

STILL WATER RUNS DEEP A Film by Abbesi Akhamie



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Logline

A father must withstand his emotions and preserve his pride when his estranged son mysteriously disappears.

Synopsis

Within a small Nigerian family, the father is the patriarch and protector of his flock. Still Water Runs Deep tells the intimate story of a man whose concealed emotions begin to stir when faced with the portent of a missing son.

Festival Specifications

Original Title	Still Water Runs Deep
Language of Film	English, Nigerian Pidgin, Etsako
Film Type	Fiction, Short
Film Genre	Family, Drama
Running Time	16 minutes
Camera	Arri Alexa Plus
Image Format	16:9 / 1.85 HD, Color
Sound Format	Dolby 5.1
Subtitles	English
Completed	2017

Contact

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OFFICIAL SELECTION TO INTERNATIONA

FILM FESTIVAL 2017

Born in Heidelberg, Germany, Abbesi Akhamie is a Nigerian American writer/director currently based in New York City. She received her MFA in Film from the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University and also holds a BA in Communications from George Mason University.

She is currently working on two feature scripts, a short film, as well as a fiction narrative she intends to publish.

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Director's Statement

In 2015, I travelled alone for the first time to my paternal homeland of Nigeria. On my visit to Badagry, my uncle and I visited a relative who told us the story of his adolescent son's recent and untimely death. His calmness when speaking of something so devastating and melancholic was striking to me. Everything felt normal despite the fact that there would forever be an empty bed in this family's house.

Still Water Runs Deep is inspired from my experiences growing up with a Nigerian father as well as my recent travels to the country. The title derives from an old proverb that means while an individual may not show emotion on the outside, there is still something within. The film exemplifies this meaning in the father character (Imodu) who easily displays assertiveness and discipline but does not share his feelings of sadness and fear.

Director's Biography

Abbesi has a keen interest in topics involving the African continent and its diaspora which is reflected



in her writings and films. In 2016, she produced two short films, Samedi Cinema (TIFF and Venice Biennale) and Tween (AT&T Entertainment Project Finalist) which have gone on to great national and international success.

The film touches on themes of masculinity, religion, and culture which gives audiences a glimpse into this different world, but it is not a full picture of all that I wanted to share. Within Nigeria, greater Africa, and its diaspora, there are so many untold stories--locked away or visible in plain sight. This is one story that I hope will be the start of many more I will tell in the years to come.

PRODUCTION TEAM





Producer - Melissa Adeyemo

Melissa is a Nigerian American independent producer currently based in New York City. She recently worked as a Senior Associate at Strategy&, the strategy consulting arm of PricewaterhouseCoopers. Melissa has an MBA from New York University where she was a Consortium Merit Scholarship Recipient, a Forte Fellow and a World MBA Fellow.

Prior to matriculating to New York University's Stern School of Business, Melissa worked at Nigerian based online start-up, iROKO Partners, for two years. While there, she helped launch their film studio division. Before iROKO, Melissa spent several years in the entertainment industry, where she worked in consumer marketing, theatrical and theme park licensing and film production.

She has produced the Dubai International Film Festival's 2015 short film entry *Open Wound*, and has been credited on Spike Lee's *Inside Man* and Steven Spielberg's *Munich*. She is currently co-producing a feature film that will be shot on location in Nigeria.

Melissa received her BA in Regional Studies from Columbia University.



Cinematographer - Dominica Eriksen

Dominica Eriksen is a cinematographer and filmmaker based in New York City. Developing a love for film photography at an early age, she became determined to pursue a career in the arts. After completing undergraduate degrees in Photography and Multimedia, she worked in design and photo production before expanding into the world of filmmaking.

She is a recipient of the Nestor Almendros Cinematography Award, was a finalist for the 2017 ARRI Volker Bahnemann Award, and is the winner of two First Run Film Festival Awards for Cinematography. Currently, she is working on her thesis in pursuit of an MFA in Cinematography and Directing at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.





Imodu - Toyin Oshinaike

Toyin Oshinaike is a Nigerian born actor who has worked extensively in Nollywood, as well as in Nigeria's strong theater community. Toyin has over 15 years of experience as an actor and has starred in the breakout hit *Taxi Driver: Oko Ashewo*, as well as *Small Boy* and *Silence*. Passionate about the theatrical arts, Toyin is also the Co-Founder and Producing Director of One Six Productions based in Lagos, Nigeria, which is a performing theatre company dedicated to the development of the theatre practice, in view of creating a higher level of theatre culture and literacy in Nigeria.



Aboki - Yemi Adebiyi

Yemi Adebiyi was born in Lagos, Nigeria. He is a graduate of the University of Lagos with a degree in Mass Communications. He also holds a diploma in acting from the Pencil Film and Television Institute (PEFTI). Has has worked with notable Nigerian directors including Emmanuel Adejumo, Segun Adefila, and Joshua Alabi. His most notable stage plays include Midnight Hotel, Kongi's Harvest, Chinua Achebe's Things Fall Apart, and The Gods Are Not To Blame. Yemi is a member of Kininso Koncepts Productions Lagos.



Adeke - Rita Edward

Rita Edward is a Nigerian born actor who has worked in theater, film and television productions locally and internationally. She honed her skills as an actor through several acting workshops hosted by I Open Eye Production and the British Council. Rita also engages in voice acting and casting. Rita has several years of acting experience and her works include: *HearWord* (showcased in Nigerian and international theatres), The Lagos Theatre Festival 2016 and 2017, the MNET television series *Tinsel*, *93 Days*, *ISOKEN*, *MISFIT*, *The Arrangement* and several other works currently being aired on cable stations. She anticipates greater and more challenging roles in international television series and film works.



Crew

Writer/DirectorProducerCasting Director and Co-ProducerProduction ManagerDirector of PhotographyIst ACIst AD and GafferSound Mixer and Design2nd AD and Light TechProduction DesignEditorAssistant EditorMusic ComposerTranslation

Principal Cast

Father/Imodu Aboki Mother/Enike

Supporting Cast

Son/Omo Daughter/Oboesi DPO Police Officer Pastor Voice Caller Abbesi Akhamie Melissa Adeyemo Kemi Lala Akindoju Ella Utomi and Chukwuma Enete Dominica Eriksen Aimée Schaefer Stuart Segal Aaron Zick Babangida Abdullahi Ochuwa Ann Ugheoke Juhui Kwon Morgan Kern Stephen Hudson David Akhamie and Tokunboh Sangodoyin

Toyin Oshinaike Yemi Adebiyi Rita Edward

Fred-Adeji Onose Emmanuel Favor Sule Yakubu M. Kadiri Lazarus Ewela Spencer Abu Oshiogbhe Pascal Ogbhemhe

