coupled with their own individual crises, causes our characters to depart the old age home. They quickly discover that they have to rely on each other to get where they're going, despite neither knowing nor liking one another.





2016 RESIDENTS WIM STEYTLER, AMIRAH TAJDIN,
SHEETAL MAGAN, HIWOT ADMASU & LUCK RAZANAJAONA



PRODUCING EXPERTS ELIAS RIBEIRO & CAIT PANSEGROUW

Duo **Elias Ribeiro** and **Cait Pansegrouw**, are better known for their hits *Necktie Youth* (Berlinale/ Tribeca) and *The Wound* (Sundance/ Berlinale). With a knack for spotting promising emerging talent and an exciting line up of projects in their development stable, their completed films have sold to broadcasters, airlines, iTunes and have been theatrically released in over 20 countries after winning multiple awards in the festival circuit.



STORY EXPERTS NADJA DUMOUCHEL & SELINA UKWUOMA

Nadja Dumouchel is currently engaged with script consulting for various film labs, such as Next Step, Le groupe Ouest and European Short Pitch run by Nisi Masa. In the past years she worked in international feature film development at ARTE in Strasbourg and has been trained as a story editor through TorinoFilmLab.

She is the co-founder and script consultant of La Scenaristerie, a development platform for screenwriters in Paris.

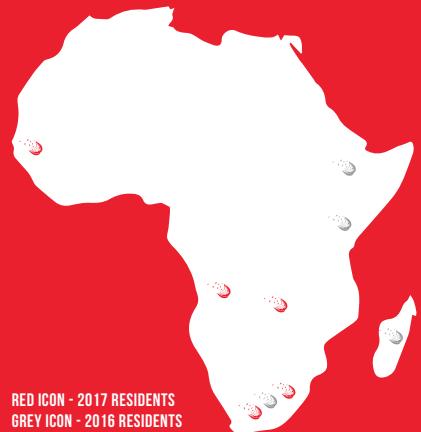
Selina Ukwuoma is a freelance script consultant who has advised on projects ranging from 2008 BAFTA winner *Boy A* and 2014 Teddy winner *The Way He Looks*, to this year's Berlinale Best First Feature *Summer 1993*.

As well as consulting for production companies and designing and running development initiatives with various organisations, Selina teaches screenwriting at the UK's National Film and Television School and leads workshops on pitching at various film festivals around the world.

REALNESS FOSTERS A NEW WAVE OF AFRICAN CINEMA

Realness was conceived by Urucu Media as a way of addressing a need for promising African film projects to be resourced and supported in the development phase in order to be competitive in the global film financing market. The format of the residency was collaboratively conceptualised through a series of public think tanks to ensure that it would be responsive to the unique demands of scriptwriters on the continent.

Realness is a pioneering residency initiative that will afford a new generation of filmmakers the opportunity to nurture and cultivate their talent as authentic voices in African cinema. Realness is only possible due to our partnerships with the Nirox Foundation, Durban Film Mart, Durban International Film Festival, Durban Talents, Berlinale Talnets, The French Embassy of South Africa, La Fabrique Cinéma de l'Institut Français, Goethe Institute, Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée (CNC), Torino Film Lab (TFL), EAVE Producer's Workshop, Locarno's Filmmakers Academy, Fairbridges Wertheim Becker, Midpoint and Produire Au Sud.



RED ICON - 2017 RESIDENTS
GREY ICON - 2016 RESIDENTS

EACH URUCU FLOWER REPRESENTS A TALENT THAT HAS BEEN CULTIVATED FROM THAT COUNTRY THROUGH REALNESS.

urucu PRESENTS **rlns**

IN PROUD PARTNERSHIP WITH:



centre national
du cinéma et de
l'image animée





REALNESS 2017 EDITION

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