

Perivi Katjavivi Biography

Perivi John Katjavivi is a Namibian filmmaker whose work has garnered international acclaim for its innovative exploration of African history, identity, and storytelling. His feature films have premiered at major festivals such as the Berlinale, Rotterdam, and Busan, and in 2023 he made history with *Under the Hanging Tree*—Namibia’s first-ever submission to the Academy Awards® in the Best International Feature Film category. This film, which blends elements of noir and mysticism, also won two major awards at the Africa Movie Academy Awards (AMAA) last year, including Best Editing and the Michael Anyiam Osigwe Award for Best Film by an African Living Abroad.

Katjavivi holds a BA in Cinema from Columbia College Hollywood and an MA in African Cinema from the University of Cape Town, where his research focused on how Namibian film can reshape post-colonial narratives. He is currently a PhD candidate in History at the University of the Western Cape. In addition to *Under the Hanging Tree*, his filmography includes *Emoyeni: Nsanguluko* (2018), which was on NETFLIX and won 3 SAFTAs (South African Film and Television Awards).

Outside of directing and producing, Katjavivi is the founder of the Return to the Source Film Lab—a Pan-African workshop and residency program that merges film education with the investigation of sites tied to colonial history and trauma. Funded by the Mastercard Enablement Fund through the Berlinale, the Goethe Institute and the Namibia Film Commission, it blends oral history, archival research, and practical filmmaking. Perivi is also a licensed Anglican lay minister, serving at St George’s Cathedral in Windhoek, Namibia, reflecting his deep commitment to spiritual life and community service alongside his filmmaking career. Perivi serves as a mentor for emerging filmmakers through Durban FilmMart’s Future Mentors program and notably was selected to pitch his upcoming project *The Man with the Crooked Arm* at the 2024 Berlinale Co-Production Market, as reported in [Variety](#).

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

- *The Unseen* (2016) - Premiered at the Pan African Film Festival (Los Angeles); screened at Durban International Film Festival and other global festivals. Winner of Best Film at the Innsbruck International Film Festival, praised for its exploration of post-colonial Namibian identity.
- *Emoyeni: Nsanguluko* (2018) - Four-part series streamed on Netflix, awarded three SAFTAs (South African Film and Television Awards).
- *Film Festival Film* (2019) - World premiere at the 69th Berlinale; screened at Encounters Documentary Festival. An experimental critique of the international festival circuit, co-directed with Mpumelelo Mcata.
- *Under the Hanging Tree* (2023) - World premiere at International Film Festival Rotterdam; screened at AFRIFF, Film Africa UK, NYAFF, and other leading festivals. Namibia’s first-ever submission to the Academy Awards® (Best International Feature Film). Winner of two Africa Movie Academy Awards (AMAAs), including Best Editing.