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# **RETURN TO THE SOURCE: PAN-AFRICAN FILM LAB & RESIDENCY PROGRAMME**

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**SEPTEMBER 6-10, 2024  
NAMIBIA**

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**FUNDED BY:**  
MASTERCARD ENABLEMENT PROGRAMME & GOETHE INSTITUT NAMIBIA

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome Note .....	1
Meet the film makers .....	2
Meet the facilitators .....	11
Programme .....	21
Contact Details .....	26
Partners .....	32



## Welcome to the Return to the Source: Pan-African Film Lab & Residency Programme

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to this groundbreaking initiative designed to connect history, cinema, and community through the powerful medium of film. Over the next five days, we will embark on a journey that delves deep into Namibia's rich yet traumatic past, exploring its colonial history and its enduring impact on contemporary life. This workshop is not so much about learning the technical aspects of filmmaking as it is about using film as a tool to exorcise trauma, to reclaim embodied histories, and to confront colonial ghosts that still linger in our societies.

We are privileged to host this lab in the historically significant landscapes of Ovitoto and Windhoek, locations that are not just venues but integral parts of the stories we aim to tell. Our Programme is meticulously crafted to offer you a blend of practical filmmaking skills, theoretical discussions, and cultural immersion. You will be guided by esteemed facilitators, historians, and filmmakers who are passionate about African cinema and its role in documenting and processing historical trauma.

Throughout this lab, you will have the opportunity to create films that encapsulate your learnings and reflections. These films are not just projects—they are contributions to a larger discourse on memory, resistance, and the reclamation of African narratives.

We encourage you to engage fully with the Programme, participate in discussions, and let the landscapes, stories, and histories you encounter shape your creative process. This is more than just a film lab; it is a collective effort to return to our sources, understand our pasts, and chart new futures through the lens of cinema.

Thank you for being a part of this journey. We look forward to the films you will create and the conversations that will unfold in the days ahead.



Perivi Katjavivi



Fibby Kioria



# Meet The Film Makers





## Cece Mlay

Cece Mlay is a filmmaker from Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. She is currently at Kijiweni Productions working as an Assistant Director and Creative Supervisor. Her work has ranged from production, mentoring young film makers in Tanzania to exhibition of films. She has collaborated with artists from various disciplines and backgrounds with projects being produced by both Tanzanian and international film-makers.

These award-winning stories include award winning shorts and long form films, most recently Vuta N'Kuvute (2021) and a co-director on the documentary short, Apostoles of Cinema (2023) which all take a critical and honest exploration into social, political and historical issues. THE EMPTY GRAVE is her directorial feature debut.



## Hiwot Admasu

Hiwot is an Ethiopian filmmaker. Since 2015, she has made a few short films.



## Saitabao Kaiyare

Saitabao Kaiyare, often seen wearing traditional African jewelry symbolizing his ancestral calling and guidance, is a filmmaker based in Kilifi, Kenya. With a decade of experience in the film industry across Africa and Europe, his short films, documentaries, and TV shows have garnered critical acclaim and numerous accolades at international film festivals. Saitabao is known for his uproarious sense of humor that celebrates the absurd, believing that playfulness and laughter are vital in both work and life, especially when dealing with heavy topics.

He has presented, participated, and exhibited in various cultural institutions and universities worldwide, focusing on the documentation and preservation of African cultural heritage through digital platforms. Saitabao lectures in the master's Programme in communication and media at Pwani University. He is an alumnus of the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg in Germany and the co-founder of Baruu Collective, a multimedia production house dedicated to rethinking and reimaging the African narrative. You can find him singing karaoke, eating nyama choma, savoring viazi karai, and walking among trees.



# Shili Munyama

I am Shili Munyama, a visual artist, creative director, and filmmaker based in Windhoek, Namibia. My journey in the creative industry is driven by a deep passion for storytelling that revolves around the human experience. As a multidisciplinary creative director, I lead Creative South, an underground production company dedicated to creating visionary works that capture, communicate, and explore African youth culture, formats, identities, spaces, and narratives.

Throughout my career, I have had the privilege of directing and working as a DP on a variety of multimedia projects, ranging from corporate campaigns, feature films to music videos and short films. My debut feature film, *Wrong Generation*, releasing before the end of 2024, is a testament to my skills as a writer, director, and producer, reflecting my ability to lead and innovate within the industry.

My work has been recognized by the British Fashion Council, and my photography has been featured in international exhibitions such as "Home of Mine" in Berlin, showcasing my ability to capture visual narratives that speak to the spirit.



## Esther Buekes

Within her 12 years of experience in video content production, she has had the privilege of exploring various roles, each shaping her as both a storyteller and a person. Her journey has been one of continuous learning, enriched by workshops across Africa—from Mozambique and Kenya to Zambia and Egypt.

At AFDA (Cape Town, 2017), she earned a Higher Certificate in Television, Film, and Live Performance, further fueling her passion for the craft. Her short film *Miss Understood*, which delicately explores mental health, resonated with audiences across the continent, receiving recognition at various festivals along the way. For her, filmmaking is about more than accolades; it's about connecting with people and telling stories that matter.



## Lindiwe Ngwenya

I am a beginner filmmaker with a passion for storytelling. My journey in film production began when I started studying at the University of Namibia main campus, where am pursuing an honors degree in Media Studies majoring in Broadcasting. I have since developed a deep appreciation for the technical and creative aspects of filmmaking, including scriptwriting and editing.

My experience includes working on video projects (podcasts) where I honed my skills in visual storytelling, cinematography, and post-production. I am particularly interested in exploring the Namibian history which I believe is vital in resonating with diverse audiences.

I have a keen eye for detail and a collaborative spirit, making me an effective team player on set. I am eager to expand my knowledge and skills in the film production industry, and I believe this workshop will provide the perfect environment to learn from seasoned professionals, network with like-minded peers, and further refine my craft.

Ultimately, my goal is to create compelling films that not only entertain but also provoke thought and inspire change.



## Tekla Naango

My name is Inatwiifeni Tekla Naango Nakale. I am from Opuwo, Kunene Region. I am a visionary Filmmaker with a passion to tell stories that go beyond boundaries and transform the world. From a young age, I was captivated by the richness of my cultural heritage and the untold stories of my people. Drawing on the power of storytelling as a means of preserving history, I use film to amplify the voices of my community and share their narratives with the world. I draw my inspiration from the resilience of my ancestors and the enduring spirit of my people. My goal is to use my skills to celebrate the beauty of Namibian culture and history. Blending tradition and modernity, I want to explore the coexistence of these worlds by combining the threads of historical events with contemporary insights to tell compelling stories that resonate on a universal level. As I continue on my journey of filmmaking, I want to tell stories that challenge people's perceptions and seek to promote a greater appreciation for diversity, heritage and ultimately, contribute to the creation of a more compassionate world.



## Hilma Sheehama

Hilma Sheehama is Writer, Director and award winning production designer, with 10 years experience in the filmmaking industry. She started her journey at the College of the Arts where she obtained a diploma in Television production, and received a fully paid scholarship to the Multichoice Talent Factory in Zambia.

Here she won a script writing internship at Nihilent Technologies in India, on the animation series 'Jay Jay The Chosen One', which is airing on Showmax. Through the Multichoice Talent factory, she graduated at the New York Film Academy. Hilma has two other films that have aired on Showmax, namely: Kegumbo Okegumbo (short film) and Instant Love (feature film), and received her first award last year at the Botswana Film Festival on the film 'Hairareb' for Best Production Design. Hilma a Nature Environment Wildlife Filmmaker (NEWF) fellow, where she participated in two wildlife cinematography labs last year in Durban, South Africa. Hilma is an Open Water scuba diver.



## Veripuami Nandee

Veripuami Nandee Kangumine is a poet and journalist. Her accolades stem from being the winner of the 2023 Bank Windhoek Doek Literary Award. Her poetry collection "The Loneliness of Shadows" was selected as a Top 6 Finalist of The Kinsman's Quarterly's first Diaspora Award 2023.

She is a Doek! Narrating Namibia, Narrating Africa 2022 Fellow. She was named as one of Ten Young African Poets to watch in 2021 by Isele Magazine, a Nigerian Magazine. Her poems are published in Doek Literary Magazine, Lolwe, Isele Magazine, The Black Diaspora Anthology and The Namibian Anthology "My Heart in Your Hand: Poems From Namibia".



## Annina Van Neel

Annina Van Neel is the founder and chief executive officer of The Tiekie Box Project. Born in Namibia, she received her bachelor's degree in environmental and geographical science and archaeology at the University of Cape Town. While there, she gained foundational knowledge of cultural heritage.

Her passion for African heritage was reignited when she emigrated to the British Overseas Territory of Saint Helena Island to work as the environmental officer for the airport construction project. In that role, she encountered the neglected but most significant physical trace of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade: The African Burial Grounds on Saint Helena Island. Annina has been campaigning for the preservation of this sacred site and history through creative community engagement and activism. Her journey is chronicled in the full feature length documentary, "A Story of Bones."



## Kalundu Leslie

My name is Kalundu Leslie, and I am currently a second-year media student at the University of Namibia (UNAM). Born in Windhoek and raised in Katima Mulilo, my passion for storytelling has driven my ambition to pursue a career in film and broadcast in my third year of studies. I have written several pieces of film material and have taken the initiative to establish my own company dedicated to film and television production. Although the company is dormant at the moment, I am fully committed to bringing my vision to life and making a meaningful impact in the industry. I am eager to hone my skills, collaborate with fellow creatives, and contribute to the vibrant media landscape of Namibia and beyond. I believe that with determination and hard work, I can turn my dreams into reality and inspire others through the art of film.



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## Justin Hango

Justin Hango BA in motion picture & live performance. Stella Adler Los Angeles CA, USA.  
Marketing and brand building. Vega CPT RSA,

Producer director and actor. Illusions of Grandeur Namibia.

# Meet The Facilitators

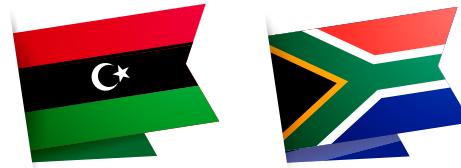




## Dr. Nashilongweshipwe Mushaandja

Dr. Nashilongweshipwe Mushaandja is a resident cultural worker, educator and writer at Owela Live Arts Collective Trust (previously known as Kaleni Kollectiv) since its inception in 2014 . As a performance artist, his practice and research interests are in African performance archives and public cultures of social movements. He obtained a PhD in Performance Studies from the University of Cape Town and was previously trained at University of Witwatersrand and the University of Namibia.

His musical and performance art work has been performed widely at festivals, museums, theatres and archives in India, Germany, Switzerland, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Cameroon, Senegal, United States of America and Namibia. Mushaandja is a Lecturer in Drama and Theatre Arts at the University of Namibia where he trains theatre makers and teaches courses in voice, performance, writing and applied theatre practices.



## Khalid Shamis

Khalid Shamis is a documentary director, producer and editor with a preference for editing. Khalid is a doctoral fellow at the Centre for Humanities Research (CHR) at the University of the Western Cape and is director of Rough Cut Lab Africa, RCLA, a support Programme for African independent documentaries at the rough cut stage. Khalid's practice is strongly dedicated to the pedagogy of independent filmmaking and story construction in Africa, teaching and consulting in and outside film institutions and organized frameworks.



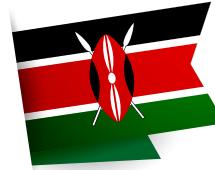
## Perivi Katjavivi

Perivi Katjavivi is a distinguished Namibian filmmaker whose films have premiered at major festivals, including Berlinale, Rotterdam, and Busan. His recent feature, "Under the Hanging Tree," was Namibia's first submission to the Academy Awards® for Best International Feature Film. He holds an MA in African Cinema from the University of Cape Town.

Currently, a PhD candidate in History at the University of the Western Cape, Katjavivi's research focuses on colonial memory sites related to the Herero genocide and their impact on contemporary life in Namibia. Katjavivi's great-aunt, a genocide survivor, found refuge at the mission station now known as Otjisazu Guest Farm in Ovitoto.



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## Fibby Kioria

Fibby Kioria is an accomplished producer, with over thirty short films; both fiction, documentary and one web series that are the result of film labs with filmmakers on the African continent while Executive Director at Maisha Film Lab. She is the Founder of Mucii Pictures, a film development and production organization founded in 2022.

In 2018, she co-founded Manyatta Screenings, an online and outdoor short film festival in Kenya that showcases films from greater eastern Africa.

Fibby is a founding member of the East African Screen Collective (EASC), a coalition of companies and organizations advocating for narrative sovereignty in the screen-based sectors (TV, film and digital) in Eastern Africa.

She also Programmes for film festivals with attention to films from the African continent and participates in film festival juries and film selection committees around the world.

Fibby lives in Laikipia East, Kenya.



## Merapi Gottlieb Kazombiaze

Merapi Gottlieb Kazombiaze, a Herero historian and teacher from Okandjira, Namibia, has dedicated his life to preserving the memory of the Herero Genocide. Raised by his grandmother, a survivor of the 1904 German colonial massacres, he grew up listening to stories of resistance and tragedy. His family, rooted in the Ovitoto region, played a significant role in passing down these oral histories. Kazombiaze has taught in his community for 38 years, engaging in various historical projects, while maintaining connections with Germany through friends and family, fostering dialogue between past adversaries and their descendants.



# Old Location Films & Mucii Pictures present:

## Return to the Source: Using Film to Exorcise Trauma, Embodied Histories, Memory and Colonial Ghosts in Namibia

**Project Synopsis:** Return to the Source aims to teach marginalised communities about history and African cinema, using film and history as a meeting point. This is done by using an investigation of real-life traumatic sites related to Namibia's colonial history, that are engaged with by the descendants of these affected communities. The project is now a recipient of the Mastercard Enablement fellowship award via the Berlinale Film Festival in Germany.



**Dates: Friday, September 6–10, 2024**

**Venue: Otjisazu Guest Farm, Ovitoto; Goethe-Institut Namibia, Windhoek**

## **Day 1: Introduction & Memory sites**

**8:00 AM – 9:00 AM:** Breakfast

**9:00 AM – 10:00 AM:** Welcome Address and introductions by Perivi Katjavivi (Lead Facilitator)

**Special Note:** Highlighting the familial connection of Ovitoto, where Katjavivi's great-great-aunt, a genocide survivor and storyteller, found refuge at a German mission station at what is now Otjisazu Guest Farm.

**10:00 AM – 1:00 PM:** **Site Visit:** Historical Exploration at Ovitoto with Guided Oral History

**Guided by:** Local Historians and Elders

**Facilitator:** Gottlieb Kazombiaze

**1:00 PM – 2:00 PM:** Lunch Break

**2:00 PM – 3:00 PM:** Incorporating Archives into Film and Research

**Facilitator:** Dr. Nashilongweshipwe J. Sakaria, University of Namibia

**3:00 PM – 3:30 PM:** Tea Break

**3:30 PM – 6:00 PM:** **Site Visit:** Historical Explorations at Otjisazu

**Guided by:** Local Historians and Elders

**Facilitator:** Gottlieb Kazombiaze

**6:00 PM – 7:00 PM:** Dinner

**7:00 PM – 9:30 PM:** Outdoor Screening at Solar-Powered Cinema: "A Story of Bones" by Joseph Curran & Dominic Aubrey de Verde and followed by a Q&A with Environmental and cultural Rights activist Annina van Neel



**Dates: Saturday, September 7, 2024**

**Venue: Ojisazu Guest Farm, Ovitoto; Goethe-Institut Namibia, Windhoek**

## **Day 2: African Cinema and Historical Contexts**

**8:00 AM – 9:00 AM:** Breakfast

**9:00 AM – 10:30 AM:** "Introduction to African Film Genres and Alternative Epistemologies"  
Led by: Perivi Katjavivi

**10:30 AM – 11:30 PM:** **Masterclass:** Film Screening 'If Objects Could Speak' by Saitabaro Kaiyare followed with  
"Making your first film" Discussion about making films with little-to no support.  
Led by: Cece Mlay

**11:30 AM – 1:00 PM:** **Masterclass:** "Shooting and Editing on Smartphones"  
**Facilitator:** Nino Pequeno tbc

**1:00 PM – 2:00 PM:** **Lunch Break**

**2:00 PM – 3:30 PM:** **Masterclass:** "Field Recording Sound for Film." Participants guided in field recording sound  
from the sites of trauma identified.  
**Instructor:** Wojtek Majewski tbc

**3:30 PM – 4:00 PM:** Tea Break

**4:00 PM – 5:00 PM:** Reflection and Feedback Session

**6:00 PM – 7:00 PM:** Dinner

**7:00 PM – 8:30 PM:** Outdoor Screening at Solar-Powered Cinema: "Under the Hanging Tree" by Perivi Katjavivi



**Dates: Sunday, September 8, 2024**

**Venue: Otjisazu Guest Farm, Ovitoto; Goethe-Institut Namibia, Windhoek**

### **Day 3: Shooting with the Local Community**

**8:00 AM – 9:00 AM:** Breakfast

**9:00 AM – 1:00 PM:** Filmmaking Session: Students film a location or landscape identified as a site of colonial atrocities.  
**Facilitator:** Perivi Katjavivi

**1:00 PM – 2:00 PM:** Lunch Break

**2:00 PM – 3:00 PM:** **Special Address:** "Contested memories: German debates on remembering colonial history"  
**Speaker:** Ms Lentz, President of the Goethe-Institut and senior research professor at the University of Mainz, Germany.

**3:00 PM – 4:00 PM:** **Master Class:** "Making 'Under the Hanging Tree,' Centring Oral Histories in Narratives"  
**Facilitator:** Perivi Katjavivi

**4:00 AM – 6:00 PM:** Filmmaking Session: Students continue filming a location or landscape identified as a site of colonial atrocities.

**6:00 PM – 7:00 PM:** Dinner

**7:00 PM – 9:30 PM:** Outdoor Screening at Solar-Powered Cinema: "Das Leere Grab" by Cece Mlay with filmmaker in attendance



**Dates: Monday, September 9, 2024**

**Venue: Otjisazu Guest Farm, Ovitoto; Goethe-Institut Namibia, Windhoek**

## **Day 4: Theoretical Discussions**

**8:00 AM – 9:00 AM:** Breakfast

**9:00 AM – 9:30 AM:** Reflection and Feedback Session

**9:30 AM – 11:00 AM:** **Interactive Panel Discussion:** "Custodians of Memory?"

Dr. Nashilongweshipwe Mashaandja, Lecturer in performance studies at UNAM, research interests in archives and public culture.

Ms Lentz, President of the Goethe-Institut and senior research professor at the University of Mainz, Germany.

Marion Ackermann, General director of the Dresden State Art Collections tbc

Gottlieb Kazombaize, Ovitoto community representative and Oral historian.

**11:00 AM – 12:00 PM:** **Master Class:** "Making 'Das leere Grab', Reclaiming ancestral remains"

**Facilitator:** Cece Mlay

**12:00 PM – 1:00 PM:** Lunch Break

**1:00 PM – 4:00 PM:** **Group Filming Activity:** Participants work on their short films in groups with local community members as subjects.

**4:00 PM – 4:30 PM:** Tea Break

**4:30 PM – 6:00 PM:** **Editing Session:** Editing and Post-Production

Facilitator: Khalid Shamis S.A.G.E. Khalid runs the Rough Cut Lab Africa RCLA, the only lab dedicated to supporting story construction for African documentaries on the continent)

**6:00 PM:** Depart for Windhoek



**Dates: Tuesday, September 10, 2024**

**Venue: Otjisazu Guest Farm, Ovitoto; Goethe-Institut Namibia, Windhoek**

### **Day 5: Screenings and Reflections**

**8:00 AM – 9:00 AM:** Breakfast

**9:00 AM – 1:00 PM:** **Editing Session:** Editing and Post-Production Session

**Facilitator:** Perivi Katjavivi

**1:00 PM – 2:00 PM:** Lunch Break

**2:00 PM – 4:00 PM:** Final Film Project Presentations

**4:00 PM – 5:00 PM:** Closing Remarks by participants and collaborators

**5:00 PM:** Departures



# Contact Details

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