



NEO KEBIDITSWE

portfolio

Award Winning Creative, Former Lecturer, Writer,
Creative Facilitator in Theatre and Film

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About Me

Neo Kibiditswe is the 2022 Award Winner for Best Woman in Creativity, Innovation and Technology in Botswana and a former lecturer in Film Production Writing, Directing and Producing, with 10 years experience working in the Botswana creative industry, mainly in producing, coordinating and directing theatre, film and television shows.

In 2023, Neo received numerous accolades and industry recognition, namely but not limited to, KreAfrika delegate (Kenya), film premiers (London & Botswana, “Pauses and The Poor”) and the National Geographic Impact Storytelling Delegate. In 2022, Neo was the official scriptwriter for the National Arts Festival Ensemble Awards Ceremony for the Ministry of Youth, Gender, Sport and Culture, and is currently the steering committee member for the African Women Playwrights Network (2018 to present).

From 2020/2021, Neo worked alongside American Actor/Director/Producer, Denim Richards (Yellowstone series) and American Writer, Ryan Gibson (Criminal Minds), and co-wrote a pilot episode for the upcoming Mogapi TV series. Prior to her lecturing career, Neo produced lifestyle shows on Maru Television, along with other television shows that aired on Botswana Television (2019-2021).

Neo's acclaimed works of stage include ‘Domino’, published in the 2018 compilation, “The Devil Made Me Do it”, which narrated gender-based violence in Botswana. In 2018, her play Motlhala, which was amongst the top 10 African plays, and showcased at the Women Playwrights International Conference in Santiago, Chile. In 2015, her debut play Sokologa, showcased at the African Youth Festival in Cape Town, South Africa.



As a Writing and Directing Lecturer, Neo's key responsibilities were to teach Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 tertiary students about the art form of writing & editing scripts, treatments, outlines, story bibles, character biographies etc., for the screen. The art of screenwriting required theory and practical knowledge and application such as;

- the study of the three act story structure,
- story arcs, conflict, tension, theme
- character arcs,
- genre,
- writing dialogue,
- screenwriting software.

In directing, Neo's mandate was to assist her students in the art of form of visual storytelling; translating what is written on paper, into an audio-visual experience that will engage the audience. Directing is a discipline that required students to have a vision and a statement behind the intention of their films. Directing techniques may be vastly inspired by the west and European influences, but with African cinema, Neo's teachings aimed to impart the experience of an audience, from an African perspective through;

- Writing for the Medium,
- Story formatting,
- Cultural relevance,
- History of rituals and ceremonies,
- World of story.



Theatre

Neo started her writing career as a playwright, with theatre stage plays that have been successfully dramatized in Botswana, South Africa and Chile. Her debut stageplay, *Sokologa*, was performed at the Assitej African Youth Festival in Cape Town, South Africa, 2015. This was followed by the dramatization of *Motlhala* at the 2018 Maitisong Festival in Botswana, and 2019 in Chile. Neo's scripts are available on the New Play Exchange database, the world's leading database of theatre scripts by living writers. Furthermore, Neo's stageplay, *Domino*, is published in the Gender Based inspired compilation, "The Devil Made Me Do It". Apart from stage dramatizations, Neo has also written a number of scripts for community and corporate engagements such as workshops and launches.

Screen



Neo began writing for the screen whilst completing her Honors Degree in Writing and Directing with a writing credit in the short film *Hidden Scars* (2018), which showcased at the Namibian Film Festival (2019) and the Maun International Theatre Festival (2019). Neo is also the co-writer for the tv series , *Mogapi*, which recently completed a successful pilot shoot. Neo has also recently completed the writing and editing of a product launch script for a major parastatal in Botswana, that sort to increase its productivity and efficiency amongst its staff and procurement protocol. Furthermore, Neo has also written a number of scripts for digital content such for marketing and promotional awareness.



Neo is the co-writer of the pilot and TV series, Mogapi, along with Ryan Gibson and Denim Richards (USA)
www.khumostudios.co.bw





Certificate of Attendance
African Theatre Association
Conference 2023

Neo Kebiditswe

This document certifies that the delegate attended and participated in
**Performing Political Activisms: Racial Justice, Social
Justice, and Environmental Justice**
31 July – 2 August 2023

Department of Drama, Theatre and Dance
Royal Holloway, University of London
Egham, Surrey,
TW20 0EX
United Kingdom

royalholloway.ac.uk
africantheatreassociation.org/2023-conference

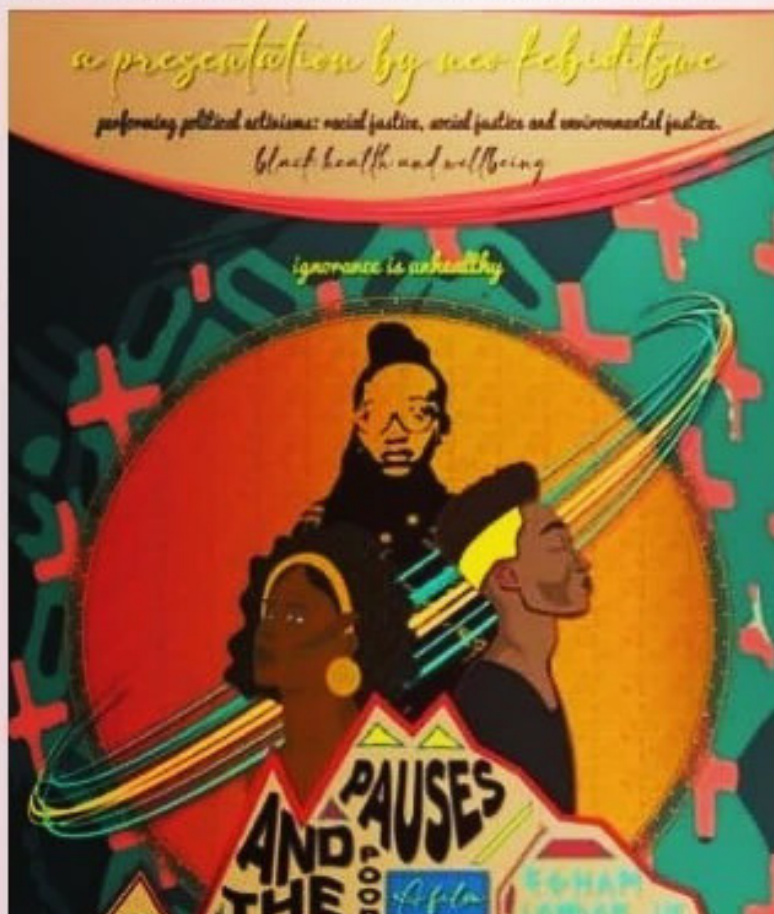


Neo premiered a preview of her short film, *Pauses And The Poor*, in London, UK, 2023
photos.google.com/share/AFIQipPw0q9Z5gWfpW9cZoGB-ruwbZG3Enui2C3ot2EliNj-yCSMcdFN2HoSX6_nAwyAg?key=SnhnWEdUWDZUMnIRcGhURHZ3MzJnR2dJNDQzUW9B



"Pauses and the Poor" To Premiere in London

The film tackles the sub-theme of black health and well-being under the directional theme of "Performing Political Activism: Racial Justice, Social Justice, and Environmental Justice"



raphy, sound, editing and performance designed to engage and entertain an audience that is eager to learn different cultures.

The story creates a picture of how a Motswana woman tries to achieve balance whilst confronting health and well-being challenges.

Viewers meet Kutlwano (starring Neo Kebiditswe), a woman who weaves her existence with the limited opportunities granted to her, alongside Lesedi (starring Prince Macheng), a Motswana man whose drive requires him to find purpose and settle down.

Ego showdown

The story takes place in the waiting area of a pharmacy where a delayed response increases a health risk, escalates to an ego showdown and uncomfortable conversations.

Pauses and the Poor suggests how a problem may be perceived as the responsibility of one party whilst the goal itself benefits all in the end as it suggests how more women could gain greater control over their health, bodies and well-being.

The story takes place in the waiting area of a pharmacy where a delayed response

<https://vimeo.com/859537284?share=copy>

Pauses And The Poor Short Film



Neo will oversee the local chapter of the African Women Playwrights Network Botswana

www.africanwomenplaywrightsnetwork.org



Neo was selected for the KreAfrika Entrepreneurship and Financing Training in Cultural and Creative Industries in Kenya (2023)

Facilitation



THE NEWS

The Goethe-Institut Johannesburg has commissioned Neo Lorato Kebiditswe in order to attend the Mitambo International Theatre Festival as a part of the delegation for the Goethe-Institut Moving Africa. The festival is to be held in Harare, Zimbabwe in September 2021. The Goethe-Institut is the cultural institute of the Federal Republic of Germany with a global reach.

Proudly Funded by



Mitambo International Theatre Festival | @neolovesbw | Neo Kebiditswe | Instagram | Twitter | Facebook

As a delegate, Neo was responsible for attending the Mitambo International Theatre Festival, and partake in numerous activities that explored art, culture and relevant conversations that seek to inspire thought and change.

The Mitambo International Theatre Festival being hosted by The Zimbabwe Theatre Academy, is an annual event that showcases a broad range of different forms of theatre performances, master classes and paper presentation. The festival was implemented by Zimbabwe Theatre Academy in partnership with the ITI -Network of Emerging Arts Professional and with support from Africalia, Reps Theatre, Zimbabwe Centre of the International Theatre Institute, UNESCO, University of Zimbabwe, National Arts Council of Zimbabwe and the International Theatre Institute - worldwide.



Neo co-facilitated the African Women Playwrights Network in Ghana, (Sept, 2022) The two-day festival featured various artistic activities such as: staged readings of carefully selected 10-minute plays which spoke to the theme of the festival, command performances, workshops, and discussions.



10 NEW PLAYS BY AFRICAN WOMEN
A FILM BY THE PLAYWRIGHT'S LABORATORY
AND
AFRICAN WOMEN PLAYWRIGHTS NETWORK

SCREENING



28 Nov. 22 | 6.30pm - 11.00pm

Africa Centre, Southwark

66 Great Suffolk Street, London, SE1 0BL



Sign up at : africanwomenplaywrights@gmail.com

Community Work

Neo Kebiditswe is the Botswana steering committee member for the African Women Playwrights Network (AWPN). It is an international network of over 500 African women creative practitioners from more than 21 countries on the African continent and various diasporas. It is a virtual community set up to develop and promote creative practices by women (or women-identifying people) with an African heritage or background, including playwriting, poetry and theatre-making both professionally and in community projects that take place across the globe.



https://youtu.be/vKkMWvBOLdo?si=clptX38N_v4kxGsv
The AWPN Festival Of Plays Documentary



Notable Achievements

Achievements / Accolades	Year	Organization & Country
Entrepreneurship and Financing Training In Cultural and Creative Industries (CCI)	2023	KreAfrika (Senghor University in partnership with Trace Academia, Heva Fund, and Campus AFD), Nairobi - Kenya
Short Film Premiere; “Pauses And The Poor” at Botswana International Film Festival	2023	Ministry of Youth, Gender, Sport & Culture, Gaborone - Botswana
Mosadi Writes Grant Finalist	2023	Bantu Film Festival, Gaborone - Botswana
Short Film Premiere; “Pauses And The Poor” at London, UK, guided by the theme ‘performing political activism: racial, social and environmental justice’	2023	African Theatre Association & African Women Playwrights Network, London-UK
Special Prize of The Senate	2023	Romanian Theatrical Union (Director in the Hektomeron Project), Romania
National Geographic Impact Storytelling Delegate	2023	National Geographic Society, Maun - Botswana
Best Woman in Creativity, Innovation and Technology	2022	Women Awards Botswana, Gaborone - Botswana
Visual And Technical Director at the African Women Playwrights Festival of Plays	2022	African Women Playwrights Network, Accra - Ghana
Official Scriptwriter for the National Arts Festival Ensemble	2022	Ministry of Youth, Gender, Sport and Culture, Gaborone - Botswana
Festival Delegate at the Mitambo International Theatre Festival	2021	Goethe-Institut, Harare - Zimbabwe
Nominee for Best Youth in Creative Arts	2021	Botswana National Youth Council, Gaborone - Botswana

Botswana Director in the Hektomeron Project	2021	Marin Sorescu Theatre, Craiova - Romania
Accreditation for TV Drama Writing	2019	Multichoice, Gaborone - Botswana
Student Short Film Festival Recognition, ' Hidden Scars', at the Namibian Film Festival	2019	Namibian Film Festival, Windhoek - Namibia
Short Film Festival Recognition, ' Hidden Scars', at the Maun International Theatre Festival	2019	Maun International Theatre Festival, Maun - Botswana
Top 10 African Playwright for Play reading	2018	Women International Playwrights, Santiago - Chile
Community Improvement Learning Session for Gaborone, Kgatleng and Kweneng East Districts	2017	USAID ASSIST Project, Gaborone - Botswana
Published Playwright for the play Domino, in the Compilation The Devil You Know, Sponsored by Stanbic Bank	2017	Petlo Literary Artists, Gaborone - Botswana
Grant Writer and Deputy Project Coordinator for the Arts Education For Development and Employment, funded by CIPA, P999,500	2017	CHIPABO, Gaborone - Botswana
Project Officer for the UBFACE project, funded by FNBB, P576, 775.00	2016	University of Botswana, Gaborone
Selected Playwright for Play Reading at the African Youth Festival	2015	ASSITEJ, Cape Town - South Africa
Recognized Performer at the Daemen College Academic and Literary Festival	2012	Daemen College, Buffalo - USA



Filmography & Set Gallery



On set of the Life Exchange Talk Show, at Coricraft, produced by Neo for Maru Television.



In house production set at Maru Television where Neo produced and directed in house programs.



Not only was Neo responsible for coordinating shoots, but she ensured location sponsorship and participated in giving back back to the community through the Maru TV corporate responsibility initiative.



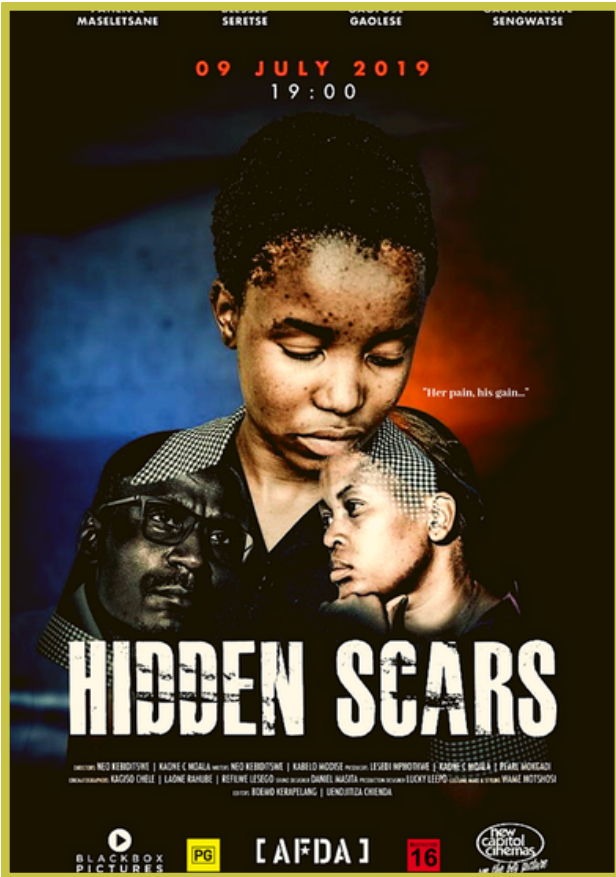
Amplified is a lifestyle show that Neo produced, created by Tshepo Lesole and ultimately commissioned by Botswana Television.



Neo produced Ultimate Motivational Speaker, created by Dr. Jongman and aired on Botswana Television.



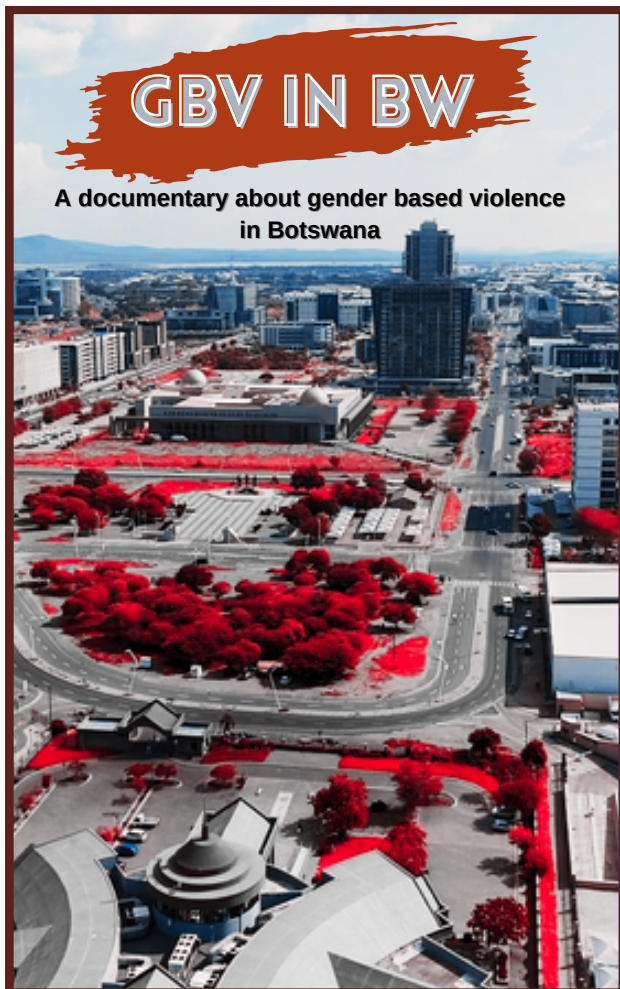
Neo produced Lizibo Live-The Dreamcatcher Music Competition.



Writer/Director



Writer/Director



Writer/ Producer



Writer/Director



Neo with other steering committee members of African Women Playwrights Network
www.africanwomenplaywrightsnetwork.org



Neo as lecturer with her former writing and directing film students
www.awilcollege.ac.bw



Neo at the Mitambo International Theatre Festival, Zimbabwe as the Goeth Institut delegate, 2022

www.facebook.com/mitambotheatre

<https://youtu.be/ZNH9GGnNa3c>



Neo with cast of her play Motlhala which underwent a dramatic play reading session at Santiago, Chile

https://youtu.be/vYQ6RJ_hHS8?si=qWtkP4EP0ouAe3-x



Women's Awards
Botswana

NEO KEBIDITSWE
2022

THEME: WE ARE CAPABLE & WE CAN

BEST WOMAN BUSINESS LEADER

*"not everyone
can become a
great artist,
but a great
artist can come
from anywhere".*



NEB