

LUNTU MASIZA

FRANCOIS IMMELMAN

THERE'S THE LAW. AND THEN THERE'S JUSTICE

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT



UBUNTU DIASPORA FILMS PRESENTS A SHORT FILM PRODUCTION. WRITTEN BY MIKE VAN GRAAN, DIRECTED BY MBULELO GROOTBLOOM & LUNTU MASIZA
PRODUCED BY ALEXIS BURG. DOP ALEXANDRE ORTSCHKEIT. PRODUCTION DESIGN ALEXIS BURG. STYLE & MAKEUP SAMANTHA CARLISLE
VIDEO EDITOR ALEXANDER LA COCK. SOUND DESIGN SKYYE. MUSIC COMPOSER BONGANI MASHABA. GRAPHIC DESIGNER GIBRIEL MANSARAY

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1. CONTACT DETAILS

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1. LOGLINE

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There's the law. Then there's justice.

2. SHORT SYNOPSIS

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The actions of that same friend that once empowered a young activist to honour and serve the rule of law – has now forced him to question his own promise to use the law to bring justice.

3. FULL SYNOPSIS

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Some Mothers' Sons is an adaptation of Mike Van Graan's renowned play. Set in jail cells twenty years apart, Some Mothers' Sons juxtaposes the experiences of two friends, Vusi Mataboge and Braam Visser. Whilst Vusi and Braam come from different backgrounds they manage to help each other navigate both the legal and personal landscape of their respective imprisonments. Although strained at first, their relationship is strengthened as they learn to lean on each other through the traumatic circumstances surrounding their separate arrests.

4. CREDIT LIST

CAST

Vusi Matebula	Luntu Masiza
Braam Visser	Francois Immelman
Renee Visser	Samantha Carlisle
Bongi Matebula	Zandile Madliwa
Police Detective	Nhlanha Den Mkhwanazi
Criminal 1	Mbulelo Grootboom
Criminal 2	Peter Don Chibumba
Criminal 3	Uzusiphe Nkuzo
Judge	Anne - Marie Immelman
Police Officer	Given Mkhondo
Vusi's Daughter	Gemma - leigh Mazumba

CREW

Some Mothers' Son Playwright	Mike Van Graan
Screenplay Adaptation	Mbulelo Grootboom Luntu Masiza Alexandre Ortscheit Adam Hansen
Director	Mbulelo Grootboom Luntu Masiza Alexandre Ortscheit
Producer	Luntu Masiza Alexis Burg Alexandre Ortscheit
Executive Producer	Mike Van Graan Luntu Masiza Alexandre Ortscheit

Production Manager

Alexis Burg

CAMERA DEPARTMENT

Director of Photography

Alexandre Ortscheit

1st Assistant Camera

Kenny Wong

1st Assistant Camera

Fuad Casker

2nd Assistant Camera

Skyla Haley

2nd Assistant Camera

Christiaan Du Toit

Digital Imaging Technician (DIT)

Yasseen Hanslo

LIGHTING

Captain Kilowatt Film and Television

Gaffer

Danny Smart

Best Boy

Lucas Manielle

Best Boy

Tell Reid

Spark

Zaid Lagadien

Spark

Tristan Peel

PRODUCTION SOUND

Sound Mixer

Maccoh Pingiriasi

Sound Mixer

Tauya Mpofo

PRODUCTION DESIGN

Art Director

Alexis Burg

Makeup and Special Effects Artist

Samantha Carlisle

Wardrobe

Alexis Burg
Samantha Carlisle

POST PRODUCTION

Post Production Manager

Alexandre Ortscheit

Editor

Alexander la Cock

Assistant Editor

Joshua La Grange

Assistant Editor

Dieter Van Der Verwe

Post Production Sound

Skyye Collective

Final Mix

Tapiwa Muchirahondo

Sound Design

Lwazi Mpoko

Music Composition

Bongani Mashaba

Behind the scenes

Joshua La Grange
Felix Robert Koelble

Digital Content

Gibriel Mansary
Peter Don Chibumba

SPECIAL THANKS



Western Cape Courts

Annemarie Immelman

Danny Smart

Adam Hansen

Ikopia Productions

Nicol Dippenaar
Gareth Place

Nasiphi Mkiva - Nia Azuri Guest House

Sinazo Goduka - Catering

Susan Wildish

Skyye Collective

5. DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Mike Van Graan's play *Some Mother's Sons* was relevant in the South Africa in which it found us in 2015. It is arguably even more relevant today. The work is thought – provoking, it speaks to our society and it asks questions of each of us. When the unexpected challenge of adapting the play from theatre to film occurred, the project's creative team knew that our primary focus should be the effect of crime on an ordinary South African citizen. We focused our quest on finding the honest humanity of each of the two characters and on inspiring each audience member to do the same of themselves. It goes without saying that each of the creatives involved had that very same homework. It is a film about real lives, real families and real people. It inspires crucial conversations surrounding the complex relationship between law and justice.



6. TEAM

Mike van Graan

Mike van Graan is a South African playwright with 35 plays under his belt. The screen adaptation of *Some Mothers' Sons* has been an incredible honour to the creatives involved in the cinematic adaptation. He is a powerful icon within South Africa's theatrical history, an important voice amidst the turbulent reality that we currently find ourselves in, and an inspiring vision as we move forward.

A 2006 Cape Times Review of the play by Rafiek Mammont expresses the application of Mike van Graan's talent perfectly - and it shed's light on the play's poignant current relevance.

"As usual, award - winning Van Graan does not disappoint with the pen. He is someone who can push the personal/political envelope and compel an audience to engage with his work.

His intelligent texts come from right under the thumb he has so firmly planted on the political pulse of our country, with sharp, fast-paced dialogue. He is one of the few playwrights who, through his plays, tests and challenges our principles – both personally and politically. *Some Mothers' Sons* is *The Crucible's* John Proctor stuff – universally apposite with a characteristically South African flavour".

Luntu Masiza

Luntu is a South African actor and entrepreneur. He was born in Pietermaritzburg but moved to England at the age of ten. Luntu is the Founder of *Changing Your Business Through Theatre*, a company that offers an innovative theatre and team building workshop method to build staff confidence, interpersonal abilities and other soft skills in customer driven environments.

Luntu is an AFDA alumnus, graduating in March 2018 with a BA in Live Performance. His performance has been recognized by audiences and critics locally and internationally. Some of his accolades include the Fleur Du Cup for Best Promising Student in the Western Cape, the Setkani/Encounter Theatre Director's Special Award (Czech Republic) and Best Male Performance on a stage production and Best Male Performance in a television production at AFDA (The South African School of Motion Picture Medium and Live Performance). He's had the opportunity to experience different aspects of performing arts ranging from acting, scriptwriting, producing and directing. He was a co-founder of a production company called 'Kmedia Films' in London. Luntu is strongly passionate about the arts and empowering other artists telling their own stories that will reflect and have an impact in society.

Alexandre Ortscheit

Alexandre was born in France and raised in Cape Town South Africa. He completed his BA in motion picture and medium in 2017 at AFDA Cape Town, with a major in cinematography. Since then, he has been working in the Cape Town film industry within the camera department as a clapper/loader and sometimes focus puller on numerous TV commercials and feature films. He is currently represented by Radical Crew agency. His DOP and videography work currently includes various short films & fashion films and music videos. Some of his work includes two AFDA Honours productions. *Mapenzi Ya Dhati* (2018) - directed by Muendo Mullei Muindi, and *Confessions* (2019) - directed by Cameron Lawry. In his experiences as a camera assistant, Alexandre has had the privilege to learn from directors of photography Mathias Boucard AFC, Deon Van Zyl, Gareth Place, Rick Joaquim SASC, and Eugenio Galli SASC. Alex's achievements in cinematography first led him to winning the award for Best Cinematographer for his work on "O-Puncha" (2017) directed by Adam Hansen, his graduation film at AFDA. Another collaboration with his fellow AFDA alumnis led them to win the Fitch & Leedes Best Movie Award at the 2019 Bokeh Fashion Film Festival. Alexandre's first international award was for Best Cinematography at the London Fashion Film Festival 2019, for his work on the fashion film "Connect" (2018).

Website & showreel: <http://alex.ortscheit.com/>

Mbulelo Grootboom

Mbulelo Grootboom is a powerful creative force, both on the screen and in command as a Debut Director with a clear vision. He is a multi award- winning actor in South Africa best known for his role as Tony in the 2009 comedy feature film *White Wedding*, directed by Jann Turner. On television he acted in the 2007 mini-series *Stellenbosch* and in the SABC1 mini-series *Forced Love*, in 2012. *Forced Love* (originally known as *Goba Msenge*) is an adaptation of Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*, set in a contemporary South African setting. He also had a starring role in the SABC1 political thriller *Ihawu le Sizwe*, in 2014. In 2015 he had a starring role in the e.tv drama series *Z'bondiwe* as Ntlonipho 'Killer' Nxasana, a violent, merciless gangster who kidnaps his old girlfriend, setting in motion the events of the series. Active in theatre, Mbulelo is also a member of New Africa Theatre Association.

Alexis Burg

Alexis Burg is an accomplished Story Producer with a passion for the relationship between Story and Law. She received a scholarship to attend The Vancouver Film School in Vancouver, Canada, and was the only student to have had both of her scripts chosen for production. After returning home to South Africa, she has created a variety of award winning content. Examples include *The Ellen Pakkies Story* for *The Crime and Investigation Channel*, which recieved the *South African Film and Television (SAFTA) Journalist of the Year Award*, *The Iceland on Inspiration* television series won the *SAFTA Award for The Best Reality Television Series*. *The Rocket Man* which achieved the Cannes Award. Alexis has produced stories for the *Carte Blanche*, the South African investigative journalism icon. This prompted Alexis to achieve an LLB Legal Degree from The University of Cape Town.

7. THEMES

Violence

We live in an increasingly violent society both in a South Africa and globally. Locally, the scars of Apartheid are still seen today. Some Mothers' Sons focuses on both the inherent violence experienced by people of color during Apartheid– specifically looking at the mistreatment of Vusi while being held in a detention facility– as well as the violence of post-apartheid South Africa, focusing on the violent murder of Braam's pregnant wife by three black men and the subsequent murder of two of these men by Braam himself. It subtly explores the way in which the violence and systemic, institutionalized racism of Apartheid created a breeding ground for the violence we see today through the oppression of people of color. Internationally, the theme of violence (and specifically its link to the oppression of people of color) resonates through movements such as the Black Lives Matter movement. The tragic and horrific murders of people like George Floyd and Breona Taylor as well as the local murder of Collins Khosa serve as a reminder of the way in which systems of oppression– whether they “ended” 400 years ago or 26 years ago– still negatively impact the communities they oppressed on a systemic level.

Law versus Justice

Post-Apartheid South Africa is famous for having one of the most progressive constitutions in the world. This constitution was drafted in an attempt to not only correct the blatant crimes against humanity that were committed during the apartheid era, it was drafted to actively correct the social and economic disadvantage Apartheid created for people of color.

However, as progressive as our laws are, their still seems to be little to no justice. This is a vital theme throughout the play. We intend to focus on the way in which the dissociation between law and justice affects human life. We can all throw out statistics and quote articles but, whilst criminal statistics are an aspect of the play, at its core this play is about people. Its about the way in which the scars of apartheid, the failing criminal justice system, and the failed implementation of the constitution affect actual human life. The human beings who suffer as a result of these failures are our mothers, fathers, sons and daughters, not just statistics.