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TO LIVE, HE DARED DEATH.

A film by Wanjiru M. Njendu

B**O****X****D**

LOGLINE

A fictionalized short film based on the true story of the terrifying, daring escape of Henry "Box" Brown, who used creativity to escape from slavery in 1849 by mailing himself to freedom.



[Narrative Short]

Running Time: **6.09 minutes**

Written, Produced & Directed By: **Wanjiru Njendu**

Associate *Produced By:*

Benjamin A. Onyango

Maggie Manyan

Production Company: **Magic Works Productions**

Edited by: **Hanna Sturwold**

Cinematographer: **Bongani Mlambo**

Composer: **Dara Taylor**

Website: <https://www.boxedthefilm.com/>

Contact: wanjiru@magicworksproduction.com



Director's statement



The idea for *Boxed* came about via chance encounter I had with Karyn Parsons (*Fresh Prince of Bel Air*, *Major Payne*) at the 2018 Hollywood Creative Forum. Karyn runs a company Sweet Blackberry that teaches children Black History via animation. The first story they did was Henry Brown's.

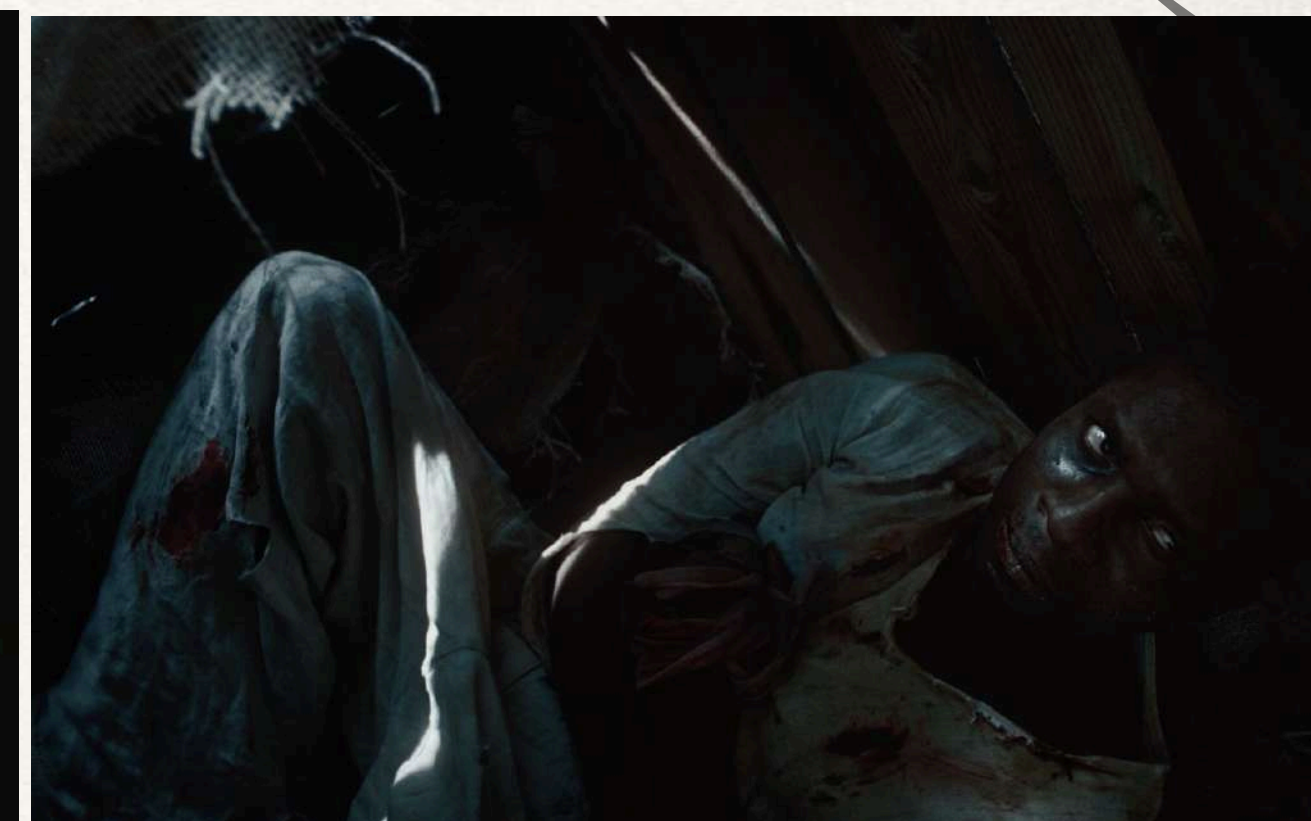
I latched onto the idea of telling Henry's story, but as a psychological thriller with the audience in the box with him for the duration of his trip. I thought inside the box.

I wrote the script on March 5th and on March 18th wrapped production 3 days before I underwent a surgical procedure. During my recovery time at home I worked remotely with my post team to complete the film.

The film was shot MOS on location with all voice, ADR and sound recorded and designed in post-production to enable us to capture the authenticity of the time period and the fear that Henry would have gone through during this treacherous journey.



PRODUCTION STILLS



BEHIND THE SCENES



WRITER, PRODUCER, DIRECTOR

Wanjiru M.Njendu



Wanjiru Njendu is an award-winning filmmaker whose creative imagination earned her the nickname '**Magic**' at a young age.

Her award-winning short film **Boxed** has played almost 200 film festival selections, with numerous wins and nominations. **Boxed** was selected for the **2021-2022 Nuits en Or - Académie des César**. Her other films have played in almost 100 Festivals.

Boxed won **Best Short Film At the Hague Global Film Festival** and the 2021 African Movie Academy Award. Among other numerous wins and nominations, **Boxed** was also honored with the **2021 Abraham Lincoln Award for Best film on Liberty and Equality** by the Chicago International Indie Film Festival that is organized by the American Film Society. Wanjiru was honored by the Roxbury International Film Festival with the **2021 Rox Vision Award**.

Wanjiru directed a horror short *Stray*, which was acquired by 20th Digital Studios with a feature option, and she was the shadowing director on the Netflix series *Daybreak*.

During the pandemic she filmed a climate action docs-series created by her sister *Built for Good Africa* featuring Green Buildings in Africa. She is currently developing several scripted film and television projects. Wanjiru is attached to several feature film projects set to be announced as a director.

Wanjiru is a member of the **Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences** (Oscars).

<https://magicworksproduction.com/>

Production team

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER: Benjamin A. Onyango



Benjamin Alfred Onyango left his native country Kenya to pursue further studies in the United States of America. After graduation, he relocated to Hollywood, California to pursue a career in Music and Acting. After a few years with Funk Rock band P.F.O. and part-time acting, he made the decision to be a full-time actor.

Since then he has worked on numerous feature films and TV shows. His TV credits include *General Hospital*, *The Shield* and *The X-files*.

His Film credits include the following: *The God's not dead Trilogy films*, *Tears of the sun*, *Heavenly Deposit*, *Beautifully Broken*, *Father Africa*, *The Boy*, *Road to redemption*, *Default*, *Kwame*, *Chains*, *Thunder chance*, *The disciple*, *American Crude* and *The Terminal*.

His knowledge of and fluency in the Swahili language has landed him voice acting and ADR roles in many Hollywood films including: *the Last face*, *Furious 7*, *Constantine*, *Night at the museum I & III*, *Machine gun preacher*, *Inception*, *The day the earth stood still*, *Primeval*, *League of extraordinary gentlemen*, *The path to 911*, *Mighty joe young*, *E-ring*.

His TV writing credits include: TV Series *The Wives*, *Dysfunctionally Organized*(web series), *Two World* (Not released).

His film writing credits include: Short Films *Mind Tricks* and *Curse of devil's mountain*, a feature length movie *Cheza (Dance)* and a feature length Sci-Fi, *Original Man*.

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER: Maggie Manyan

Maggie Manyan is a Russian-born, Angeleno-raised actor/director/producer. She has been a part of many film and theatre productions as an actor and is excited to be on the other side for *BOXED*. She is thrilled to be working with Wanjiru Njendu on this amazingly written and directed film. She hopes to continue working with Wanjiru in telling important stories like this one.



Production team

CINEMATOGRAPHER / CO-PRODUCER): Bongani Mlambo

Bongani Mlambo is a Zimbabwean South African cinematographer based in Los Angeles obsessed with telling visually creative and compelling stories and exploring the world.

Bongani's recent projects include All Creatures directed by Collin Schiffli, starring David Dastmalchian (Blade Runner 2049, The Dark Knight) and Karen Gillan (Guardians of the Galaxy, Jumanji); Three Days In August by Johnathan Brownlee; Upstream Color by Shane Carruth; and Woodshock starring Kirsten Dunst. His work has won awards at the NBC Universal Short Film Festival, SXSW, and numerous other festivals and he is a 2018 Film Independent Project Involve Fellow.

Beyond his artistic pursuits, Bongani loves to dance, drum, and ponder on social issues and the meaning of life. He is passionate about sharing his knowledge and talents and plans to establish an arts & film school in Zimbabwe, inspiring and helping the next generation of Africans to pursue their dreams in the visual and performing arts. [Website](#)



PRODUCTION DESIGNER: Makenzi Jordan

Makenzie knew from a young age that she would be a designer. It wasn't until 4 years ago she realized she wanted to work in the film industry and design sets. Driven by a strong passion for interior design and architecture working in TV & film has opened up even more creative doors for her as both as Production Designer and Art Director.

She loves wearing multiple hats in her career, not just as a designer. Her motto is "I learned if you work in a career you're passionate about you will thrive." Makenzie was core to creating the claustrophobic space that was BOXED bringing an authentic look and feel that will pull audiences right back to 1849 in the film.



ADD'TL PRODUCTION DESIGN, Brittany Ingram

Brittany is an Asian-American production designer dedicated to transforming visually stimulating stories into real physical worlds. Much of her film work has been recognized by a unique look and style that is distinctive and memorable. In the first five years of her career, Brittany has designed 9 features, 12 shorts, as well as numerous music videos and commercials. Commercial clients include Lays, Ziegenbock, Ford, Pizza Patron, Suave, Valero and many more. In between ad work, Brittany explores new stories in narrative genres. She recently designed Puppet Master: The Littlest Reich starring Tom Lennon, a re-boot to the original cult classic, and 1985 starring Corey Michael Smith and Virginia Madsen, which premiered at SXSW 2018.



Production team

EDITOR: Hanna Sturwold

Hanna is an editor based in Los Angeles working locally and worldwide. Although born and raised in Chicago, her inner sun worshiper was not to be denied; so she packed her midwestern work ethic and traveled west. Since then Hanna has cut for brands such as Footlocker, Disney, Amazon, and Gucci.

A storyteller at heart, she brings a level of cinema into each edit. Hanna travels, hits the trails, cycles around the globe, and soaks in the world. Living life fully elevates the energy of her work.

During COVID-19, Hanna saw some of her collabs shut down their studio doors and move onward to remote workflow. Although it's awesome we can work remote, there's something special working as a team together. This sparked the opening of Hustler Editorial — a post production + creative studio rental — to preserve in-person collaboration in our post-pandemic world.



COMPOSER: Dara Taylor

Dara Taylor emerged as a fresh voice in the world of scoring music to picture as evidenced by her score to the Lionsgate comedy *Barb and Star Go To Vista Del Mar* starring Kristen Wiig and Jamie Dornan, co-composed with Christopher Lennertz. Her credits include the action crime drama *Echo Boomers* starring Michael Shannon, the Universal Animation feature *Curious George: Cape Ahoy*, the Warner Brothers series *Little Ellen*, the Netflix series *Bookmarks*, the Netflix docuseries *Trial By Media*, the FX series *Pride*, and the Karen Allen-starred film *Colewell*, for which she won a 2019 Hollywood Music in Media award.

As a score producer and composer for Chris Lennertz, Dara has contributed to major motion picture films and series including *Bad Moms*, the action-comedy sequel *Shaft*, **Amazon's** highly acclaimed television series *The Boys*, **Netflix's** sci-fi series *Lost in Space*, *The Happytime Murders*, *Uglydolls*, and the long-running **CW** show *Supernatural*. In 2015, Dara was nominated for a Hollywood Music in Media Award for her score on the short film *Undetectable*, and in 2016, she participated in the Women in Film's Women Composers in Media concert. In 2018, Dara was chosen as a fellow for the **Sundance Institute Composers Lab** and the following year she was chosen as one of the BMI Conducting for Composers Fellows. In 2021 she was chosen for both the Grammy NEXT program and the coveted Universal Composers Initiative.

Dara scored Amazon Studio's **The Tender Bar**, directed by Academy Award-winning filmmaker **George Clooney**.

<https://www.darataylor.com/>



CAST



Adetokumboh M'Cormack

Henry "Box" Brown

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0530771>



Gregor Manns

Hunter/ Port Police (Voices)

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1048035>



Peres Owino

Woman (Voice)

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1381185>



Emerson Gregori

Samuel / Man 2 (Voices)

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm5421438>



William Joseph Hill

*Wagon Driver / Steamboat crew
(Voices)*

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0384069>



Mikey Kettinger

Passmore Williamson (Voice)

www.mikeykettinger.com



CREDITS

Written, Produced & Directed by: **Wanjiru M. Njendu**

Associate Producers

Benjamin A. Onyango

Maggie Manyan

Director of Photography/ Co-Producer **Bongani Mlambo**

Production Designer **Makenzi Jordan**

Production Designer(additional) **Brittany Ingram**

Editor/Sound Design **Hanna Sturwold**

Sound Mix **John Cantu**

Color Correction **Neil Anderson**

Composer **Dara Taylor**

Wardrobe **Maggie Manyan**

Hair & SF Make-up **Camilla Dupin**

CAST

Adetokumboh M'Cormack

Peres Owino

William Joseph Hill

Gregor Manns

Emerson Gregori

Mikey Kettinger