





AUDI
ROWA

ZHANG
RENQUAN

IRUNGU
MUTU

Leaving Isiolo

Running Time:

15 minutes

Directed By:

Irungu Mutu

Written By:

Irungu Mutu

Produced By:

Loui Terrier

Wanzilu Maingi

Production Company:

Panda Productions

Edited by:

Victoria C. Page

Cinematographer:

Joan Poggio

Original Music Composer:

Wynne Bennett

A film by
Irungu Mutu

PANDA PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

"LEAVING ISILOLO" AUUDI ROWA ZHANG RENQUAN AND IRUNGU MUTU

WRITTEN BY JOAN POGGIO AND VICTORIA C. PAGE DIRECTED BY DALE KOTENGO COSTUME DESIGNER KLIERI GATHERU MUSIC BY WYNNE BENNETT EDITOR CISBURG SMALEK EXECUTIVE PRODUCER AYO J. JACKSON

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS WANGECHI MUTU, MARIO LAZZARONI AND IRUNGU MUTU EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JOSHUA TROJAK PRODUCED BY LOUI TERRIER AND WANZILU MAINGI WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY IRUNGU MUTU

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LOGLINE

In and around the border-town of Isiolo, in East Africa, a young Kenyan businesswoman and a young Chinese miner prepare to leave town to begin their new life together - meeting at their favorite restaurant for one last meal.

SYNOPSIS

ACT I: A young man, Lee, bids farewell to his two best friends. They all work for a mining company in desolate, northern Kenya. Lee has had enough of repeated abuse from a fellow co-worker.

ACT II: In Isiolo town, Ciiku, a young business woman finishes balancing the books for her boss - a regional crime lord. She hands in her resignation notice to him.

ACT III: Ciiku and Lee meet up at their favorite restaurant for one last meal. They plan to hit the road to embark on their new life together in a small, gorgeous beach town in Kenya. Three unexpected guests arrive and raise havoc.

OUR STORY

“Leaving Isiolo” is a neo-western crime drama, and a story of illicit love between a woman, Ciiku (Auudi Rowa), and a man, Lee (Troy Zhang). When the pair try to escape to build their new life together, she from her job balancing the books for the regional crime lord, and he from an abusive co-worker at a Chinese mining company, Isiolo becomes a very dangerous place for them both. How far will they go to be together?

With the most diverse cast and crew that I've ever been a part of, we shot this incredible short film over three and a half days in February & August 2020. Picture editing was completed in LA in the fall of 2020, sound design in NYC that winter, and we completed post in Nairobi, spring of 2021.





Auudi Rowa as ***Ciiku Owiro***

Auudi is a rising star and in her last year of college at USIU-Nairobi Campus. She has already amassed a formidable resume of work in both TV, Theater & film. She brought an incredible pillar of strength and vulnerability to Ciiku.



Zhang 'Troy' Renquan as ***Lee***

Troy was an absolute joy to find and work with. He has a heart of gold. This is his first professional acting job. Based in East Africa for almost a decade now, he runs two businesses in Nairobi with his phenomenal wife.



Irungu Mutu as ***Mr. Musa***

Irungu was incredibly blessed to play the role of Musa. A challenging and exciting role, not found in the feature length screenplay. He is a highly accomplished actor of both TV, film and stage. He's based in Los Angeles.

DIRECTOR, Irungu Mutu

Irungu grew up in the cosmopolitan African city of Nairobi, Kenya, went to University in the United States, and now splits his time between the two. As a result, whether as an actor on stage, film, and television or now as a first-time filmmaker, he is drawn to stories that explore the relationship of the African continent to the modern world. He's fascinated by the migration of different peoples, and how they interact with others inhabiting that same space.

Irungu and his team are extremely humbled they got to shoot, edit and complete this film during the COVID-19 pandemic. We shot over three days in February and August 2020. Post-production was split between Los Angeles and New York City.

“Leaving Isiolo” stands alone as a short film, but it's also a study for a 6-episode series now in development. Enjoy my directorial debut!



PRODUCER, Loui Terrier

Loui is a fantastic producer and polymath: accomplished fiction and documentary filmmaker, visual artist, drummer, just to name a few. He is incredibly resourceful and forward thinking. He has travelled the world with various projects. He and his family are based in Brooklyn.



PRODUCER, Wanzilu Maingi

Wanzilu has spent a dozen years producing in the entertainment and media industry in Kenya. She has worked on local and international productions for national and global studios, such as Film Studios Kenya, ARD German TV, BBC, CCTV International, to name a few. She is currently based in the Georgia, USA, with her family.



CINEMATOGRAPHER, Joan Poggio

Joan is an internationally awarded, independent director, cameraman, editor, and colorist born and raised in Colombia. In 2004, whilst filming a series for Animal Planet in Kenya, his heart was captivated forever by the land. He lives in Nairobi with his family, while traveling consistently around the globe.





ACCOLADES

Awards/Nominations:

- Zanzibar Intl FF 2022 >> Ousmane Sembene Award Nominee
- International Black Film Festival 2021 >> Best Intl. Film
- Pan African Film Fest 2022 >> Best Short Narrative Nominee
- Big Apple Film Festival 2022 >> Quarter Finalist
- Prague Intl. Indie Film Fest-3rd Qtr 2021 >> Best Supp. Actor

Official Selection:

- BronzeLens Film Festival Atlanta 2022
- African Film Festival Atlanta 2021
- NBO Film Festival 2021
- New Faces New Voices, 2021 Fall Edition
- London Lift-Off Film Festival 2021
- San Francisco Indie Short Festival, May 2021

CREDITS

Directed by:

Irungu Mutu

Written by:

Irungu Mutu

Produced by:

**Loui Terrier
Wanzilu Maingi**

Director of Photography

Joan Poggio

Production Designer

Dale Koten'go

Editor

Victoria Page

Costume Designer

Njeri Gatheru

Hair & Make-up Designer

Njeri Gatheru

Choreography

Ayo Jackson

Original Music by

Wynne Bennett

Executive Producers

**Wangechi Mutu
Mario Lazzaroni
Irungu Mutu**



CAST

Auudi Rowa

Zhang 'Troy' Renquan

Irungu Mutu

Zhao 'James' Chuangzao

Zhao 'Mocha' Jiajie

Agatha Jamari

William Mwangi

Cynthia Muthogi

Meriwas Ray

Ciiku Owiro

Lee

Mr. Musa

Chang

Fong

Henchwoman

Henchman

Hannah, the waitress

Motorcycle taxi driver



Assistant Camera:
Grip & Gaffer
Still Photographer:
Location Scout:

Jackson Kang'ethe
Onesmus Karanja
Kamweti Mutu
Wilson Maina

EPK:
End Credits:

StudioBinder
End Crawl

Sound Recordist:
Sound Recordist:
Sound Designer:
Additional Percussion:
Violin & Viola:

Grishon Onyango
Bilal Hamisi Chalo
Gisburg Smialek
Guillermo Brown
Stephanie Matthews

Production Runner:
Production Assistant:
Production Assistant:

John 'Geech' Mbugua
Ian Kabugi
Mark Kuria

Weaponry:
Local Fixer:
Local Fixer:

Ainea OJ
George Kariuki
Charles Gachanga

Associate Producer;:
Associate Producer:
Associate Producer:
Coordinating Producer:

Joshua Trojak
Wambura Mutu
Mutu Gethoi
Arthur Sanya Muiruri

Grip Equipment:
Lighting Equipment:

Kenya Grips, NBI Bus
Kenya Grips

Art Department:
Carpenter:
Make-up & Hair Artist:
Digital Colorist:
Foley Artist:

Loui T. & Dale K.
J. Maina Kingara
Njeri 'Leeze' Gatheru
Joan Poggio
Loui T. & Gisburg S.

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