

A FILM BY SSEBATA PAUL

SELIN  
AUDO

MICHAEL  
WAWUYO Sr.

ACHAN  
KEYSHIA

ANKUNDA  
DORECK



**PRESS KIT**



- Title: SPEAK
- Genre: Action-Drama
- Runtime: 78 minutes
- Language: English, Sign Language
- Production Company: KPM Entertainment Studio

#### LOG LINE

"Born with the gift of hearing in a deaf village, a young girl must navigate treacherous landscapes and battle ruthless enemies to save her family and community."

#### SYNOPSIS

In a post-apocalyptic world, a small village is plagued by a mysterious virus that renders its survivors deaf. Centuries later, a young girl named Akia is born with the extraordinary ability to hear and speak. Feared and ostracized by her community, Akia embarks on a perilous journey to uncover the truth about her past and the sinister forces exploiting her village. With her family's safety at stake, Akia must summon all her strength and determination to defeat the ruthless Baron and his minions in a final, brutal showdown.

#### DIRECTOR'S NOTES

I was inspired to make 'Speak' after meeting a remarkable deaf man named Ssebugwawo, who worked on our family's farm. His story and the stories of others in the Deaf community have had a profound impact on my life and my work. With 'Speak,' I aim to amplify the voices of the Deaf community and to challenge the dominant narratives that have historically silenced and erased marginalized communities. I hope that this film will inspire audiences to listen more deeply and to join the fight for a more just and equitable world.

'Speak' is a powerful and emotional journey that explores the resilience of the human spirit in the face of adversity. Through Akia's story, we delve into themes of identity, community, and the struggle for justice. I aim to create a cinematic experience that inspires audiences to reflect on their own values and the importance of empathy and understanding. [Ssebata Paul]



## APPROACH

"Speak" was filmed on location in Uganda, showcasing the country's diverse landscapes and cultures. Key filming locations included:

1. Village Serere District: The picturesque village served as the main setting for the film.
2. Soroti City: The bustling city provided the backdrop for the shop scene.
3. Jinja City: The scenic city hosted the thrilling bike scene.
4. Nile Horseback Safaris: The stunning horseback riding scenes were filmed here.
5. Namiyagi – Wakisi: This location served as the setting for the devastating virus outbreak opening scene.
6. Entebbe: The scenic town hosted Baron's home and additional filming.

The film's diverse locations added depth and authenticity to the story, showcasing the beauty and complexity of Uganda.

The film features a mix of spoken English and American Sign Language (ASL), with subtitles provided for non-ASL speakers.

The cast and crew included members of the Deaf community, who provided valuable insights and feedback throughout the production process.



## PROJECT TIMELINE

14<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2023

MARCH TO MAY 2023

APRIL TO MAY 2023

FROM MAY TO JUNE 2023

31<sup>ST</sup> JULY TO 8<sup>TH</sup> AUG, 21<sup>ST</sup> TO 23<sup>RD</sup> DEC 2023

25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024

JULY 2024 TO JAN 2025

APRIL 2025

BIRTH OF THE PROJECT AND THE MEETING WITH THE DEAF PEOPLE

PRELIMINARY RESEARCH AND LOCATION SCOUTING

WRITING AND SCREENPLAY

SIGN LANGUAGE CLASSES, REHEARSALS AND MARTIAL ARTS TRAINING

SHOOTING ON SET

END OF SHOOTING

EDIT PREP AND POST-PRODUCTION

CINEMA RELEASE





## THE FILM MAKER

WRITER / DIRECTOR / PRODUDER/ EDITOR/ SOUND DESIGNER

### SSEBATA PAUL

Ssebata Paul was born on January 5, 1982 in Jinja Hospital, Uganda. He majored in Electrical installation and electronic at Nile Vocational Institute and Kyambogo University before switching to films. He worked with Elektrex Ltd, the electrical suppliers in 2007, joined radio management services in 2008 and worked as a station manager at All Karamoka radio. In 2009 to 2010, he joined public service and worked as a district cold chain technician. 2012, He later joined World star betting as IT manager to support his filmmaking ambition. 2013, Went to Istanbul Turkey for digital filmmaking. He landed his first professional theatre job as Support Production Manager in coordinating stage activities, including directing the production staff, organizing rehearsals, and guiding the actors during rehearsals and at the same time as an actor at Happy Days Theatre Istanbul Turkey from 2015 to 2018.



He then wrote and directed short films like Freaking Out, Embarrassment, Stay Home, and Time. These were low budget independent films, but Ssebata's superb, dynamic direction made it a surprise for Uganda film industry. In 2021 to 2023, Collaborated with Umoja Communications Company International (UCCI) a parental company of Piton International Film Festival (PIFF Africa/ Global) to produce a mini series "KADAGA". Selected locations for shoots and secured approval for different locations. Conducted creative and technical research and managed creative implementation of resources to ensure high-quality production through all stages to completion of 4 episodes. Located and reserved shoot locations and managed production budgets, reducing overall production spending by 20%.

### A VISIONARY FILMMAKER'S MASTERPIECE

As the Writer, Director, Editor, Producer, and Sound Designer of "Speak", Ssebata Paul has demonstrated unparalleled dedication and creative control over this epic post-apocalyptic drama. With a clear and uncompromising vision, Ssebata Paul has masterfully woven together a complex narrative, stunning visuals, exceptional performances, and a rich sonic landscape to create a cinematic experience that will leave audiences breathless.

This multifaceted filmmaker's passion project is a testament to their innovative storytelling, technical expertise, and unwavering commitment to bringing this powerful story to life.

The film's use of sign language, visual storytelling, and sound design is intentional, creating an immersive experience that draws the audience into the world of our protagonist, Akia. By centering the narrative around Akia's voice and her connection to her community, we highlight the importance of language, culture, and identity.

### THE FILMMAKER'S AWARDS

2021 – Recognition awards for Time, Stay Home and Embarrassment shot films PIFF Africa/ Global International Film Festival

2021 – Honorable Mention Cinevoyage International Film Festival,

2021 – Several official selections LIFTOFF Global International Film Festival





## SPECIAL SUBJECT

SPEAK film has five special subject that highlight the unique aspects of the story

1. Deaf Culture and Awareness: The film sheds light on the experiences and challenges faced by the Deaf community, promoting understanding, empathy, and inclusivity.
2. Female Empowerment: Akia's journey is a powerful allegory for female empowerment, self-discovery, and resilience in the face of adversity.
3. Post-Apocalyptic World-Building: The film's unique blend action elements create a captivating post-apocalyptic world, exploring themes of survival, community, and hope.
4. Social Justice and Activism: The story tackles issues of exploitation, oppression, and resistance, inspiring viewers to reflect on their own roles in creating positive change.
5. Ugandan Culture and Representation: By filming on location in Uganda and incorporating local culture, the film provides a rare and valuable platform for showcasing African talent, stories, and perspectives.

## CAST

The talented cast brings this powerful story to life, led by Selin Audo and Ugandan film legend Michael Wawuyo Senior as the ruthless Baron. Wawuyo's impressive credits include "The Last King of Scotland". Selin Audo shines as Akia, having previously starred in "Power of Legacy". Doreck Ankunda delivers a standout performance, drawing from her own experiences as a deaf person to bring authenticity and depth to the film. Ankunda's remarkable achievements include winning Best Actress at the 2024 Bayelsa International Film Festival. Young Achan Keisha impresses as a young Akia, adding valuable depth to the narrative. Gregg Salzman, a Jewish-American actor, brings gravity and nuance to the role of Kakulu, Akia's complex and demanding boss. The film also features a talented ensemble of deaf actors, showcasing their exceptional skills and talent. Additionally, over 200 extras add to the film's epic scale and grandeur, making "Speak" a truly unforgettable cinematic experience.

AKIA  
BARON  
YOUNG AKIA  
SERA  
OPIO  
OKOTH  
YOUNG OPIO  
MARIO  
ONZI  
KAKURU  
TOMBE  
VANIX  
DR. ANGELLA/ ANGIE  
MC.  
MUSIC PRODUCER

SELIN AUDO  
MICHAEL WAWUYO Sr  
ACHAN KEYSHIA  
ANKUNDA DORECK  
KATUSHABE MARACHI  
MUSENZE MOSES  
MUBARAK AWU WASSWA  
MARIO GORDON  
SSESANGA SHAFATINOH  
GREGG SALZMAN  
NSAMBA FRANCIS  
ABDUL BABYEKOSE  
BRENDA NELIMA MASIKA  
LUCK GRACE NAKITENDE  
SAMSON MWESIGE





## **EXTRAS**

NANTONGO SOFIA  
NANYANZI REHEMA  
KIBWAKA SWAHIBU  
MUKO JOHN  
NDIKUNO SWABULA  
OKUMU BASHIR  
NAMULALO AMINA  
MUTEBI ELVIS  
ISABIRYE ARAJABU  
KIGENYI ZUBAIR  
MUIIBI PAUL  
MUYAKA IBRAHIM  
WAGUYA SAADI  
NANGOBI BETTY  
WANYENZE SOFIA  
WALUGULA EMMANUEL  
BWANIKA FAIZO  
KAGOYA REBECCA  
BYOGELO AMINAH  
JAMAL SAKA  
WEIGULO SWALIQ  
GULAMUEN HANNAH SANYU  
NAIGAGA PROSSY  
NAMUSOKE MEBLE  
MUKOVA AKRON  
NABIRYE MARY  
RUGUMAYO SHATRA ABWOOLI  
NABUDIWA MEGANI  
NAKAWALA NSUBULA  
KAMYA ISAAC  
MADDI PAUL  
NAKATO ROGOSE  
KIMOYAKA IBRAHIM  
WAILISA RACHEAL  
NANSASI MARY  
MIREMBE FAZIRA  
NABULO VAOLA  
ISKO BASHIR  
OKUMU DERRICK  
MAIDO MUZAIFA  
GAWAYA SWAHIBU  
NYABO PETER

KATOTE IBRA  
MUBIRU WALTER  
WAMULONDE JOSEPH  
TAWU SADI  
ISANASE BETH  
SWALIK TABBO  
BABIRYE MERON  
LILIAN JOYCE  
KELEMENT YUSUF  
NAGUDI CHRISTINE  
BONGOLE TONNY  
KYATEREKERA RASHID  
MUGABI YOSUFU  
AMANYA SHRKODIE  
BABIRYE SHANITA  
NANYANZI REHEMA  
KIBWAKA SWAHIBU  
MUKO JOHN  
NDIKUNO SWABULA  
OKUMU BASHIR  
NAMULALO AMINA  
MUTEBI ELVIS  
ISABIRYE ARAJABU  
MIRABU  
NACHUHA  
IVAN BAZIBU  
WEIGULO  
BULUHAN  
SSEKAFFERO  
HAMIID  
MALONGO  
SHAMINA  
NABIFO  
PRECIOUS  
EAILISA RACHEAL  
KIGONYA JOEL  
NAKIYAGA  
SHARIFAH  
NAMATOVU  
MARIAM  
NAMALILI  
ZOLAIIKA  
NABUSO  
CHRISTINE

KIGENYI ZUBAIR  
MUIIBI PAUL  
MUYAKA IBRAHIM  
WAGUYA SAADI  
NANGOBI BETTY  
WANYENZE SOFIA  
WALUGULA EMMANUEL  
KATOTE IBRA  
MUBIRU WALTER  
WAMULONDE JOSEPH  
TAWU SADI  
ISANASE BETH  
SWALIK TABBO  
BABIRYE MERON  
LILIAN JOYCE  
KELEMENT YUSUF  
NAGUDI CHRISTINE  
BONGOLE TONNY  
KYATEREKERA RASHID  
MUGABI YOSUFU  
AMANYA SHRKODIE  
BABIRYE SHANITA  
NAMUYONGA HASFA  
KATUSHABE BENITAH  
MASIGA ABDULRAHUMAN  
NAMUTALE NAKATO  
FESTO CHRISTINA  
NABUSO AMINAH  
ABAHO OABERT  
MATOVU WILIAM  
KAWAMA SINANI  
WAMBI SUMAN  
KIELBASA FAHAD  
NASANGA PEACE  
KIWAMA SINANI  
MUZEI SOLOMON  
KIIRYA BADIRU  
ESTHER KULIVA  
KAITESI SHIRAH  
BABIRYE JALIA  
NANYANZI REMA  
KAMYA EDWARD  
NANTEZZA MAGRET

## CREW

CO-PRODUCER  
PRODUCTION MANAGER  
COSTUME DESIGNER  
HAIR / MAKE UP DESIGNER  
SFX DESIGNER  
RUNNER  
SOUND RECORDIST

BOOM SWINGER

SOUND MIXER  
SOUND DESIGNER  
STILL PHOTOGRAPHERS

CAMERA OPERATORS

SCRIPT CONTINUITY  
MUSIC BY

MUSICIANS

CINEMATOGRAPHY BY  
EDITED BY  
SENIOR COLORIST  
CASTING BY

SELIN AUDDO  
ALIWUYA SADATI  
MWESIGWA SAMUEL  
ESTHER NAKAZIBA  
ESTHER NAKAZIBA  
NAKIDA RUKIA  
SAMSON MWESIGE  
MUHAMAD SHABAN KAYIWA  
SSESANGA SHAFATINOH  
ABDUL BAKYEKOOSE  
MARIO GORDON  
SSEBATA PAUL  
SSEBATA PAUL  
LUKENGE IVAN  
LUBANGA HAKIM  
NTULUME RICHARD  
KAKEMBO SIMON  
SSENYONYI VICENT  
ALIWUYA SADATI  
NILE BEAT ARTISTS  
WABWIRE SAMUEL  
ABDUL BAKYEKOOSE  
SAMSON MWESIGE  
SSEBATA PAUL  
MAVERIQ MAVO  
NTUNJA  
KIM OF DIAMONDS  
CREAMY  
NILE BEAT ARTISTS  
MAVERIQ MAVO  
NTUNJA  
KIM OF DIAMONDS  
CREAMY  
ABDUL BAKYEKOOSE  
LUKOSE JENNIFA  
SAMSON MWESIGE  
SSEBATA PAUL  
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## THE CREW BEHIND THE MAGIC

The success of "Speak" would not have been possible without the tireless efforts and dedication of our exceptional crew. From the early morning setup to the late-night wrap, every member of the team brought their unique skills and passion to the table. Led by the visionary director, Ssebata Paul, the crew worked seamlessly together to bring this epic post-apocalyptic drama to life. Our team of skilled professionals, including cinematographers, editors, sound engineers, production designers, and special effects experts like Nakaziba Esther, who brought remarkable detail and realism to the film's makeup and special effects, poured their hearts and souls into every aspect of the film. Their hard work, creativity, and attention to detail have resulted in a cinematic masterpiece that will leave audiences in awe. We are forever grateful to our incredible crew for their unwavering commitment and dedication to "Speak".

## SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The filmmakers would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to the following individuals and organizations for their invaluable support and contributions to the making of "Speak":

- Nile Horseback Safaris: For providing us with the perfect equine partner for our film and opening their doors to us.
- Gregg Tours: For generously providing the boat and offering the Baron's home location, helping us bring authenticity and depth to the story.
- Back2health: For providing us with essential hospital equipment, adding realism and accuracy to our hospital scenes.

## Trailer/ Teaser

The wait is almost over! Get ready to experience the thrilling world of "Speak" with our official trailer:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=djzMZUZI\\_vk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=djzMZUZI_vk)

Watch now and catch a glimpse of the action-packed, emotionally charged, and visually stunning cinematic masterpiece that's got everyone talking!

Share your thoughts and reactions with us! #SpeakTheMovie #OfficialTrailer #PostApocalypticDrama #OfficialTeaser

## Movie Review by New Vision

[https://www.newvision.co.ug/category/entertainment/movie-review-speaking-to-the-deaf-NV\\_204847](https://www.newvision.co.ug/category/entertainment/movie-review-speaking-to-the-deaf-NV_204847)

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