#### 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 linage 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

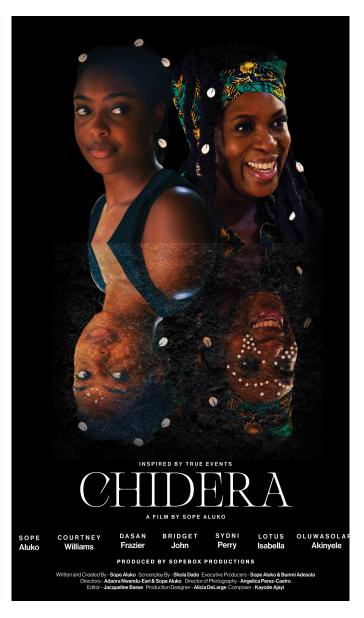
DASAN BRIDGET John

SYDNI Isabella

LOTUS OLUWASOLAPE Akinyele

PRODUCED BY SOPEBOX PRODUCTIONS

Written and Created By - Sope Aluko Screenplay By - Shola Dada Executive Producers - Sope Aluko & Bunmi Adesola Directors - Adatora Navandu-Earl & Sope Aluko Director (Photography - Angelica Perez-Castro Editor - Jacque



#### 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://sugarcanemag.com/2023/05/deeperthan-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:

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- 3. https://tlm.ng/black-panther-actress-filmmaker-sope-aluko-debuts-her-first-short-film-chidera-at-the-africa-international-film-festival-afriff/
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- 12. https://iyamagazine.com/black-panther-actress-sope-aluko-debuts-her-first-short-film-chidera/

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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)







#### PRESS IN NIGERIA:







