

A large, solid orange oval shape with a white border, centered on a white background. The text is centered within the oval.

CHIDERA

Electronic Press Kit

About the Film

LOGLINE:

A coming-of-age story of a teenage girl bound from birth to a higher calling, but as the traditional ceremony looms, she struggles to choose between her destiny and the freedom she yearns.

SYNOPSIS:

Inspired by a true story. "Chidera" (igbo meaning: "what God has destined) is an "ezenwa" meaning she was born with "dada" hair signifying she is a direct descendant of the mighty goddess of Atai - a powerful lineage of women of the Ani tribe in West Africa. From birth she was bound to a lifelong oath to a higher calling, but as the traditional ceremony looms, she struggles to choose between her destiny and the freedom she craves.

The film is a fictional narrative based on true facts from the Nigerian culture, specifically related to "Dada" hair.

The setting is present day. Chidera, a teenager, and her mother, Mma are two of a small population of 'Ani' people (a tight knit group, living in close proximity and raising their children together) in a small town in the United States.

WHY AM I TELLING THIS STORY?

I was always fascinated by the true story of my younger sister's battle for life when she was a baby due to her "dada hair". My parents were devout Christians and didn't believe in the "myths", so when she was born with dada hair, they shaved her hair without performing the traditional ceremony. My sister proceeded to suffer from a series of epileptic fits and almost died. As adults, my mother recounted the visions/premonitions she'd had during this trying time. My parents eventually succumbed to performing the ceremony (in a Christian fashion) and my sister was miraculously 'healed' and has never experienced an epileptic fit to this day (she is now 50). As a Dada child, she has also been blessed with the spiritual gift of vision.



FILM STILLS



FILM STILLS



FILM STILLS



INSPIRED BY TRUE EVENTS

CHIDERA

A FILM BY SOPE ALUKO

SOPE ALUKO COURTNEY WILLIAMS DASAN FRAZIER BRIDGET JOHN SYDNI PERRY LOTUS ISABELLA OLUWASOLAPE AKINYELE

PRODUCED BY SOPEBOX PRODUCTIONS

Written and Created By - Sope Aluko Screenplay By - Shola Dada Executive Producers - Sope Aluko & Bunmi Adesola
Directors - Adora Nwanjia-Earl & Sope Aluko Director of Photography - Angelica Perez-Castro
Editor - Jacqueline Basse Production Designer - Alicia DeLarue Composer - Kayode Ajayi



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FILM POSTERS



SOPE ALUKO – Actress/Writer/Director/Producer

Sope is a Nigerian-born British-American Actress/Filmmaker. She is most known for her film roles in Marvel’s Blockbusters: “Black Panther”, “Wakanda Forever” and “Venom”. As a Writer and Filmmaker, Sope is keen to share African stories - Tales/Folklore that have been passed down through generations, and stories from her life experiences as a Nigerian-British-American Immigrant. She feels compelled to shine a spotlight on the positive and most engaging stories about the African Diaspora that will resonate with the diverse global audience. Sope started her production company, ‘SopeBox Productions’ in 2020 under which she wrote, produced, executive produced, co-directed and starred in her first short film titled, “Chidera” (also a proof-of-concept TV series). “Chidera” world premiered at the prestigious Oscar qualifying 2023 American Black Film Festival (ABFF) as an official selection in the ‘Voices of Culture’ shorts segment. She has also written a TV pilot which is in the process of being optioned by a major network studio and has other projects in the pipeline under her production company.

Finally, Sope is a proud Christian, happily married (26 years), and a mother to two young men currently enrolled in college. She is bi-coastal and currently splits her time between her hometown Miami, and Los Angeles.

Instagram/Facebook: @sopealuko

U.S.A. PRESS WEB LINKS:

- 1. <https://thebritishblacklist.co.uk/tbb-talks-to-actress-writer-and-filmmaker-sope-aluko/>
- 2. <https://wsvn.com/entertainment/deco-drive/actress-sope-aluko-premieres-her-first-own-film-chidera-in-miami-beach/>
- 3. <https://hylonewsmiami.com/2023/06/10/black-panther-actress-filmmaker-south-florida-native-sope-aluko-debuts-her-first-short-film-chideraat-american-black-film-festival/>
- 4. <https://sugarcinemag.com/2023/05/deeper-than-hair-identity-and-discrimination/>
- 5. <https://rollingout.com/2023/06/01/cast-of-chidera-film/>

Film Trailer

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nbp3ZFPTPUh81HTPa9wVgqt7F2QXOpWX/view?usp=share_link



NIGERIA PRESS WEB LINKS:

- 1. <https://www.brandiconimage.com/2023/11/black-panther-actress-filmmaker-sope.html>
- 2. https://www.operanewsapp.com/ng/en/share/detail?news_id=b367729810a7c1cac88cc7fed77cce73&news_entry_id=294c6afa231101en_ng&open_type=transcoded&from=news&request_id=share_request
- 3. <https://tlm.ng/black-panther-actress-filmmaker-sope-aluko-debuts-her-first-short-film-chidera-at-the-africa-international-film-festival-afriff/>
- 4. <https://www.theexpressng.com/black-panther-actress-filmmaker-sope-aluko-debuts-her-first-short-film-chidera-at-africa-international-film-festival-afriff/>
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- 7. <https://24hrsreport.com/2023/11/01/black-panther-actress-filmmaker-sope-aluko-debuts-her-first-short-film-chidera-at-africa-international-film-festival-afriff/>
- 8. <https://tribuneonlineng.com/black-panther-actress-sope-aluko-debuts-first-short-film-chidera-at-afriff/%23:~:text=This%20short%20film%20embodies%20the,and%20diversity%20of%20African%20cinema.>
- 9. <https://www.primebusiness.africa/sope-aluko-to-unveil-new-short-film-chidera-at-afriff/>
- 10. <https://kakaakireporters.com/black-panther-actress-filmmaker-sope-aluko-debuts-her-first-short-film-chidera-at-afriff/>
- 11. <https://lifestyle.thecable.ng/black-panther-star-sope-aluko-to-debut-movie-chidera-at-12th-afriff/>
- 12. <https://iyamagazine.com/black-panther-actress-sope-aluko-debuts-her-first-short-film-chidera/>

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- 13. <https://mymovieviews.com/black-panther-actress-filmmaker-sope-aluko-debuts-her-first-short-film-chidera-at-the-africa-international-film-festival-afriff/>
- 14. <https://businessday.ng/life-arts/article/sope-aluko-black-panther-actress-filmmaker-debuts-first-short-film-at-afriff/>
- 15. <https://xplorenollywood.com/sope-aluko-debuts-chidera-at-the-afriff/>
- 16. <https://thenationonlineng.net/black-panther-actress-sope-alukos-short-film-chidera-to-screen-at-afriff/>
- 17. <https://independent.ng/black-panther-actress-sope-aluko-debuts-short-film-chidera-at-afriff/>
- 18. <https://cityvoice.ng/black-panther-actress-and-filmmaker-sope-aluko-debuts-short-film-chidera-at-the-afriff/>
- 19. <https://guardian.ng/arts-2/black-panther-actress-and-filmmaker-sope-aluko-debuts-short-film-chidera-at-afriff/>
- 20. <https://leadership.ng/black-panther-actress-aluko-to-premiere-short-film-afriff/>
- 21. <https://www.pulse.ng/entertainment/movies/black-panther-actress-and-filmmaker-sope-aluko-debuts-chidera-at-afriff/3w745yv>
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- 23. <https://fimaaworld.com/actress-and-filmmaker-sope-aluko-presents-her-film-chidera-for-the-first-time-at-afriff/>
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PRESS IN NIGERIA:

Black Panther Actress & Filmmaker Sope Aluko, debuts her first short film "Chidera" at the Africa International Film Festival (AFRIFF)

11:12



Sope Aluko, the celebrated Nigerian-born, British-American actress and rising filmmaker is set to premiere her short film "Chidera" Africa at the prestigious Africa International

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TRIBUNE

Black Panther Actress, Sope Aluko, debuts first short film "Chidera" at AFRIFF

by Yekta George-Ogunlere
November 2, 2023 Reading Time: 2 mins read



BUSINESS DAY

Sope Aluko, Black Panther actress, filmmaker, debuts first short film at AFRIFF

Obinna Enelike - November 3, 2023



PRESS IN NIGERIA:

JukeBox Stories by Doyin Makinde

Black Panther Actress, Sope Ahuka, Debuts Short Film *Chikera* At AFRIFT

A Black Panther actress, Sope Ahuka, has debuted her first short film, *Chikera*, at the African Film Festival (AFRIFT) in Lagos. The film, which is a tribute to her late father, is a poignant story of a young girl who loses her father and struggles to find her way in a world that has lost its way.



Nollywood Actress Omosowami Dada Joins University of Michigan's Artists in Residence 2021

Omosowami Dada, a Nollywood actress, has been selected as one of the artists in residence at the University of Michigan. She will be spending time in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where she will be working on her new film, *Chikera*.



Shan George's Open Letter To Mark Zuckerberg

Shan George, a Nigerian filmmaker, has written an open letter to Mark Zuckerberg, the CEO of Facebook. George is criticizing Zuckerberg for his role in the Cambridge Analytica scandal and for his handling of the 2016 US presidential election.



AV Counters Sean Kati's Accusations

The Association of Video Producers (AV) has issued a statement in response to Sean Kati's accusations that AV members were involved in the 2019 election. AV maintains its innocence and claims that Kati's accusations are unfounded.



Scalett Johnson Takes Legal Action Against AI App

Scalett Johnson, a Nigerian filmmaker, has taken legal action against an AI app that is using her likeness without her consent. Johnson is seeking damages and an injunction against the app's use.



eRendezvous TIME LIVE'S

AMAA 2022: Winners Reflect On Their Achievements

The winners of the 2022 Africa Movie Academy Awards (AMAA) have reflected on their achievements and the challenges they faced during the year. The winners include *Chikera* by Sope Ahuka, *Chikera* by Sope Ahuka, and *Chikera* by Sope Ahuka.



French Foreign Ministers Meet With Nigerian Creatives In Film, Others

The French Foreign Ministers have met with Nigerian creatives in film, music, and other arts. The meeting was held in Paris and was attended by French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian and Nigerian creatives including Sope Ahuka and Shan George.



It's essential to have film as a medium to shed light on important social issues and empower our youths

Sope Ahuka, the filmmaker of *Chikera*, has said that it is essential to have film as a medium to shed light on important social issues and empower our youths. She believes that film is a powerful tool for social change and that it can be used to tell stories that are often ignored by the mainstream media.



Arts

A King's Passion, new book on Obi of Onitsha, opens Lagos art season

...as Access Bank supports launch

The new book, *A King's Passion*, by Obi Onitsha, has been launched in Lagos. The book is a collection of stories and poems that celebrate the life and legacy of Obi Onitsha, a prominent Nigerian writer and actor. The launch event was held at the Access Bank headquarters in Lagos and was attended by Obi Onitsha, his family, and other guests.



Sope Ahuka, Black Panther actress, filmmaker, debuts first short film at AFRIFT

Sope Ahuka, a Black Panther actress and filmmaker, has debuted her first short film, *Chikera*, at the African Film Festival (AFRIFT) in Lagos. The film is a tribute to her late father and is a poignant story of a young girl who loses her father and struggles to find her way in a world that has lost its way.

