

ISA/South Africa

Enalish

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2.39:1

Stereo

Running time 15 min

Genre Drama

Year 2020

Sales/ Distribution Mai Amalie Bak: maiamalie.bak@gmail.com

Links Utticial Website: www.etanathemovie.com

Facehook: https://www.facehook.com/etanashortfilm

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/etanafilm/

IMDb: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt14309254/?ref =fn al tt i

Logline

A teenage soldier brought up in the art of war by the rebel group that kidnapped her, must choose whether to attempt an escape or let her dreams of freedom die forever.



Synopsis

Etana constantly dreams of escaping her waking nightmare after she is kidnapped as a child, and brought up in an African war camp on the edge of destruction. When the opportunity arises she discovers the decision is harder than she could have ever imagined, and may cost the life of her closest companion.



Director's Statement:

Etana shows both the dark and light places of our world that females must navigate.

We always hear about boys being used in military conquests all around the world but there is seldom mention of girls as child soldiers.

About two years ago I came across an article in The New York Times about 300 child soldiers that were released from their military groups in South Sudan. 224 of those children were boys and 87 were girls. This stuck with me, it was a story I had hardly seen anywhere and felt it needed to be told. The story of power, escape and hope is something I'm extremely passionate about as a South African female filmmaker, and I aim to cast a light on a subject we often don't hear much about.

Etana finds the courage to stand up to and oppose those that oppress her. We follow the heartbreaking moment she decides that escape is her only option with dire consequences. This story is extremely relevant today and may continue to be relevant to many children in our future. I hope this film asks audiences to reflect on what they know about war in Africa, and how woman are so deeply affected by it in ways we are not always shown.



VIVIAN NWEZE Etana

Vivian Nweze is an engaging first generation Nigerian-American, dynamic actress and high energy comedic on-camera personality based in Los Angeles.

You can watch Vivian's comedic content across social media @VivaciouslyViv, where she has an audience of over 58k followers. She also appears as On-Camera Talent on "Buzzfeed Video", Buzzfeed's fashion channel "As/Is" and Buzzfeed's African-American vertical "Cocoa Butter".

GEORGINA ELIZABETH OKON Nafisa

Georgina Elizabeth Okon is a British Born Nigerian Actor, Voice Over Artist, Singer based in Los Angeles. Her body of work includes voiceover roles in the feature film, "Black Panther" and television series such as "Scorpion", "The Break", "Unit 42", "Mortel"; her on camera roles include the television series "Shrill", the documentary film "Think and Grow Rich: The Legacy", the short film "Fugitive Zero" for which she won 7 "Best Supporting Actress" awards.

TRINITY MORIAH JONES Yaya

From very early in her life Trinity Moriah Jones began performing in children's theater and school plays. At the tender age of 6, she was accepted into DeAbreu Modeling Agency, in Columbia, South Carolina to begin formal training. In 2018 Trinity and her parents moved to Los Angeles where Trinity is currently represented by A3 Artists Agency.

Trinity has worked in commercials, short films, music videos and television since moving to Los Angeles. In her very first supporting role she portrayed Young Latasha Harlins in "Latasha Harlins: A Rose That Grew From Concrete" Winner of the 10th Annual Charlotte Black Film Festival for Best Short Film.



Marian de Pontes Director

Marian de Pontes is an award-winning film director from South Africa who currently works and lives in Los Angeles, California. Her most notable film, Etana, has garnered numerous awards and has screened at top international festivals around the world, including the Oscar-qualifying Cleveland International Film Festival. Most recently, she was awarded the 2021 Horizon Award, a highly prestigious award supported by HBO, The Adrienne Shelly Foundation, The Sundance Institute, the Motion Picture Association of America, and many more. The award aims to recognize and help talented female directors in film and television.



Mai Bak Producer

Originally from Copenhagen, Denmark, Mai's lifelong love for storytelling in all forms was aided by her international upbringing. Mai has produced five short films, many of which have been selected for film festivals and won awards. She is currently working primarily on outreach and social media planning for a documentary feature about seven Jewish siblings who were hidden in a German town for two years during WWII, and successfully emigrated to the United States.

MADMAD CHEN Cinematographer

Shijun Maomao Chen is a cinematographer currently living in Beijing and Hong Kong. Carrying a heart full of love for narrative films and interests in industrial workflow in Hollywood filmmaking, Chen has shot more than 30 films to date, with many screening at more than 30 international film festivals over the years.





DINA MUSTAKIMProduction Designer

My love of visual arts has been with me since I was born. Over the past few years I have had the pleasure to work on various projects, from short films and music videos, to commercials and television. While always enjoying the opportunity to work on something new, my favorite projects are ones that create a character driven world. Presently, I am working in the art department of a network television series. I am thankful for the opportunities that have come my way, and am excited to continue building a career and creating work in an industry I love.

MIKE XU Sound Designer

Zilu Xu (AKA Mike Xu) is a sound designer from China. After the graduation from the sound department of Beijing Film Academy and a four-year work experience in a post-production company in Shanghai, Mike believes that sound is an amazingly effective but imperceptible means of influencing the audience. It plays a huge role in providing realism to the entire film and making the audience believe the truth of the story. As a sound designer, Mike is always trying to find better ways to use sound for both narrative and emotional expressions.







Press Coverage

AZU

Motion Picture Association: The Credits

https://www.motionpictures.org/2021/04/director-marian-de-pontes-on-her-horizon-award-winning-film-etana/

The Wrap:

https://www.thewrap.com/2021-horizon-award-given-to-director-of-sudanese-child-soldiers-drama-etana/

Screen Daily:

https://www.screendaily.com/news/winners-announced-in-horizon-award-2021-for-underrepresented-female-filmmakers/5157075.article

Women and Hollywood:

https://womenandhollywood.com/the-horizon-award-announces-2021-recipients/

IMDb:

https://www.imdb.com/news/ni63193830





Press Coverage

SOUTH AFRICA

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https://www.iol.co.za/entertainment/movies/news/sas-marian-de-pontes-etana-selected-for-oscar-qualifying-cleveland-international-film-festival-3952a807-8629-44ad-98e2-382e135190ff

Gauteng Lifestyle Magazine:

https://gautenglifestylemag.co.za/south-african-female-film-director-answers-hollywoods-call/

World News Era:

https://worldnewsera.com/news/entertainment/celebrity-news/sas-marian-de-pontes-etana-selected-for-oscar-qualifying-cleveland-international-fil...

BSHarp Entertainment:

https://bsharp-entertainment.com/sa-director-marian-de-pontes-takes-the-international-film-festival-circuit-by-storm/

WITS Review:

https://issuu.com/witsalumnirelations/docs/wits_review__april_2021_issuu/s/12047300



