**Blacbet**

Series Outline:

Working Title: **Blacbet**

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.

Genre: Drama

Location: West Africa / Nigeria

Language: Pidgin

Tone:

*Blacbet*  is a vibrant, innovative adaptation of Shakespeare’s classic tale of superstition and horror,set amidst the majesty of modern West Africa. The visual world of the film is an unchartered environ of magical cities, enigmatic canopies, and breathtaking vistas. The backdrops of Western Africa perfectly capture the rich textures and entrancing visuals that is this continent.

Comp Shows:

City of God

Johnny Mad Dog

Mother of George

World:

**Blacbet** is set amidst the chaos of a modern West African state, ‘Kanem’, broiled in civil war and dynastic upheaval. The ruling class flip-flop between republicanism and monarchy as the oligarchy battles to ‘out-crab’ other aristocratic families fighting to attain the ultimate title, ‘Emperor.’ In amongst these war-torn factions weaves a powerful African mythology and mysticism, harbored by three ‘shamans of Fate.’ Through their prognostications, these ‘soothsayers’ channel the forces of destiny to bring a final resolution to the brutal ‘clan’ bloodbaths tearing Kanem apart.

Vision:

**Blacbet** is a combination of Hakeem’s deep understanding of traditional classical drama [Shakespeare] and African mythology and culture, utilized as a platform to explore the intricacies of politics and power that entangle modern African states today. By paralleling the ferocious dynastic battles that formed 11th century Scotland with the present-day struggles taking place in West Africa, Hakeem offers a brilliant vision of the ubiquitous human flaws and crippling superstitions that arise in all of us when a single ‘entity’ seeks absolute power.

Lead Protagonist: Makawa

Character Arc:

A revered general of the Kanem ruling class, after overpowering rebel forces trying to invade the kingdom, Makawa is told by three ‘witches’ that though he will one day become the king, his friend Bankolo’s descendants will rule after him. Together with his wife, Lady Makawa, Makawa achieves this regal ambition, only to become paranoid that he has done it all for Bankolo’s children. Determined this will not be the outcome, driven by the predictions of the three ‘Fates’ that haunt him, Makawa, aided by Lady Makawa, descends into the depths of Dante’s horror-filled inferno, until, in the final moment, facing his mortality and ultimate fate, he redeems himself in an act of courage.

Creative Team:

Writer: Hakeem Kae-Kazim

Director: Hakeem Kae-Kazim

Producer: Wils Masisak

Hakeem Kae-Kazim: Writer/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.*

Wils Masisak: Producer

Is a writer, producer, and director best known for the multi-award winning, Mongolian epic *The Steed.* Wil’s work as writer-director

includes: the comedy feature *My Favorite Movie, My First Toy Company , The Aceys Artists Choice Awards,* and *Juggling: an Introduction to the Filmmaker.*