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Press Release **To Catch A Dream**

In September 2014, The NEST and Chico Leco commissioned the wardrobe for a fashion film script called "To Catch A Dream", to be shot in indigenous African languages and heavily inspired by fantasy. The designers involved were Katungulu Mwendwa, Namnyak Odupoy, Kepha Maina, Jamil Walji, Azra Walji, Ami Doshi, Ann McCreath and Adele Dejak. The film stars Ajuma Nasenyana, Kenyan-born international supermodel, and was written and directed by Jim Chuchu. Executive production and creative direction was by Sunny Dolat, with Kangai Mwiti of Bellesa Africa doing all set makeup.

Each character was dressed according to the individual designer's creative interpretation of the script with the input of the set stylist. Ajuma's vibrant urban outfits and statement jewellery by day, with vivid make up looks, clearly contrast with the simple, clean lines and straight cut of her night gown, which are an ode to her nocturnal vulnerability.

Ajuma's red, slim cut Dream Country ensemble, with black detailing, detachable leather sleeves and their flowing chiffon extensions was intentionally designed to evoke the memory of bridal wear. Strong elemental references were key to each guide's wardrobe. The opulent peacock feather neckpiece and voluminous loops of sheer cloth celebrate desert breezes with each of Air Guide's motions. The mermaid silhouette and crustacean inspired metallic detailing herald Water Guide's resolute excursion into the desolate lake. Earth Guide's ensemble is strongly reminiscent of a savannah warrior - his fitting burnt ochre and sepia tinted vest accessorised by textured sandstone cloth embrace the yin and yang of form and function.

The weightless layers of Nanok's dark, hooded robe belie his ghostly intangibility. Tawaret's floor length fitted lace gown and skull head piece, from which numerous delicate chain strands fall end to end, crown her as indomitable ruler of Dream Country, where nothing is as it seems.

"To Catch A Dream", a tale of love lost and found, is a darkly whimsical detour into the nebulous imaginary space where fairy tales crash irreversibly into lived reality. It is also an exploration of the role of fantasy in African art, and an audio-visual commentary on the essential place of storytelling in contemporary society to reclaim our stolen pasts.