

Hayasha Productions
presents

BLACBET

a translation of Shakespeare's

Macbeth

by

Hakeem Kae-Kazim

LOGLINE

Returning victorious from battle, General Makawa encounters three 'witches' who predict he will become the ruler of the land. When his rise to power is obstructed by the present ruler, Donedashe - who elevates his own son, Moji, to become 'king' - Makawa, and his equally ambitious wife, decide to take matters into their own hands.

SYNOPSIS



The Battle



Doned Ashe, the first 'king' of Niger, and his army - led by his staunch allies General Makawa and Bankolo - are victorious in their fight against rebel forces.

The Encounter

On their way back from the front, Makawa and Bankolo encounter three diviners. The seers predict that Makawa will one day become ruler of the land and he will be succeeded by Bankolo's offspring.

Makawa and Bankolo dismiss this as nonsense until a fellow officer arrives to inform Makawa he has been given a new title, thus fulfilling the first part of the prophecy.



Lady Makawa

Makawa sends a letter informing his wife what has transcribed. This prompts her to formulate a plan ensuring the rest of the prophecy shall be fulfilled.



President Donedashe

Celebrating the end of the war, and to bestow further honours on his general, Donedashe announces he will make a state visit to Makawa's residence.

As they prepare for his arrival, Makawa and his wife plot the murder of the President.

The Murder

Though racked by visions of horror and guilt, Makawa murders the sleeping Dondashe in his bed. He leaves the blood-drenched pangas in the hands of the sleeping guards.

Upon Madu's discovery of the dead body, the 'enraged,' Makawa kills the guards.

A man with a serious expression is seated on a wooden throne. He wears a tall, ornate crown with a green and gold top and a wide, gold beaded band. His clothing is a colorful, patterned garment with a gold beaded necklace. The background shows other people in traditional attire, including a woman in a white patterned dress and another in a colorful checkered dress. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting an indoor setting.


The 'Emperor'

Fearing for their lives Doned Ashe's two sons flee to England. Now absolute ruler, Makawa declares himself 'Emperor' and is crowned in a lavishly expensive ceremony.

The Assassination



Though ruler, Makawa grows paranoid that Bankolo's offspring will succeed him. To prevent this, he arranges the murder of the general and his son. As ordered, Bankolo is assassinated, but his son escapes; the prophecy lives on.



Bankolo's Ghost

At a feast, Makawa 'sees' the Ghost of Bankolo, causing the ruler to erupt in deranged rage. Proclaiming he is temporarily unwell, Lady Makawa swiftly dismisses their guests, and takes her husband to bed.

Return to the Seers

Determined to know the outcome of the visions, Makawa returns to the diviners. Revealing further prophecies, they inform him he cannot be killed by anyone 'of a woman born.'



A line of soldiers in camouflage uniforms and helmets, holding rifles, standing in a field. The soldiers are in profile, facing right. The background is a plain, light-colored sky.

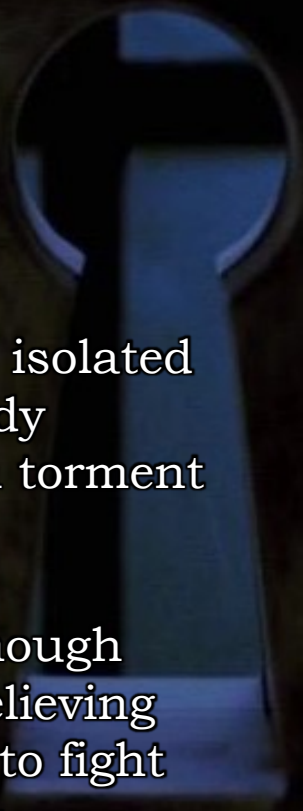
Moji's Invasion

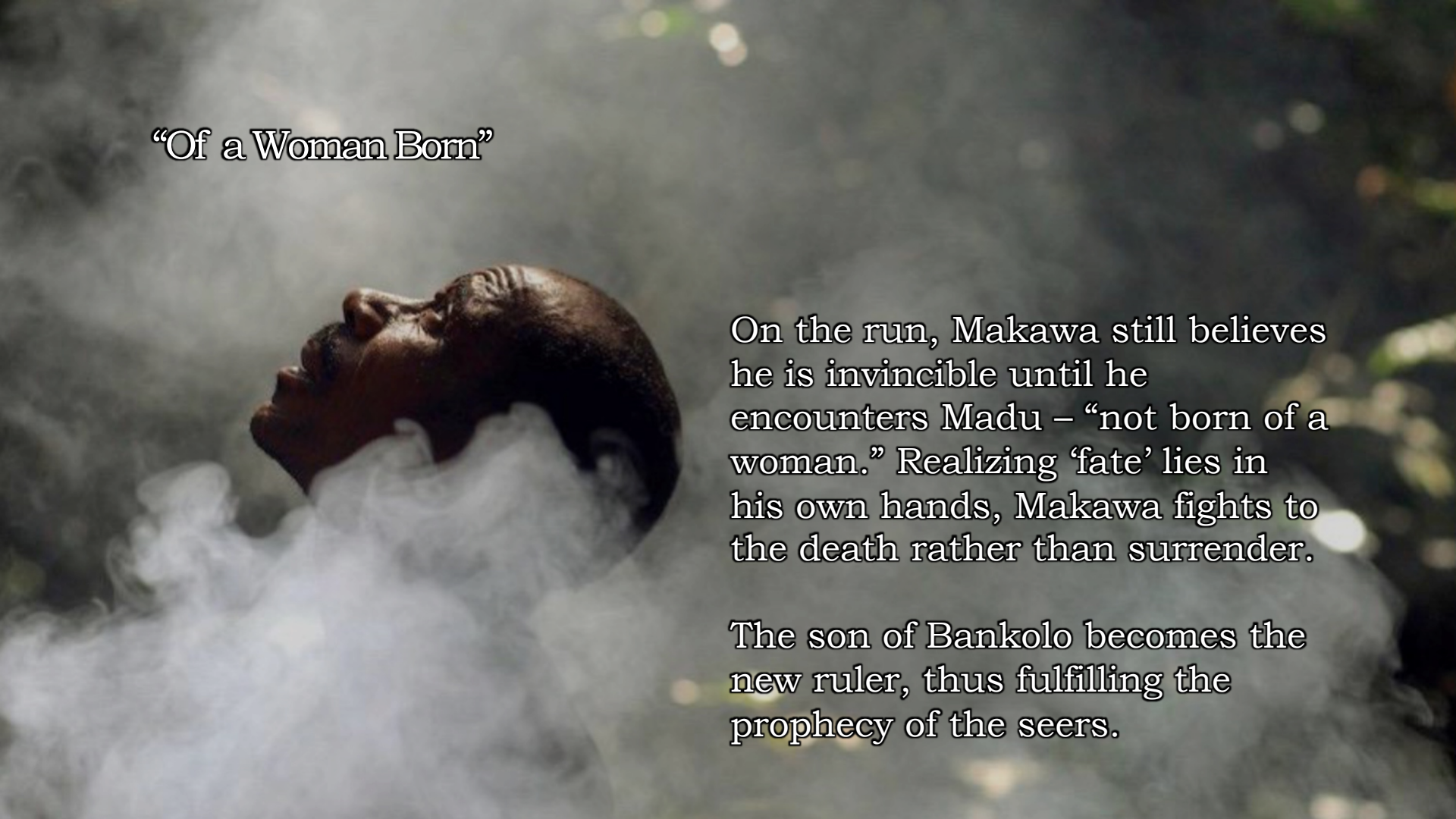
Recruiting their own forces,
Doned Ashe's sons - allied with the
Songay chiefs - return to battle
Makawa's tyrannical rule.

“Out Damn Spot”

Rejected by her husband, isolated and riddled with guilt, Lady Makawa - sleepwalking in torment - takes her own life.

His forces demoralized, though disillusioned, Makawa, believing he is invincible, prepares to fight the oncoming ‘rebel’ army.





“Of a Woman Born”

On the run, Makawa still believes he is invincible until he encounters Madu – “not born of a woman.” Realizing ‘fate’ lies in his own hands, Makawa fights to the death rather than surrender.

The son of Bankolo becomes the new ruler, thus fulfilling the prophecy of the seers.



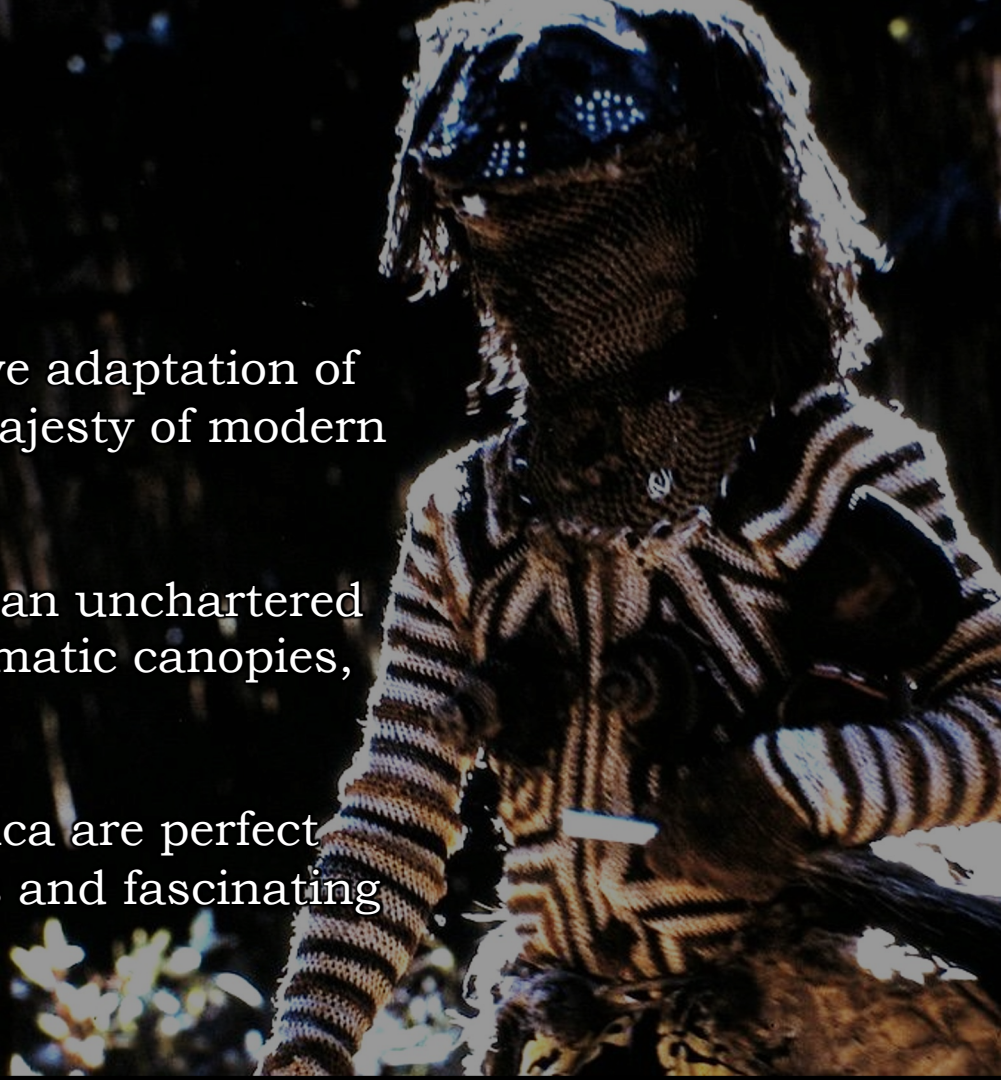
VISUAL ELEMENTS

LOCALES

Blacbet is a vibrant, innovative adaptation of Will's classic set amidst the majesty of modern Africa.

The visual world of the film is an uncharted environ of magical cities, enigmatic canopies, and breathtaking vistas.

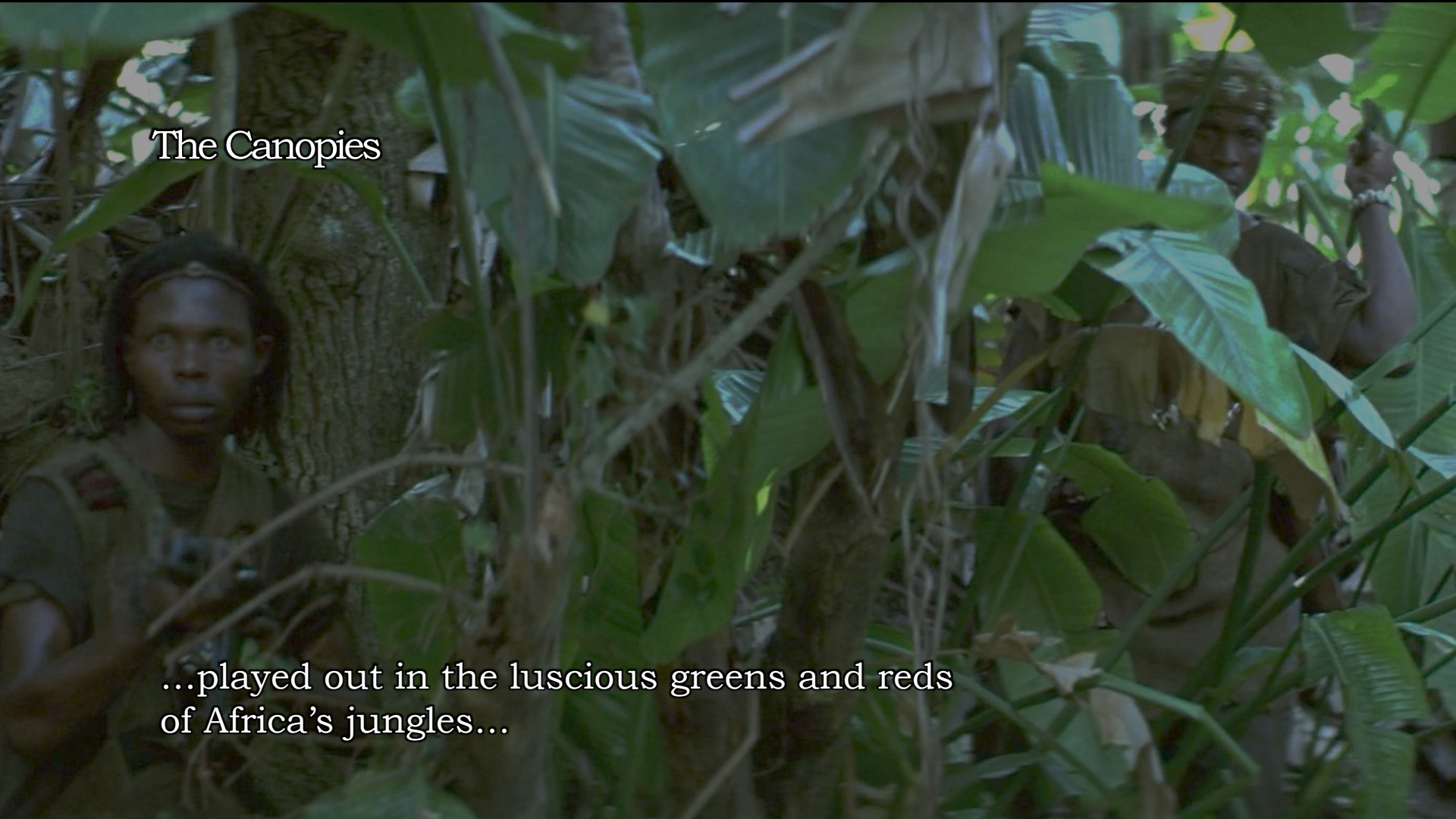
The backdrops of Western Africa are perfect for capturing the rich textures and fascinating visuals that is this continent.



An aerial photograph of a densely populated African city, likely Lagos, Nigeria. The image shows a mix of modern high-rise apartment buildings and older, lower-rise structures. A prominent feature is a tall, cylindrical building with a curved facade. The city is interspersed with lush green trees and vegetation. In the background, the ocean is visible under a clear sky. The overall scene depicts a vibrant, modern urban environment.

The Cities

Unlike any before, this *Macbeth* is a story of today's Africa, set on African soil, anchored in African cities...



The Canopies

...played out in the luscious greens and reds
of Africa's jungles...

The image is a sepia-toned photograph of a vast, misty landscape. In the center, a large, dark, leafless tree stands prominently. The ground is flat and appears to be a dry plain or savanna. In the lower right foreground, a small stream or watering hole is visible, with a person or animal standing near it. The background is hazy and filled with more trees and shrubs, creating a sense of depth and vastness. The overall mood is quiet and contemplative.

The Landscape

...and vast vistas, evoking a contemporary African perspective, entwined in ancient African culture.

This is *Blacbet*.

VISUAL TONE

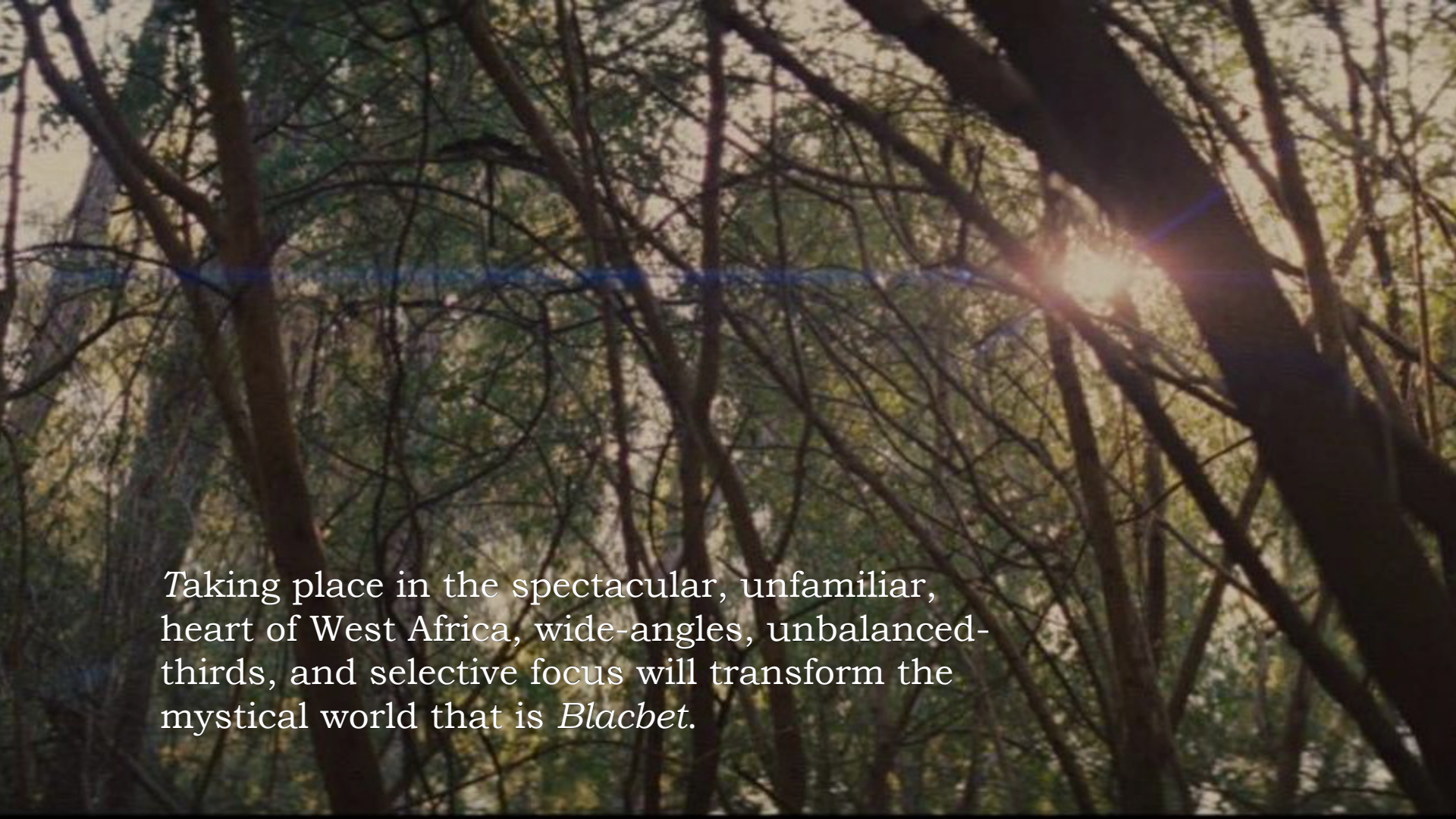
A person is silhouetted against a large, intense fire at night. The fire is the primary light source, casting a bright orange and yellow glow. The person stands in the center, looking towards the fire. In the background, to the right, there is a small structure with a corrugated metal roof, possibly a shed or a small building. The overall scene is dark, with the fire providing the main illumination.

By its colour, resonance, and energy the film will capture the essence of contemporary West Africa.



COMPOSITION
& LENSING

Shooting on anamorphic lenses at a 2:35 aspect ratio will give the movie a perspective serving the environment of the setting, pushing the conceptual surroundings.

A low-angle shot of a dense forest with sunlight filtering through the trees, creating a lens flare effect. The sun is positioned in the upper right quadrant, casting a bright glow and a horizontal lens flare across the frame. The tree trunks and branches are dark and silhouetted against the bright sky, creating a complex, web-like pattern. The overall atmosphere is serene and mystical.

Taking place in the spectacular, unfamiliar,
heart of West Africa, wide-angles, unbalanced-
thirds, and selective focus will transform the
mystical world that is *Blacbet*.

A couple is sitting on a large, patterned sofa in a dimly lit room. The woman is leaning back, wearing a patterned headscarf and a matching top. The man is sitting next to her, wearing a light-colored shirt. The sofa is covered with various patterned cushions and a large, colorful blanket. The overall atmosphere is warm and intimate, with a focus on rich, evocative colors and patterns.

COLOR PALETTE

West Africa is a smorgasbord of deeply evocative colour and hue that adds magnificence to any visual palette.

A woman in traditional attire carries a large tray of rice over a body of water. In the background, a large fire burns brightly, casting a warm glow over the scene. The sky is dark and overcast, creating a dramatic contrast with the fire. The woman is wearing a red top and a patterned skirt, and she has a headwrap. The water reflects the fire and the woman's figure. The overall atmosphere is one of traditional life amidst a dramatic natural or man-made event.

LIGHTING PALETTE

The region's array of lighting is abundant in colour and texture. This plethora of choices will be used to enhance the origins of the source. In contrast, gritty, cold, harsh lighting will denote the dark sides of the narrative.

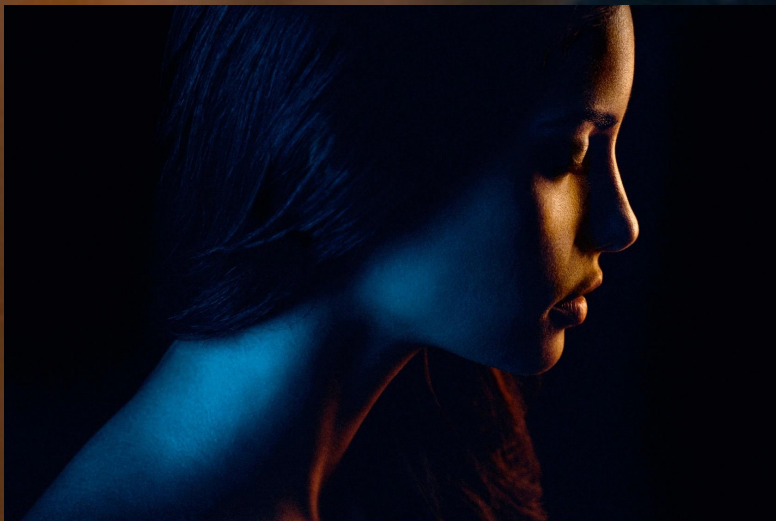


MOODS

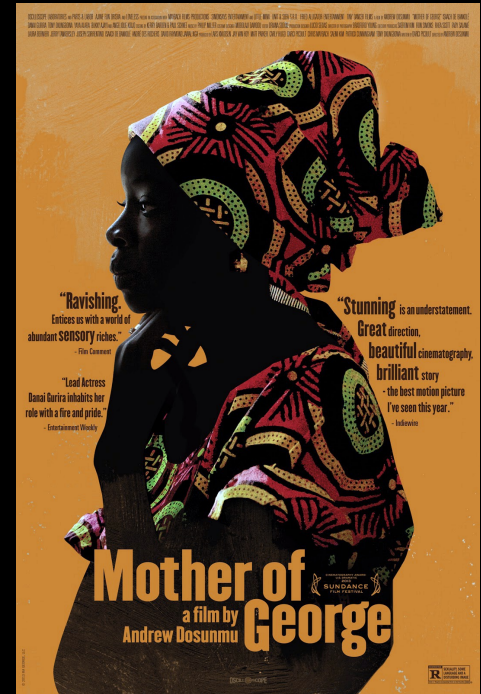
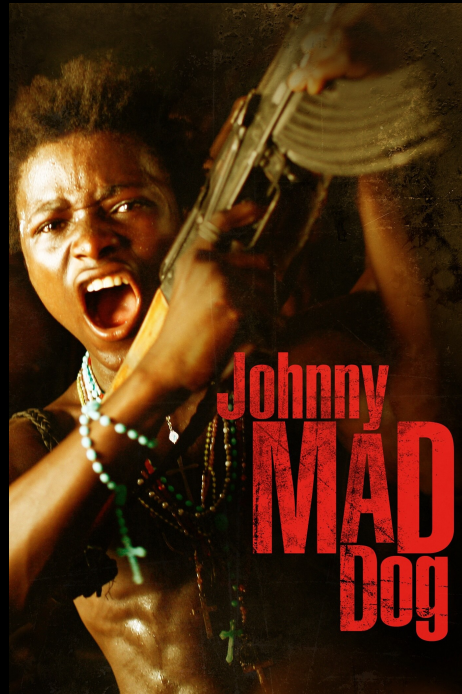
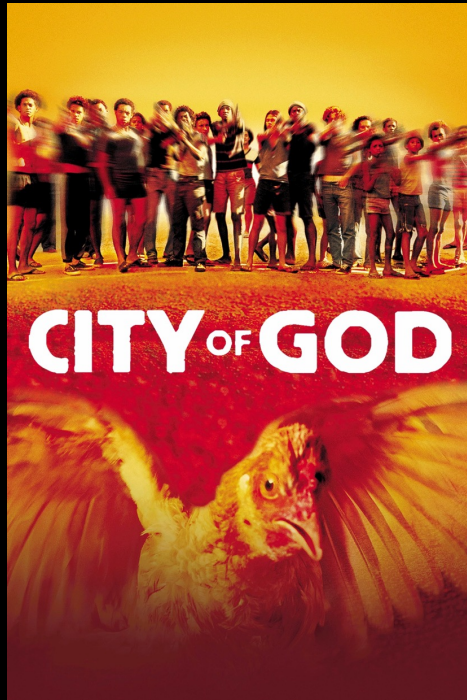








SIMILAR FILMS





PRODUCTION

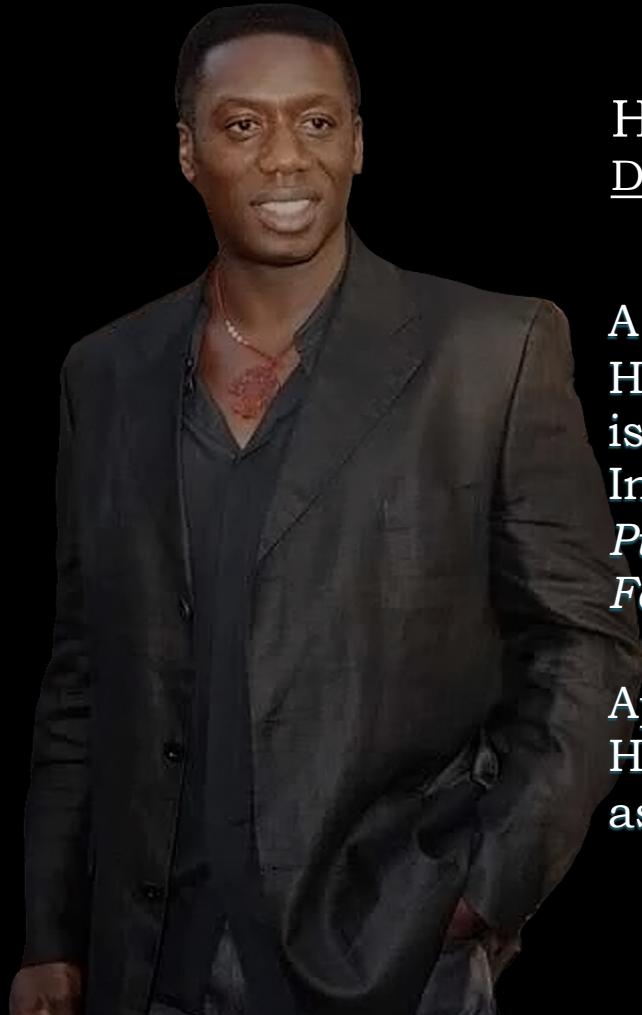


Cape Town, South Africa

Majote Kambule
Producer

Hailing from South Africa, Majota is the founder of DBT Studios and OneAfrica.org in Cape Town. Striving to bring subscription broadcast and streaming services to the continent of Africa, Joe has three decades of experience as a nationally recognized broadcaster, media and technology entrepreneur and executive producer.





HAKEEM KAE-KAZIM

Director

A veteran of the RSC and the National Theatre, Hakeem, – the Man with the Beautiful Voice – is a star of theatre, film and television.

In film he is best known for *Hotel Rwanda*, and *Pirates of the Caribbean*. In television, it's *Troy*; *Fall of a City*, *24*, *Dynasty*, and *Black Sails*.

Appointed a global ambassador for Africa 2.0, Hakeem has just completed his first feature film as a director – *It's The Blackness*.



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