“We’re not all warriors”: South Sudanese filmmakers are working to revamp their national image

There is not a single movie theater in South Sudan, the world’s newest nation. But that doesn’t mean the people of [the war-riven country](http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2016/apr/26/un-bases-south-sudan-malakal-attack-blessing-curse-unmiss)aren’t movie buffs.

In the absence of an organized local film-making industry, the “enormous appetite” for stories is satisfied by pirated Hollywood movies passed around on DVDs and USB sticks, [Internews explains](http://www.internews.org/our-stories/project-updates/action-south-sudan-film-industry-takes-off). But in the capital city, Juba, a gang of 20 merry South Sudanese filmmakers armed with cameras, boom microphones, and umbrellas are working to correct that.

The filmmakers are taking part in the [Juba Film Festival](http://jubafilmfestival.info/), the country’s first ever festival of its kind. Working through torrential rains and the tense political climate, the filmmakers are racing to finish four movies in time for the festival’s culmination in July.

“There is a great need to tell our own stories,” says the festival’s founder, [Simon “Bingo” Lokwang Paul](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm5921205/), an orphaned refugee turned local TV personality. He described the festival as a kind of creative, peaceful revolt, to combat—or at least diversify—the pervasive stereotypes about the four-year old nation in the foreign press.

Link : <http://qz.com/671837/were-not-all-warriors-south-sudanese-filmmakers-are-working-to-revamp-their-national-image/>