

WHAT'S NEXT?

student film, 8:30, United States, 2015

Tagline: What would you say to yourself after falling down?

Synopsis 1: A man's life has suddenly changed for the worse. The answer on how to keep moving forward might come in his own dream and from an odd being who seems to know this man pretty good.

Synopsis 2: It's Leo's dream. Therefore, anything can happen. After going through a very complicated time, Leo has enough reasons to feel totally defeated, but the appearance of a strange being forces Leo to reconsider his attitude towards the present and face what's coming in the future days.



Cast and crew bios and their statements about the film



Director - Denise Khumalo

Denise Ntombikayise Khumalo was born in Harare, Zimbabwe where she discovered her passion for film and entertainment. Denise is an extremely passionate individual who meets each challenge in life with exuberance. Her ability to communicate and connect with people is evident in her work and everyday life. She truly stands out because of her genuine kindness and concern for those around her.

“What's Next is a story of how people feel on a daily basis, the constant battle you face within. You can either choose to let it take over or overcome it. My goal was to show this in a unique way”.

Cast and crew bios and their statements about the film



Writer, Actor (Leo/Sila 5), Composer, Editor, Casting Director, Sound Mixer - Fernando Sambora

Originally from Quito, Ecuador, the actor/musician Fernando Sambora has discovered that telling stories is the best way to live. For him, it's not only about the films themselves but also about getting to know what human beings are able to do in their very deep unique essence. Working on films and composing allow him to identify where his main motivation source lies and to share his perspective on the tackled themes.

“'What's Next?' is a story about loving yourself. The kind of love that we need to get up and keep moving forward, especially after going through tough times. It's depicted through a Leo's encounter with his alter self that will help him remember what's truly essential in life. This movie was born from the sensation of loss that we all have experienced at some point”.

Cast and crew bios and their statements about the film



Producer, Casting Director - Kseniya Yorsh

Kseniya Yorsh came to filmmaking with a degree in diplomacy, 2 years of business experience, and a life-long practice in writing. As a producer, she brings together talented people with a strong synergy and organizes a creative environment for them to thrive. She puts heart and hard work into projects she believes in and brings them to as big of an audience as possible.

“We filmed ‘What’s Next?’ as an experimental collaboration between friends from New York Film Academy in Los Angeles. Fernando wrote it, approached me, and together we found the director who responded to the material the same way we both felt it. Then we got on board people who supported our vision, and gave freedom to our creativity. The result was this film”

Cast and crew bios and their statements about the film



Actress (Sila 1) - Laura Ollikainen

Laura Ollikainen, born in Oulu, Finland, is an earnest actress with a dancing and singing background. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Drama & Performance from Worcester University, UK, and has an MFA degree in Acting for Film from the New York Film Academy, LA. Laura is enthusiastic about learning new skills and facing challenges in her acting.

In her previous work, Laura played the leading role in the short film *Promotion* (2015), which she also wrote and co-produced. Further she played the lead in *The Drawer* (2014). In her future endeavors, she is looking forward to work in feature films and TV series.

Cast and crew bios and their statements about the film



Actress (Sila 4) - Ina Rose Farestad

Ina Rose Farestad decided to pursue acting after graduating with a Masters of Science in Political Science realizing it is never too late to go after one's true desires. "Nothing will take priority over my career, auditions, training and preparation. It comes first. Working on What's Next was a great experience. Fernando had gotten together a wonderful team of creative people."

"'What's Next?' for me is about keeping up the search for a way out when everything seems impossible, and the moment of joy when new hope is instilled. In life, it can be frustrating to provide help to someone who won't help himself, but it is vital to keep trying. A breakthrough may come from where you least expect it".

Cast and crew bios and their statements about the film



Script supervisor - Olabisi Kovabel

Olabisi Kovabel discovered an interest for the film industry through acting. Being an actor helps with enhancing the attention to detail, taking more precise and organized notes, and developing communication skills, that is essential for being a Script Supervisor. Obtaining an understanding of the goals a director wants to achieve through their POV, already having a connection with other actors, and possessing a friendly, outgoing personality allows Olabisi to take on the role of

Script Supervisor. "Any task can be tackled and conquered, if one just puts forth the effort, and hard-work that's asked for".

In previous work, Olabisi was a Script Supervisor for "Unorthodox (2015)" and played the leading role in "Euripides' Medea (2014)" and "Arabian Nights (2012)."

Awards and screenings







1. InterShort Online Film Awards - Winner, September 2015 - Best Short Film, Best Director
2. Los Angeles CineFest - Official Selection, September 2015
3. Miami Independent Film Festival - Official Selection, Monthly Edition August 2015 - Student Film
4. Roma Cinema DOC - Official Selection, August 2015 - Student Film
5. Blackbird Film Fest - Non-Competitive Official Selection, 2015
6. Broken Knuckle Film Festival - Official Selection, 2015 - Slamin Short
7. The Best Film Fest - Official Selection, 2016
8. Silver Dollar Film Festival - Official Selection, 2016
9. Ozark Shorts - Official Selection, 2016 - Short Films
10. IndieWise - Official Selection, 2016