

TYSON! PRESS NOTES



SYNOPSIS:

After being abandoned by his mother at the village medical clinic, a young boy spends his days making the best of his new living arrangement. A volunteer nurse takes interest in him and fights local bureaucracies that force patients to stay if they cannot pay their bill.

Country: Rwanda, USA

Language: Swahili, English

Running time: 20 minutes

Aspect Ratio: 2:35

Format: RED

Writer, Director: Rebecca Ocampo

Producer: Matthew Leutwyler

Executive Producers: Anton Laines, Anna Dokoza, Mark Szilagyi, Jacques Rutabingwa

Director of Photography: Jon Thomas

Editor: Tess Lindberg

Cast: Nevine Nyamongo, Rebecca Ocampo, Kennedy Mazimpaka, Kenny Nkundwa, Maryann Njoroge, Patrick Lubowa



PRODUCTION TEAM:

Rebecca Ocampo (Director, Writer, Actor)

Rebecca earned her degree in finance and marketing from the University of Kentucky. She began her artistic career dancing for the University of Kentucky and then continued on to NYC, dancing for the New York Knicks at Madison Square Garden for two seasons. She has performed on stage for Lollapalooza as well as with major rock and pop artists including Nelly Furtado, Timbaland, and 30 Seconds to Mars. Rebecca's dance credits on television & film include the ABC Family show, GREEK, and The SOCIAL NETWORK directed by David Fincher. As an actor, Rebecca has appeared on HAWAII FIVE-0 and ENTOURAGE, and has been the face of dozens of national commercials and music videos for artists such as Grace Potter & the Nocturnals, AFI, and Ziggy Marley.

The short film, TYSON!, marks Rebecca's directorial debut.

As a producer, Rebecca is currently in development on DEAD WATERS an independent dramatic thriller set against the world of Nigerian oil piracy.

Outside of the performing arts, Rebecca works with charitable organizations, the Young Storytellers Foundation in Los Angeles, and We Are Limitless in Africa. As Program Director of We Are Limitless (WAL), she visits Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo twice a year, assisting orphaned children into boarding schools in an effort to promote education in underdeveloped countries. She is currently managing the development of WAL's center in Goma, DRC that will house 247 orphans and victims of sexual violence. Rebecca is also in charge of producing public service and promotional videos for WAL.

www.rebeccaocampo.com

Matthew Leutwyler (Producer)

After studying film at The San Francisco Art Institute, Matthew Leutwyler wrote and directed the cult-comedy/horror/musical *DEAD & BREAKFAST* (SXSW 2004), starring Jeremy Sisto, Jeffrey Dean Morgan, and David Carradine. The film won over a dozen audience and best film awards around the world and was nominated for a prestigious Saturn Award. Since then he has produced or exec produced *THE OH IN OHIO* starring Parker Posey & Paul Rudd; *LOWER LEARNING* with Eva Longoria, Jason Biggs, & Rob Corddry; *AGAINST THE CURRENT* with Joseph Fiennes and Justin Kirk (Sundance 2009); the Matthew Broderick, Sanaa Lathan drama *WONDERFUL WORLD* (Tribeca 2010); and *EVERY DAY*, starring Helen Hunt, and Liev Schreiber (Tribeca 2011).

In the past few years, Leutwyler directed the adaptation of the acclaimed novel *THE RIVER WHY* (Mill Valley 2010) starring William Hurt, Zach Gilford, and Amber Heard. He also exec produced James Gunn's *SUPER* (Toronto 2012) starring Rainn Wilson and Ellen Page; and the comedy-drama *THE GIRL MOST LIKELY*, starring Kristen Wiig and Annette Benning (Toronto 2011). Additionally, he wrote & directed the ensemble drama *ANSWERS TO NOTHING* starring Dane Cook, Barbara Hershey, and Julie Benz released by Roadside Attractions in 2012.

Leutwyler co-founded the theatrical distributor The Film Arcade in 2012. For two years, he worked on the marketing of a dozen films including Sundance winner and Indie Spirit Award nominee *AFTERNOON DELIGHT* starring Kathryn Hahn and Jane Lynch, as well as other Sundance entries *THE OTHER DREAM TEAM*, and *A.C.O.D.* with Amy Poehler, and Adam Scott. Matthew departed the company in 2014 to concentrate his efforts back on production.

In 2014 Leutwyler produced the food documentary *SPINNING PLATES*. The film won nine "best film" awards at festivals including Santa Barbara, Vail, and Austin. After a successful theatrical run and critical praise, the film stayed in the top 10 of iTunes docs for four months.

November 2015 saw the release of Leutwyler's most recent directorial effort, the sci-fi drama *UNCANNY*, with Mark Webber, Lucy Griffiths, and Rainn Wilson. The award winning film has been critically praised with Sight & Sound Magazine calling the film "confident, meticulously crafted, written with sharp brilliance and performed with perfect nuance." And Ain't-It-Cool-News described it as "the kind of movie you want to talk about afterward. A rare breed of thoughtful, independent science fiction."

Currently, he is developing *DARK WATERS*, a thriller set against the world of Nigerian oil piracy, and a "modern Western" about Don Alejo Tamez, a 77 year old rancher, whose stand off with a Mexican cartel led to 3 hour gun battle over his property. He is also producing, alongside Morgan Spurlock's company Warrior Poets, the coming-of-age film *GOOD AFTER BAD* starring Billy Burke, Maddie Hasson, and Melora Walters. The film is currently in post production.

Matthew has also directed spots for Chevy Volt and Coke Zero and a music video for Egyptian (Imagine Dragons singer Dan Reynolds's side project).

Outside of his career as a filmmaker Leutwyler works as a mentor with the Los Angeles based non-profit *The Young Storytellers Foundation*. He is also the founder of *We Are Limitless*, which is moving children out of orphanages in Rwanda and into boarding schools. Leutwyler travels to check on the student's progress 2 times a year, supplying them with healthcare and other basic needs while promoting critical thinking and independence.

www.acceleratedmatter.com



PRODUCTION NOTES:

Shooting in Rwanda

Traveling to Rwanda twice a year, Rebecca decided that she wanted to shoot it in the place that has become her adopted country. With the exception of her D.P., who she hired from Canada after a Skype introduction, Rebecca employed an entirely Rwandan crew and shot the film on location at a working clinic where nearly all of the extras were actual patients. Equipment (and electricity) was limited so they employed only two lights and made their own extension cords out of rolls of wrapped copper wire. Compounding these obstacles was the issue of shooting in Swahili and having an 9 year old boy with no acting experience as the lead. But all of these challenges also lead to the film's undeniable "authenticity."

The Inspiration -The Real Tyson

Writer, director Rebecca Ocampo had been searching for an idea for her directorial debut, little did she know that she would find it in the Democratic Republic of Congo. On an assignment for the NGO We Are Limitless, Rebecca traveled to DR Congo with a young nurse (Bre) who had been working in Kenya. The two were there to survey a plot of land that the charity was hoping to develop as a safe-center for women and children to live and take basic education classes. While the two women hiked into the jungle in search of the plot, Bre told Rebecca of a young boy who had been abandoned by her mother at the clinic she was working at in Northern Kenya. Local laws forbid the 10 year old from being allowed to leave until he paid his bill in full. Bre lobbied local politicians as well as the clinic supervisors for nearly a year before she got Tyson released to an orphanage. Rebecca was shocked to learn that this is a common practice in many developing nations all around the world - though most governments deny it. As Bre told her more of the mischievous Tyson, Rebecca became drawn to the story of the boy who would inspire her short film.

Produced with the support of the Kwetu Film Institute and Mashirika Performing Arts and Media Company

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