



# DREAM'S DESCENT

*"In a surreal dreamscape shaped by memory and motion, a lone dancer must confront fragmented versions of himself and face his fears."*

# CONTENTS

<i>SYNOPSIS</i> .....	1
<i>TRAILER</i> .....	2
<i>TECHNICAL INFORMATION</i> .....	3
<i>DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT</i> .....	4
<i>BIOGRAPHIES</i> .....	5
<i>STILLS FROM THE FILM</i> .....	8
<i>PROMO POSTERS</i> .....	11
<i>KEY CREDITS</i> .....	12
<i>BEHIND THE SCENES</i> .....	13
<i>SPONSORS</i> .....	15
<i>CONTACT</i> .....	16

# SYNOPSIS

*“Dream’s Descent” is a hauntingly surreal dance film that traces the journey of a solitary dancer as he navigates a dreamlike landscape fractured by memory, identity and desire. Drawn into a shifting world where time dissolves and space contracts, he encounters fragmented versions of himself, each embodying a suppressed emotion, forgotten trauma or repressed aspiration. Through ritualistic choreography and symbolic confrontations, these encounters blur the line between self and shadow. As the dancer spirals deeper into the labyrinth of his subconscious, the movement becomes a language of reckoning.*

*“Dream’s Descent” is not about conquering the self, but integrating it, emerging not whole, but awakened, transformed by the very fragmentation that once threatened to undo him and ready to face whatever comes next.*





# TRAILER

*Click above and enjoy*

# TECHNICAL INFORMATION

**Genre:**

*Dance, Short, Experimental, Animation*

**Runtime:**

*10 Minutes: 14 Seconds*

**Aspect Ratio:**

*16: 9*

**Camera:**

*Sony FX3*

**Format:**

*4K*

**Completion Date:**

*19 April 2025*

**Additional:**

*Drone  
After Effects Cmposition*





## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

*"Dream's Descent" is a poetic exploration of identity, transformation and the quiet, often painful journey of confronting oneself. At its core, this surreal dance film tells the story of a lone figure navigating a dreamscape where fragments of his identity manifest through movement: each encounter a ritual, a reckoning, a step closer to wholeness.*

*This film was born from a shared desire to explore the invisible battles we face when chasing our dreams: the fears, doubts, and shadows that threaten to derail us. As collaborators, Inka Kendzia, Sara Gouveia, and Gregory Maqoma, we bring together our collective voices and different visual languages to create a work that reaches outward, engaging with global audiences.*

**GREGORY MAQOMA**, Choreographer, Teacher, Writer and Creative Director Born in Soweto, October 16 of 1973, he became interested in dance in the late 1980's as a means to escape the political tensions growing in his place of birth. He started his formal dance training in 1990 at Moving Into Dance(MID). Maqoma has established himself as an internationally renowned dancer, choreographer, teacher, director and scriptwriter. He founded Vuyani Dance Theatre (VDT) in 1999 when he was undertaking a scholarship at the Performing Arts Research and Training School (PARTS) in Belgium.

Maqoma was Associate Artistic Director of MID 2002 -2006 and for the FNB Dance Umbrella Festival 2010. He was Artistic Director of the Afro-Vibes Festival in the Netherlands and the UK from 2004 -2010. Maqoma has served on the dance committee of the South African National Arts Festival 2011 –2017 and curated the Main Dance Festival Program for 2017. He taught at various universities and schools in Africa, USA and Europe including, University of California, Bates College (USA), Bennington College (USA), University of Minnesota(USA), University of Cape Town (RSA), Ecole des Sables (Senegal), University of Mexico(USA) amongst others . He has created repertoire for different dance companies internationally, including, Ballet De Lyon , Ballet Black, Via Katlehong amongst others. He was founding Chairperson of the Board of Sustaining Theatre and Dance Foundation(STAND) 2020 –2022.

Maqoma is a collaborator extraordinaire and has worked with different intergenerational artist on different projects, including Faustin Linyekula, William Kentridge, Akram Khan, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Kwame Kwei-Armah, and protégé Musa Motha. Amongst the illustrious list of awards he received, Maqoma was honoured by the French Government with the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres Award 2017, World Dance Day Author 2020, Simon Nkoli Feather Award 2022 and The Artfluence Human Rights Champion Award in recognition of his remarkable career, courage, and commitment to social justice. In 2024 Maqoma received the Encore Award at the Fleur Du Cap Theatre Awards for Exit/Exist, was nominated for The Olivier Award for Outstanding Dance Production for 'Broken Chord' and received The Creative and Cultural Awards for Outstanding Dance Production presented by the Department of Sport, Arts & Culture in South Africa, he wrapped the year with The Woordfees Best Performance in Dance for Exit/Exist.

Maqoma is an author of three books, 'My life, My dance, My soul', 'Joy Dancer' and 'One Step at a Time'



[WEBSITE](#)



**SARA GOUVEIA** is an award winning filmmaker and interdisciplinary artist based in Cape Town. Her films have strong visual aesthetics and explore the line between fiction and reality. Sara often collaborates with musicians, artists and performers to explore broader existential and historical themes.

Sara's first feature length documentary "THE SOUND OF MASKS" had its World Premiere at IDFA 2018 and was described in magazine Africa is a Country as "a visual meditation on the nature of memory in postcolonial societies". The film screened at the MARRAKECH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2018, HOT DOCS 2019, NEW YORK AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL 2019, THE DURBAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL AND DOCLISBOA 2019. The film received the award for Best Feature Documentary at the Plateau International Film Festival 2019 and the 14th SAFTA Golden Horn Award for Best Cinematography as well as SAFTA nominations for Best Feature Documentary and Best Editing in 2020. In 2021 the film received the awards for Best International Feature and Best Direction at the 7th Brasil Festival of International Cinema.

Her documentary "ALBIE": A STRANGE ALCHEMY", premiered at the Encounters South African Documentary Film Festival 2025. She was also the cinematographer and editor in "WE, PEOPLE OF THE ISLANDS", which premiered at IndieLisboa 2025.

Sara has participated in the DURBAN FILM MART, IDFA SUMMER SCHOOL, HOT DOCS BLUE-ICE LAB, DOCSOCIETY, AND BERLINALE TALENTS, with her work broadcast on platforms like Showmax, PBS, CGTN, SABC and RTP. She has also participated in the CASA DO XISTO 16mm residency in Portugal in 2022, the TANKWA ARTSCAPE RESIDENCY, the BODHI KHAYA RESIDENCY and ELECTRIC SOUTH: NEW DIMENSIONS LAB in South Africa.

[WEBSITE](#)



[WEBSITE](#)

**INKA KENDZIA** is an interdisciplinary artist, VJ, and director who uses light to explore the connection between humans and nature. As a motion designer, she contributed to Ron Howard's Grammy-winning documentary *The Beatles: Eight Days a Week*, *Luciano Pavarotti*, and *Do You Trust This Computer?*

She has directed and created live visuals for international artists and major events such as the MTV Africa Music Awards, Cassper Nyovest's stadium show, *Black Coffee's Music is King*, and the Red Bull Dance Your Style World Final (2022–2023). She also developed visuals for the SAP Garden Arena in Munich (2024) and *Flying Mozart in Berlin*, Mozart's Requiem performed with Flying Steps (2025). Her 360° immersive projection piece *Kwasukasukela*, co-directed with Xabiso Vili, was showcased in Paris and Cape Town.

In the art world, she collaborates with renowned artists like FaithXLVII, Gregory Maqoma, and Koleka Putuma. Her and Faith XLVII's CODAward-winning projection installation *AD PACEM* in Cincinnati explores borders and peaceful protest. Inka's multimedia works have been shown in New York, Berlin, Miami, and Cape Town. She is the video designer for Koleka Putuma's *Hullo, Bu-bye, Koko, Come In* (Wiener Festwochen and European tour) and *The One Who Sings* (Baxter Theatre). In 2024, she presented her immersive projection art installation at Everard Read Gallery (Cape Town) and is showing her live visual art at the Smithsonian Museum for African Art (2024 & 2025)







A LIONFISH PRODUCTION

# DREAM'S DESCENT



FEATURING

**GREGORY  
MAQOMA**

**LIHLE  
MFENE**

**PURITY  
MKHIZE**

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY  
**INKA KENDZIA  
SARA GOUVEIA**

CO-DIRECTED & CHOREOGRAPHED BY  
**GREGORY  
MAQOMA**

PRODUCED BY  
**SARA  
GOUVEIA**

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY  
**MOTHEO  
MOENG**

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY & EDITOR  
**SARA  
GOUVEIA**

MUSIC COMPOSER  
**MR  
SAKITUMI**

MUSIC COLLABORATOR  
**ODWA  
BONGO**

ANIMATION DIRECTOR  
**INKA  
KENDZIA**



national film and video foundation  
south africa  
an agency of the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture



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# KEY CREDITS

*DIRECTORS - Sara Gouveia  
Inka Kendzia*

*CO-DIRECTOR- Gregory Maqoma*

*EDITOR - Sara Gouveia*

*WRITERS - Sara Gouveia  
Inka Kendzia*

*PRODUCER - Sara Gouveia*

*CAST - Gregory Maqoma  
Lihle Mfene  
Zinhle Purity Mkhize*

*DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY - Motheo Moeng*

*SOUND DESIGN - Mr Sakitumi*

*VOCALS & UHADI PLAYER - Odwa Bongo*

# BEHIND THE SCENES

LOCATION - CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA





# SPONSORS



**national film and video foundation**  
SOUTH AFRICA

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