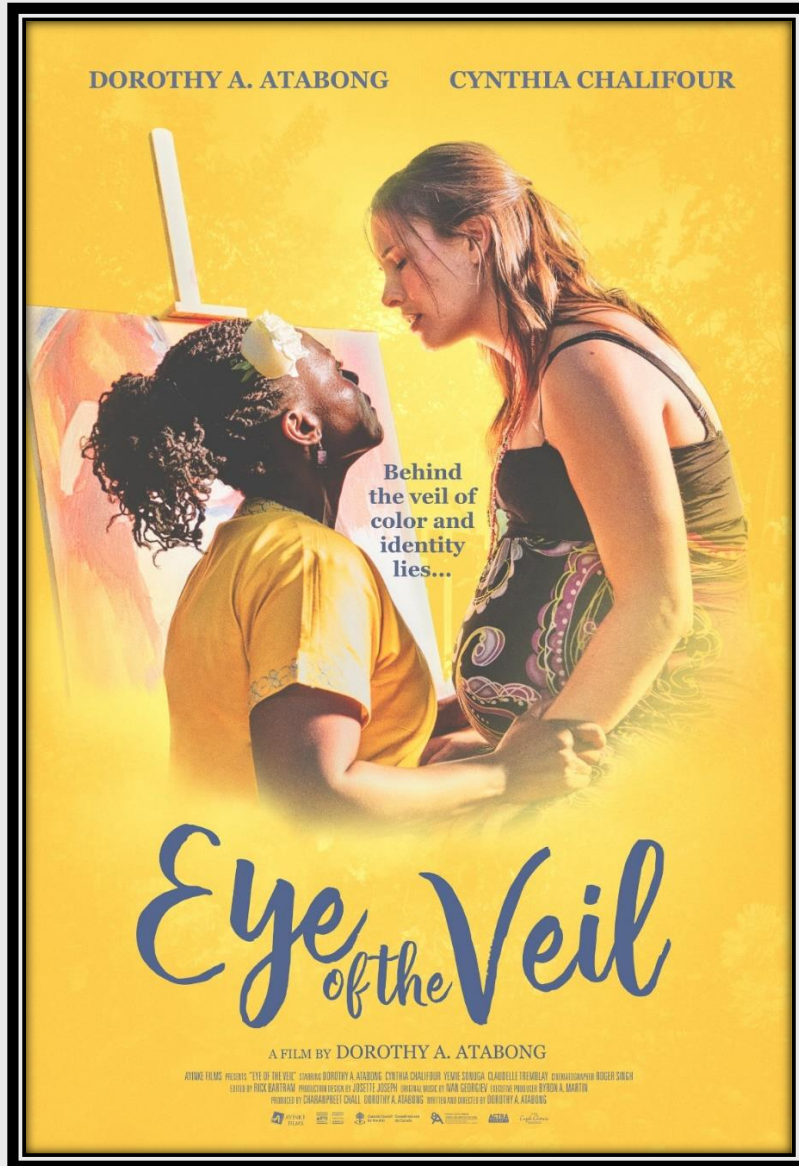


A FILM BY DOROTHY A ATABONG

EYE OF THE VEIL

23.00 MIN/ HD/ 2022 / CANADA

Electronic Press Kit



Contact: info@ayinkefilms.com
[@eyeoftheveilfilm](https://www.facebook.com/eyeoftheveilfilm)

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TRAILER

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q9S2eclMgXk>

LOGLINE

After the sudden death of her pregnant partner, a closeted attorney must embrace her sexuality and humanity, as she seeks custody of their newborn.

SYNOPSIS

Jo, a closeted black attorney, is struggling with the rape and unplanned pregnancy of her white partner Frances. When Frances dies unexpectedly during childbirth, Jo must search within to come to terms with her own sexuality and her humanity, before seeking custody of their newborn.



Jo (Dorothy A. Atabong) and Frances (Cynthia Chalifour)

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DIRECTOR/WRITER STATEMENT

“When you pull back the veil of color and identity, what will you find?”

Eye of the Veil is a complex human story that touches on internalized homophobia, race, and trauma recovery. Centered around two women, Jo (Afro-Canadian) and Frances (Caucasian), the story takes us on an emotional journey as Jo wrestles with her partner’s decision to keep a baby conceived through trauma. The issue causes tension between the two, until Frances’ unexpected death in childbirth. Jo must then face her own fears to finally meet her partner’s parents, and take a chance to embrace motherhood and hope.



(Dorothy A. Atabong) Jo

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"What color do you see the world in? Through what lens? What are your unconscious biases?"

We are all human, and when you pull back the veil of colour and identity, when you dig underneath racism, fear and ignorance, you find our common humanity. This is a story about coming together and embracing one another, about blurring unnecessary lines of colour and identity to facilitate greater inclusivity in the world. Given the current climate of our world today, this story is timely.

--Dorothy A. Atabong



Cynthia Chalifour (Frances)

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ABOUT THE CAST



Dorothy A. Atabong (Jo) – *See Director below*

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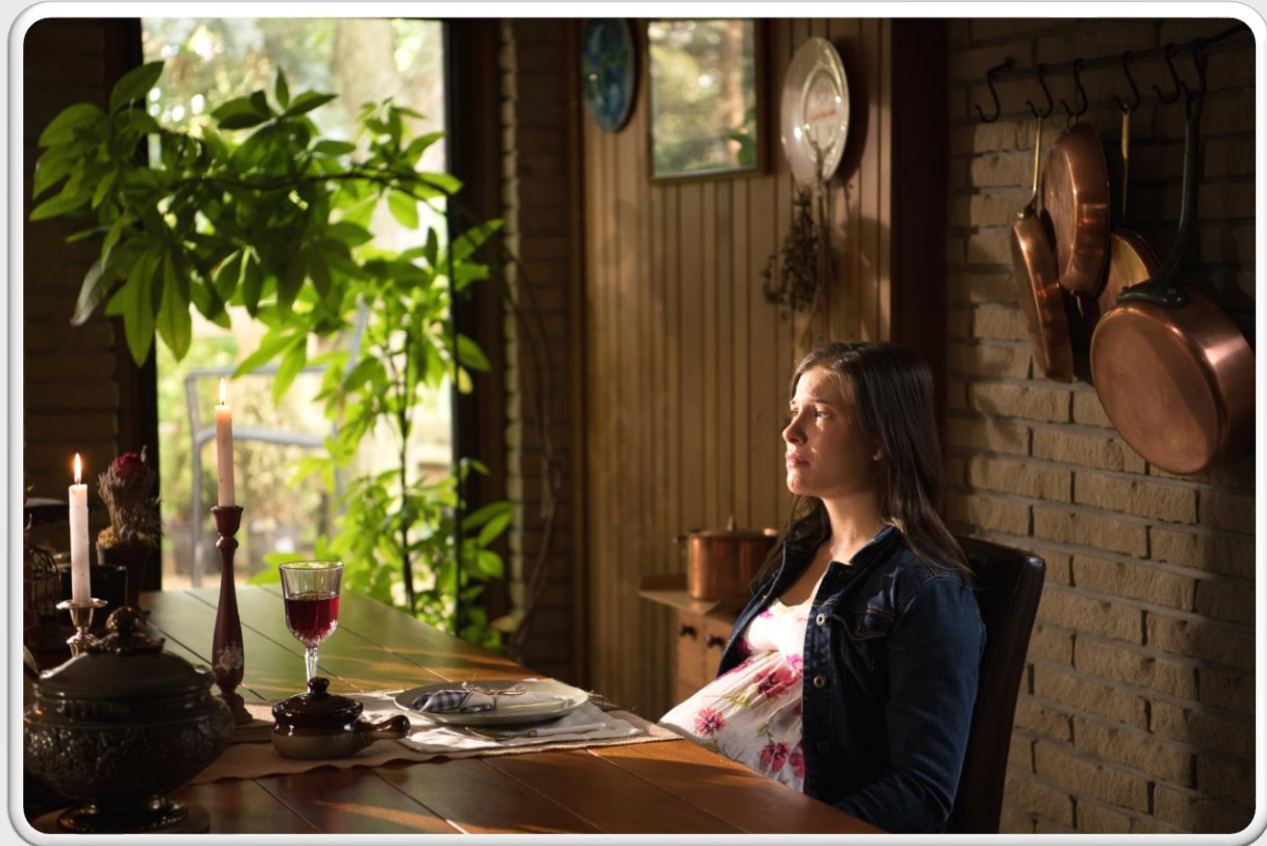


Claudelle Tremblay (Barbara Leduc)

Claudelle was born and raised in Cornwall Ontario and graduated from George Brown Theatre School. She worked on the CBC Morningside radio drama show “A Joyful Shame” and a pilot television show called “Emergency Room”. Claudelle took a hiatus to raise her two wonderful boys Jayden and Kaleb and eventually returned to her Passion of acting about 4 years ago where she landed her first lead role as Mrs Veil in a short film called “ Noah's truck” that premiered at the Cannes Film Festival in 2017. Most recently she is best known for her female lead role as “Alice Briggs” the barefoot artist in the film "The Devil's Tail" that has won over 18 awards and laurels worldwide including “Best Actress in Eastern Europe Film Awards, and a Best actress nomination in Scotland. Claudelle looks forward to more challenging film and TV roles and plans to do some writing and more co-directing in the future.

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Cynthia Chalifour (Frances)

Born in Repentigny, Québec, Cynthia has always been very passionate about music and stories. A graduate of the professional Musical Theatre program of College Lionel-Groulx, she left soon after graduation to pursue her dream of living abroad in Scotland. Back in Montreal, she studying clowning & comedy at the National School Of Humor; Estill Voice Training with Manon Lévesque; Ballet and Jazz at the École Supérieure de Ballet du Québec, and On Camera Acting with Les Ateliers Fichaud. She took part in the first ever Canadian Musical Theatre Writers Workshop in Montreal (2018-2020) where she started developing her original musical The Dream Box. She played the lead role of Janet Van De Graaf in The Drowsy Chaperone, and took part in various Kino Kabaret projects across the province. She now lives in Toronto and recently was in the leading role of Katya in DOMA.

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Yemie Sonuga (Alexis)

Yemie is a Nigerian, Canadian, and American, singer, actor, model, and writer. She has performed on stages across the globe. Some of her favorite credits include; Disney's The Lion King, The Book of Mormon, The Original Cast and World Premiere of Ghost the Musical *Broadway Album, The International Tour of Fame the Musical, Jann on CTV/Hulu, The Boys on Amazon Studios, and she is the voice of Ally Longergan in the audio sitcom Next Stop Shows; her performance was recognized by Indiewire magazine. You can find Yemie in High Park this summer playing the lead role of Pandora in BlackOut a new musical from Musical Stage Company. She is Lead Talent for Headstrong Meditation by Equinox. Yemie holds a Master's Degree from the Royal Scottish Conservatoire.

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ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS



Dorothy A. Atabong (Director/ Writer/Producer)

Dorothy A. Atabong is an award winning Director, Writer, Producer, and Actor based in Toronto. Her short film Sound Of Tears, screened at over 45 film festivals worldwide. It garnered multiple awards and nominations including The Africa Movie Academy Award, Court-métrage de fiction, Burundi, Best Film and Best Director Nominations for the Golden Sheaf Award, Ousmane Sembene Award – Zanzibar International Film Festival and Best Film at The Pan African Film Festival in LA and Cannes. She’s an alumna of the Women In the Director’s Chair (WIDC). Dorothy directed the CBC’s critically acclaimed 21 Black Futures – Season 3 - YEn Ara Asaase Ni/This Is Our Own Native Land. She is the winner of the 2020

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Cayle Chernin Award, and her feature script, Zenzile's Journey is currently in development in partnership with Telefilm Canada. She filmed a proof of concept as part of the Caribbean tales Incubator Studio Access Initiative. Dorothy is mentored by two-time Oscar nominated Director Atom Egoyan, and was selected for the Netflix/Banff Diversity of Voices Initiative. She is passionate about creating accurate and clear representations of the experiences of three-dimensional black women in stories both tragic and glorifying. Ultimately, revealing the trials and tribulations of today's black women and fueling the feministic black experience.

Dorothy is excited about sharing film Eye of the Veil and is thankful to all the support from cast and crew, The Toronto, Ontario and Canada Council for the Arts. As an actor, her credits include – Hulu/MGM's The Handmaid's Tale; CBC/UKTV's Murdoch's Mysteries; TV series Mayday (Discovery Channel), Reel One Entertainment's Christmas Casanova; Coping (Theatrical release), The Line (TMN & Movie Central), and Deglassi: The Next Generation; Canon Camera commercial for the Newsweek Magazine, and PSAs for Stephen Lewis Foundation – help fight AIDS in Africa. Selected Theatre Credits: August Wilson Plays in New York Theatre in the Park, Volcano Theatre's, "Africa Trilogy" at the Toronto Luminato Arts Festival, The Overwhelming at The Canadian Stage Company.

www.dorothyatabong.com

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Charanpreet Chall (Producer)

Charanpreet is an emerging producer based in Toronto. She grew up in Mumbai, India and worked in the Indian film industry on films such as *Masaan* which won the FIPRESCI International Jury of Film Critics prize at Cannes Film Festival, Indian documentary film *Katiyabaaz* which won the National Award for Best Investigative Film amongst others. After moving to Toronto in 2016, she has worked on several Canadian and American productions as an Assistant Director and is a member of Directors Guild of Canada. She is the Chief Operating Officer at REALLIFE Pictures Inc., where she works with BIPOC screenwriters and directors. Charanpreet has a post-graduate diploma in Film and Television Productions from Xaviers' Institute of Communications, Mumbai and a Certificate in Film Direction from New York Film Academy.

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Roger Singh (Director of Photography)

With over a decade of experience and over 50 credits in film and television, Roger Singh brings consistency and professionalism necessary to meet what the modern industry demands. Such as the recently completed series, *Becoming You*, produced by Warner Bros UK for Apple TV+. Also, *The Pirate Tapes*, a film that went undercover and looked at the lives of Somali Pirates as they planned a future heist. Along with cinematography, Roger has produced feature length documentaries that were acquired by Samuel Goldwyn Films, HBO, and The Orchard.

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

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Rick Bartram (Editor)

Rick Bartram is a Toronto-based picture editor. He is passionate about making films that challenge, inform and entertain audiences. Originally from Nova Scotia, he developed a keen eye for storytelling early in life. He attended The University of King's College in Halifax, where he developed his understanding of story structure, and cinematic language. He graduated with a B.A. in History and English Literature with a minor in Film Studies. His continued need to progress as a visual storyteller led him to Toronto, where he attained a B.F.A in Film Production from Ryerson University and went on to graduate from the Canadian Film Centre's Editor's Lab in 2019. His work as a picture editor on short and feature-length films has garnered multiple awards and positive recognition from around the world.

<http://rickbartram.com/>

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Ivan Georgiev (Composer)

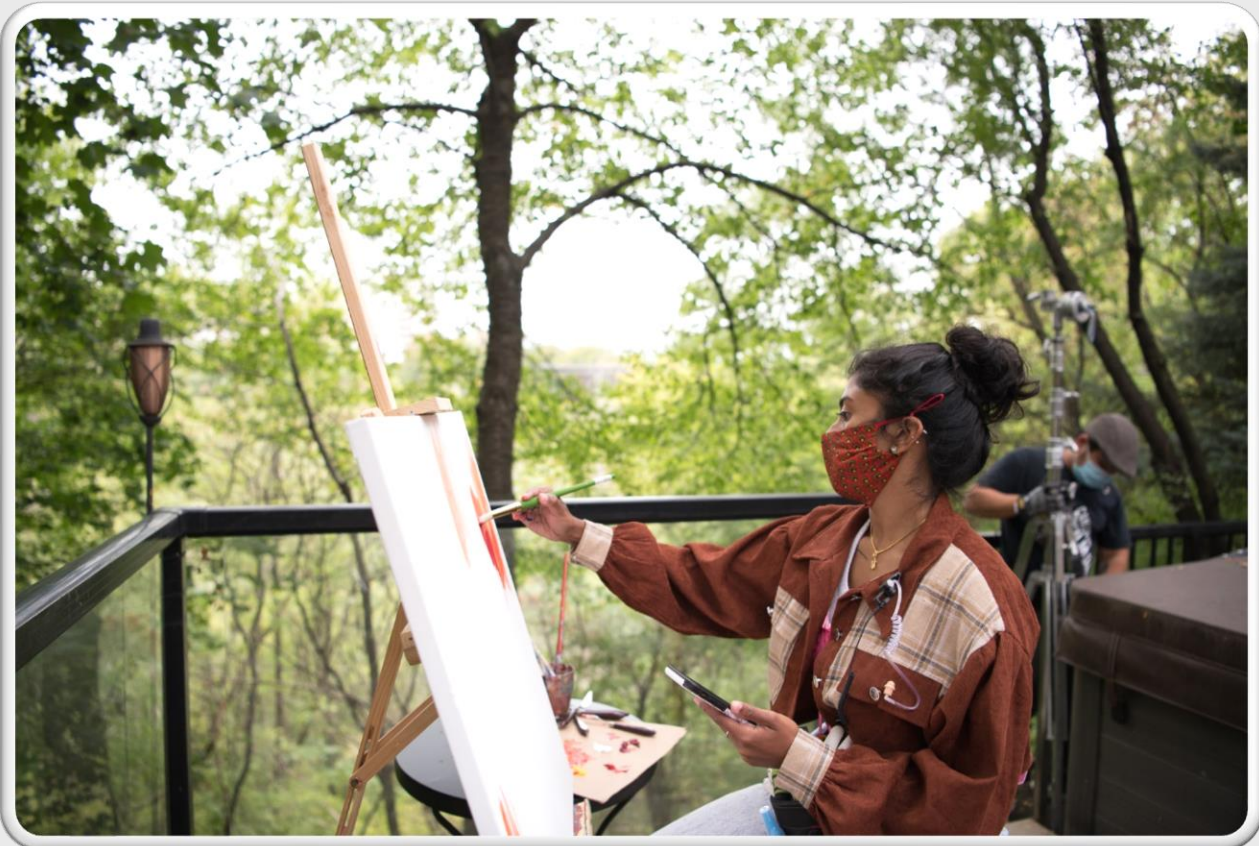
Pianist from an early age, composer since his early teens, Ivan's career began as a touring musician. This gave him the opportunity to approach film music with directors such as Wim Wenders and Bob Visser. From 1997 on, he decided to focus mainly on European creative documentaries.

Many productions later, Ivan redirects his effort toward feature and animation films, with a more ambitious style of scoring for symphonic orchestra. Collaborators include Dada Studios and the brilliant musicians of Ictus Ensemble. As a side gig, Ivan composes and performs under the alias EWAN. His first album Back On The Roads Of Time is available on Freaksville Records.

<https://www.ivan-georgiev.com/>

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Josette Joseph (Production Designer)

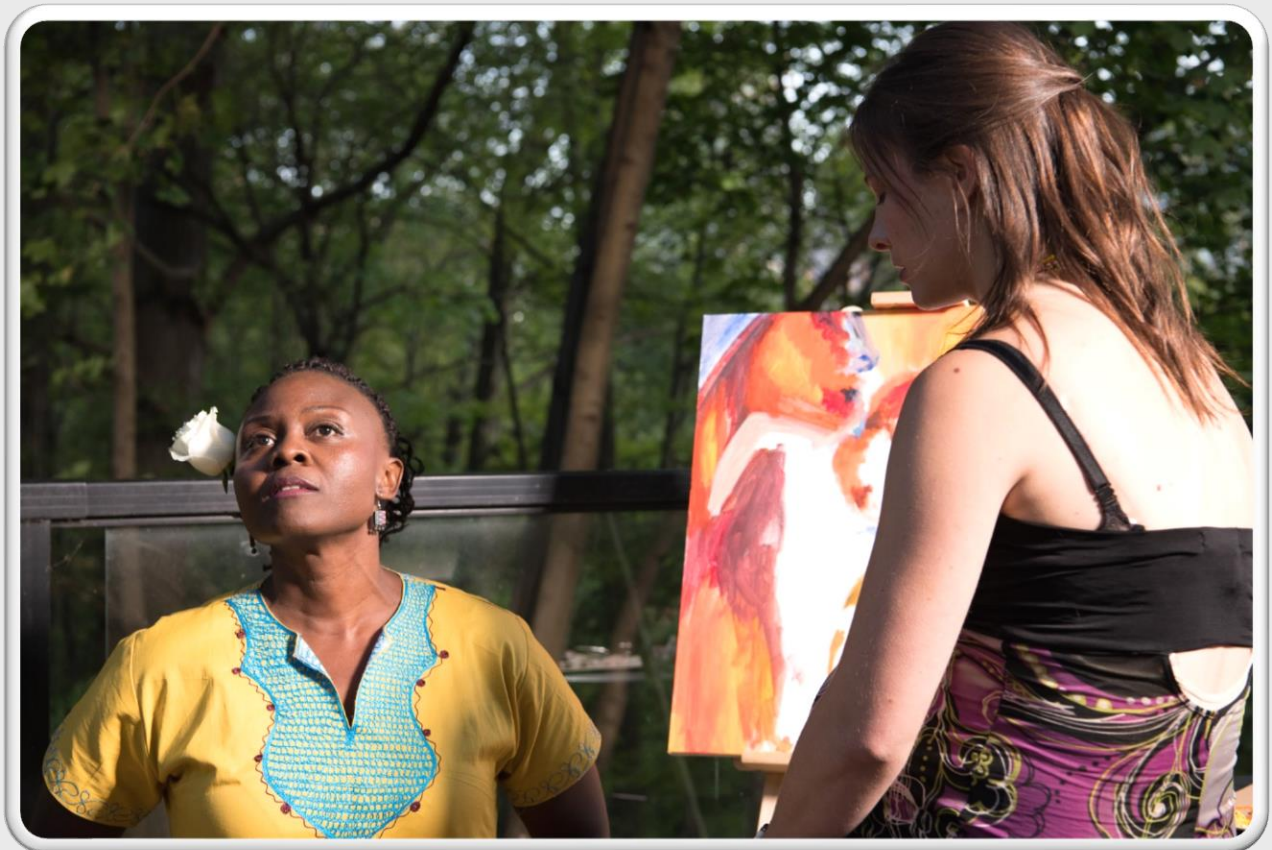
Josette is an art director and visual artist with a range of experience across feature films, short films, television shows, commercials, and music videos. As a recent graduate of Western University with a triple major in Media, Fine Arts, and Art History, she has a keen eye for detail and the application of Fine Arts theory to her work on set. Career highlights include production designing a commercial for Canada Life insurance, working alongside Umbrella Academy's Colm Feore as an art director on 6 Guns for Hire (feature film), and art directing the fourth season of Échappe-Toi Si Tu Peux (reality television series).

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

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Jo (Dorothy A. Atabong) and Frances (Cynthia Chalifour)

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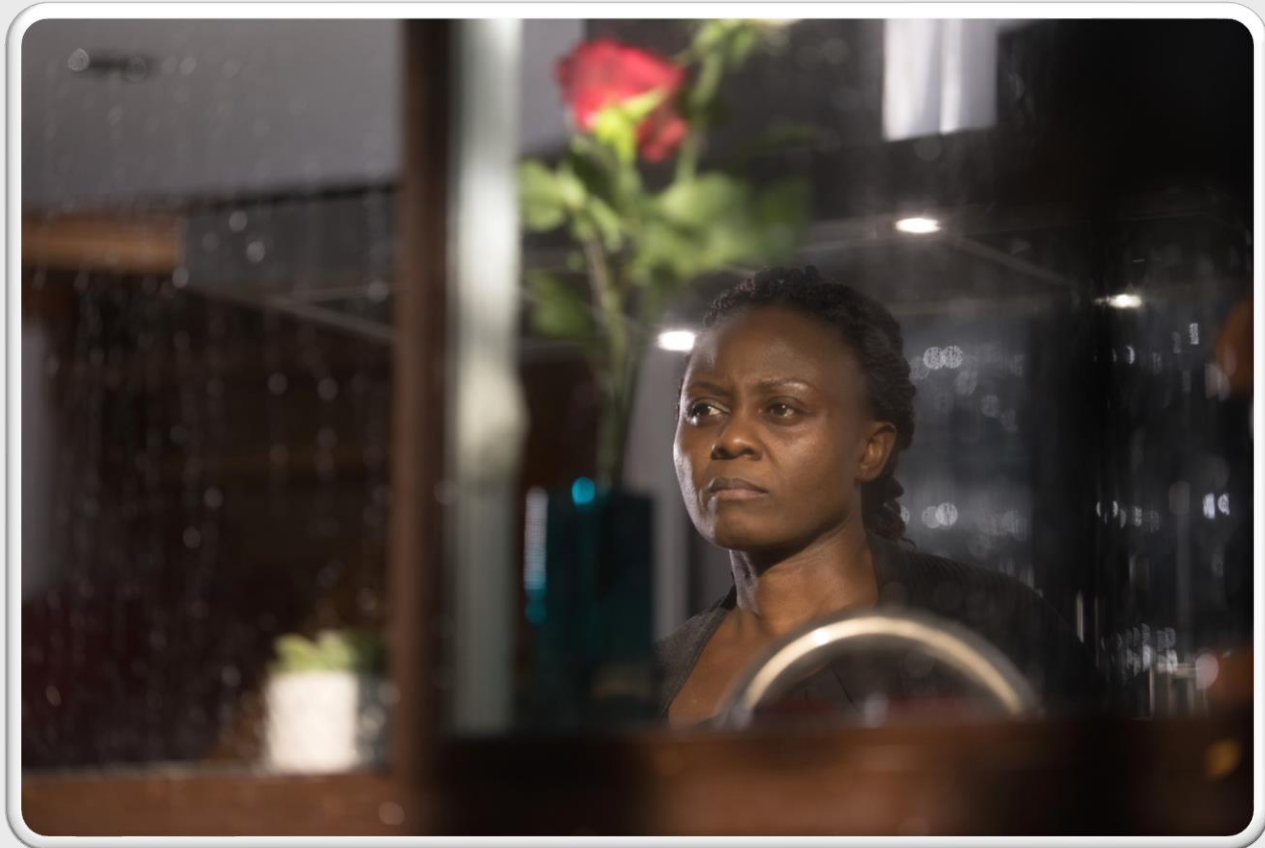
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Jo (Dorothy A. Atabong) and Frances (Cynthia Chalifour) at the airport, watch a family reuniting. Jo's ideal family unit.

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Jo looks out the window at the stool Frances used to sit.

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Jo (Dorothy A. Atabong) and Alexis (Yemie Sonuga) on their way to small town Pittsfall to visit Frances' parents.

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Director, Dorothy A. Atabong and 1st AD, Joe Craib discuss the next shot.

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The team sets up for a car scene.

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The team sets up a hospital scene. Pee-wee dolly on a gurney.

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CREDITS

AYINKE FILMS presents

Eye of the Veil

Written Directed and Produced	Dorothy A. Atabong
Producer	Charanpreet Chall
Director of Photography	Roger Singh
Executive Producer	Byron A. Martin
Editor	Rick Bartram
Music Composer	Ivan Georgiev
CAST	
Jo	Dorothy A. Atabong
Frances	Cynthia Chalifour
Alexis	Yemie Sonuga
Ms. Leduc	Claudelle Tremblay
Mr. Leduc	Bob Legare
Doctor	Anand Rajaram
Nurse	Phyllis Brown
Michael	Andre Blissett
Mom	Alexiss Phillips
Dad	Troy Martin-Morgan
Boy #1	Ishaan Chhatwal
Boy #2	Pranav Chhatwal
Baby	Ava Gray
Paramedic	Ryan Singh
Nurse in OR room	Marisol D'Andrea
Nurse carrying baby	Robert Watson

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CREW	
First Assistant Director	Joe Craib
Casting Director	Tannaz Keshavarz . Sara Dang
Production Designer	Josette Joseph
Wardrobe Supervisor	Deanne Mark
Key Hair/Makeup	Fatema Hoque
Intimacy Coordinator	Anisa Tejpar
Sound Mixer	Tyler Bogaert
Sound Mixer	Keth Sivakumar
Art Director	Malini Khotsiphom
Set Decorator	Michael Le-Heeralal
Portrait Artist	Gabrielle Pringle
Production Manager	Kate Fenton
First Assistant Camera	Adewale Adepoju
Second Assistant Camera	Cole Fisher
Gaffer	Willy Minh Le
Key Grip	Jason Bellestros
Swing	Pau Delfresno
Swing Daily	Jonah Mahabir
Script Supervisor	Sally Jones
Stills Photographer	Krystle Mellow
COVID Compliance Officer/Third Assistant Director	Lola Gafaar
Caterer	Waynette Lungs
Hair/Makeup Assistant	Elyssa Skode
Wardrobe Assistant	Rochelle Sewell
Daily Production Assistant	Melanie Murray
Production Assistant	Maria Forstner
Crafts Production Assistant	Cheyenne McLean
Supervising Re-Recording Mixer	Jeremy Fong
Sound Editor	Patrick Dal Cin
Sound Editor	Jesse McCaig
Colorist	Scott Hannigan
VFX	Alex Kingsmill

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Special Thanks

Amit Chhatwal
Carol Whiteman
Aaron Bala
Marek Posival

Atom Egoyan
Alan Greenstein
Chris Mutton

TRIVIA

1. The kids at the airport scene are the Director's sons, Ishaan & Pranav.
2. The film was shot in 4.5 days with an additional day for B-roll.
3. The film had seven locations.
4. Shot in the Province of Ontario: Toronto, Markham, Hamilton, Schomberg, Caledon.
5. The cast and crew said it was the most diverse film set they had ever been on.

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DOP, Roger Singh and 1st Assistant Cameraman, Adewale Adepoju ready the camera on tracks for another take.

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Made possible with the support of:



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Jo (Dorothy A. Atabong) and Frances (Cynthia Chalifour)

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