



The Unseen

a Perivi John Katjavivi film

SYNOPSIS

Unfolding more like a conversation than a narrative, *The Unseen* follows the story of three wandering souls as they navigate the emotional and physical realities of post-colonial Namibia. First there is Marcus, an African American actor tasked with portraying one of Namibia's historical leaders. Seeking authenticity in his craft, he embarks on an earnest research mission to unveil the true history of his character. Then there is Anu, a talented local musician who is having trouble negotiating between his influences and identity. Lastly, there is Sara, a depressed young woman uncertain of whether or not her environment provides anything worth living for.

It's a collection of philosophical musings on what it means to be alive in independent Namibia. It intentionally blurs the line between fiction and documentary.



CAST

Antonio David Lyons is the creator of We Are Here. A social activism campaign that was birthed in Johannesburg, South Africa. The campaign utilizes discursive play to engage men and boys in themes of gender violence, identity, relationships and HIV / AIDS. The goal of the campaign is to provide safe space that allows men and boys to discover, develop and share tools that help grow themselves and their communities. We Are Here, was most recently staged as part of the Performing the World Conference in New York City (dir. Kelly Thomas). The play has also been performed at Space.com/Joburg Theatre (dir. Warona Seane), the MenEngage Africa Symposium and in workshops throughout Kwa Zulu Natal, South Africa. The play was developed in collaboration with director Lindiwe Matshikiza. He has an MA in Applied Theatre from the City University of New York.



Antonio David Lyons

Antonio has also manages to maintain a thriving career as a professional artist in tandem with activist and scholarly pursuits. He has been a familiar face on South African television screens since 2003, with a memorable role on SA's favorite soapie, Generations. However it was Antonio's humble beginnings in the USA, with a notable performance in an episode of Fox's New York Undercover entitled "Toy Soldiers" that set the tone for the success's that followed. Since his role on NY Undercover, he has landed roles on "The District" and "The Agency", "24", "The Practice" , "Philly" and "Karen Sisco". In South Africa: "Jacob's Cross", "Ga Re Dumele", "Fourplay", "Scandal", "Ubizo", "Jozi-H", "Snitch", and "Home Affairs". His film credits include, "Night Drive" (SA), the TNT movie, "Avenger, the HBO series "Generation Kill", the Paul Ruven film, "Surprise", the Robert K. Townsend film, "False Prophets", "Hotel Rwanda", Masked and Anonymous, "American History X", and "The Sum of All Fears".



CAST

The film's leading lady is Theatre veteran Senga Bockerhoff. In 2002 Senga won the National Theatre of Namibia's award for Best Actress in the play Poppie Engelbrecht. She has starred in numerous films including *The Three Lives of Phillip Wetu* and *My Father's Son*. She also served as Chairperson of the Filmmakers Association of Namibia.



Senga Bockerhoff

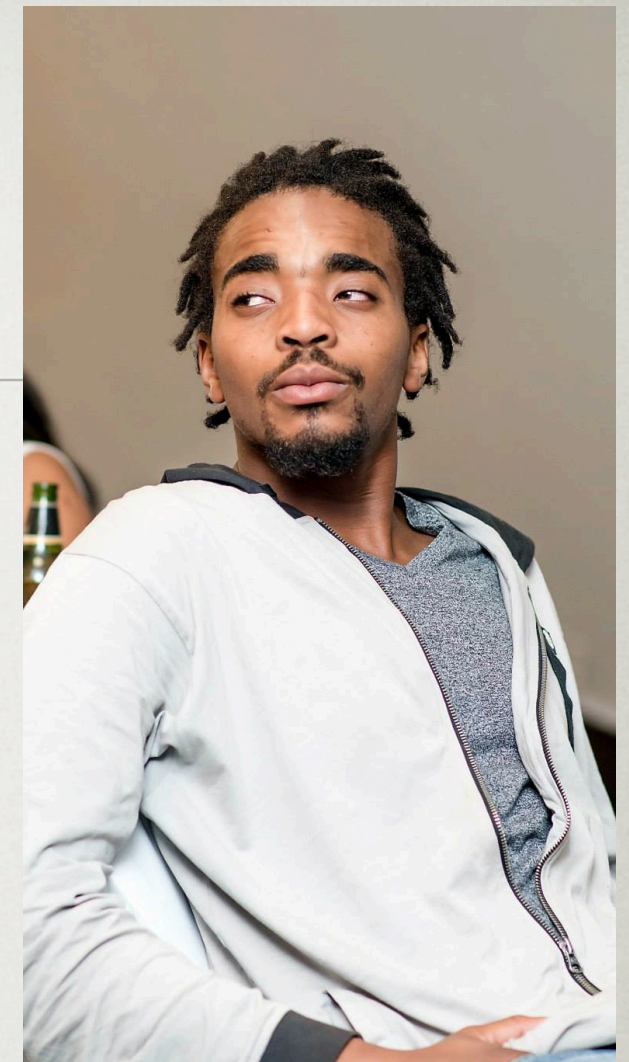


CAST

Mathew Tangi Ambabi Ishitile is a passionate 24 year old musician. He started out at the age of 11, playing violin and joining a xylophone band which had him touring South Africa, performing for the likes of Nelson Mandela and Prince Edward. At 14 he wrote his first song for the a play he was involved in.

In 2010 He started recording under the moniker Brain The Tool. He released "My Zone" and "Deja vu" under the guidance of renowned producer Becoming Phill. "My Zone" went on to feature on the R.U.N N.A.M.S mixtape. In 2012 he was chosen to head a nationwide campaign on alcohol awareness along with two other artists. It was organized by one of the country's biggest companies, Namib Breweries and it was advertised by media giants DV8 Saatchi and Saatchi. This led him to record with Parlotones producer Theo Crouse at Bellville studios in South Africa.

In 2013 Mathew released his first project, Brown Boy: Experiences of an Adolescent. The project was received very well both locally and abroad. Mathew then headlined a performance where he opened up for world renowned fashion designer Shweta Wahi in Windhoek. The show was covered by CNBC Africa, Forbes Africa and other world renowned media outlets.



Mathew Ishitile



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

There's not a township aflame with racial tension or a continent ravaged by AIDS subplot in sight. No child soldiers. No Acacia trees or corrupt officials. Instead this film presents a side of African life that doesn't make the international news headlines, namely its young people, getting on with lives characterized by the kinds of things that vex twenty- somethings the world over – the stresses and pleasures of city-life, relationships, and struggling to accept and explore oneself. It is with this that I hope that audiences far and wide will embrace the non-generic treatment of his African story.

We have three wandering souls, each being pulled and tugged in opposite directions. Somewhere in the middle is something beautiful, something terrifying, something unseen. Marcus can't go home to his wife and kids but he can't float off into the African filmic journey he desires either. Sara has seen the world. And now she cannot reconcile her grand experiences with the sense of emptiness that she finds back home. Anu can't turn the girl of his dreams into his divine feminine idyll, neither can he put his CDs and music career on hold to hangout with his old roughneck friends in the township. So where do they go? Or are they alright right where they are...

I'm interested in exploring the psychology of the characters in their investigation of God, life, death and artistry. I've been each of these three characters at one point in my life. The style of the film takes inspiration from Wim Wenders and early Spike Lee. It's like a black French New Wave film. We also touch on issues of cultural appropriation; the legacy of German colonialism and South African Apartheid; and other themes found in independent Namibia.

For Namibian filmmakers, the challenge is that when I go out into the world people ask so many times who and what and where do you come from? I spend the next half hour telling them where and what my country is. Perhaps I don't even know what it is. That in itself is motivation to make a film; to cut that conversation short because they now know something about my country and not just because Angelina Jolie is here saving rhinos.

DIRECTOR

Perivi is a Namibian filmmaker and writer. He was born in Oxford, England to an English mother and a Namibian father. He moved to Namibia at the turn of Independence in 1990 and has since spent the majority of his life there. He holds a BA in Cinema, with a major in Directing and a minor in Screenwriting from Columbia College Hollywood. Perivi is the founder and co-owner of Old Location Films. He has written, produced and directed several short films. Together they have travelled to multiple international film festivals including: the Cannes Film Festival, Durban International Film Festival, Silicon Valley African Film Festival, Cinema Africano Verona in Italy and others.

In 2010 Perivi wrote, produced and directed the short *Love is...* which won three Namibia Film & Television awards, including Best Actress, Best Cinematography and Best Director for Perivi himself. In 2011 Perivi was selected to accompany a government delegation to Germany to film and produce a documentary on the return of skulls that were taken from Namibia during the colonial period.

In 2012 he wrote, produced, shot, directed and edited *My Beautiful Nightmare*. A short which won an award for Best Actress at the 2012 Namibia Film & Television awards. In 2013 the film went on to win the Radwan El-Kashef Independent Shabab Foundation Award at the Luxor African Film Festival as well as a Certificate of Special Recognition from the US House of Representatives in recognition of outstanding and invaluable service to the community.

He holds an MA in African Cinema from the University of Cape Town, and was recently appointed as Chairman of the Filmmakers Association of Namibia.

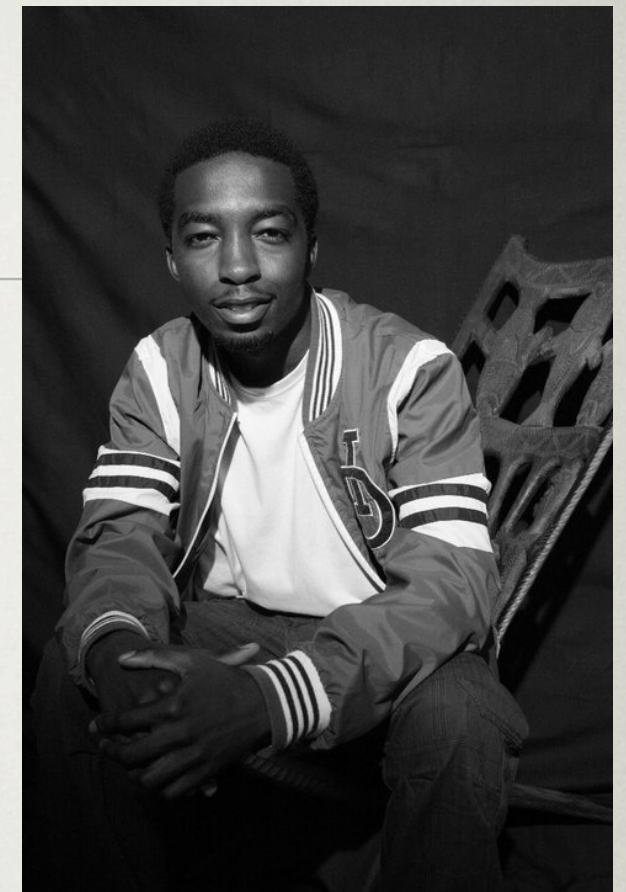


Perivi John Katjavivi

PRODUCER

Shalongo is a musician, film producer, businessman and IT specialist. He is the perfect example of the modern urban Namibian professional dabbling in a variety of different industries, effortlessly able to transition between different worlds and disciplines. Shalongo spent his childhood years between Ondangwa and Windhoek. His interest in the arts was nurtured at the tender age of 12 when he starred in the Sandy Rudd directed play "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, which headlined at the NTN. Later he would turn his love for performing arts into a music career, working both independently as well as with Run N.A.M.S. where he enjoyed success performing throughout Windhoek, most notably at the 2011 Windhoek Jazz Festival.

Shalongo then turned his intention to film, working closely with Old Location Films where he took on the role of Assistant Director on *Love is...* and *Eembwiti*. In 2012 he was one of the producers of the award winning short film *My Beautiful Nightmare*. Over the years Shalongo has help develop several IT and innovative businesses, most recently developing groundbreaking apps for telecommunication service providers.



Shalongo Nambala



CAST

Marcus

Sara

Anu

O

Nangula

Cecil Moller

Kala

The Guide

Malkovich Music

Becoming Phill

Sara's Brother

Antonio David Lyons

Senga Bockerhoff

Mathew Ishitile

Esther Beukes

Aino Moongo

Himself

Jean-Michael Tjirare

Shalongo Nambala

Himself

Himself

Virgilio De Sousa

CREW

Written & Directed by

Produced by

Perivi John Katjavivi

Ronald James

Cecil Moller

Shalongo Nambala

Perivi John Katjavivi

Associate Producer

Co Producer

Director of Photography

Edited by

Music by

Sound Recordist

Post Production Sound

First AC

Additional Photography

Gaffer

Spark

Antonio David Lyons

Pedro Mendoza

Antonius Tsuob

Khalid Shames s.a.g.e.

Tiago Correia-Paulo

Kauna Haobeb

Tshuutheni Emvula

Cobus Van Rooyen

Ben Allen

Angelo Viringa

Selvanus Valombola



SCREENINGS

Pan African Film Festival
(PAFF), Los Angeles USA

Oshana Regional Library,
Oshakati, Namibia

Luxor African Film Festival,
Egypt

Pan African Film Festival,
Cannes, France

Durban International Film
Festival, South Africa (In
Competition)

Alte Feste Colonial Fort,
Windhoek, Namibia