



Nigeria, 2025 | 12 mins

Short Synopsis

When asked if he believes in love, a nameless narrator traces the memories of his past relationships, each a fragment of affection, illusion, and longing. Among them stands Sarah, the woman who quietly became his obsession. "About Sarah" is an intimate exploration of memory, desire, and the stories we tell ourselves about love.

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Creator's Bio

Daniel "S.A.D" Alaka is a Nigerian animator, comic artist, illustrator, and filmmaker whose storytelling blends sharp visual humor with emotional depth. A graduate of Covenant University (2022) and the **EbonyLife Creative Academy**, Daniel began his career developing "Mental Health Treats", a three-part animated series for the Niah



Foundation, and UBELA, an educational project for disadvantaged children. His debut short, "Tito's Tiger Book" (2023), screened at **RendaCon Animation Film Festival**, the **Lagos International Festival of Animation**, and Quramo Festival of Words (**QFEST**). Creator of the acclaimed webcomics **Virgin Mary** (2020–) and **Sweethearts** (2024–), he is also a storyboard artist with **Basement Animation Studio** and the illustrator of **Mavin Records'** "The Department".

Technical Details

Format	2D HD 1080p B&W
Sound	Stereo
Subtitles	English
Screening file available	DCP, MP4

Full Credits

Director	"S.A.D." Alaka
Writer	"S.A.D." Alaka
Animator	"S.A.D." Alaka
Music / Sound Design	Great Osagwu
Voice Actors	Oshla Abimiku, Glory Ogbonayya

Long Synopsis

In "About Sarah", a nameless narrator is asked a simple question: "Do you believe in love?" His answer unfolds as a haunting introspection through the corridors of memory, a mosaic of past relationships that once defined him.

As he revisits each encounter, one story begins to eclipse the rest: His slow, consuming, year-long infatuation with a woman named Sarah. Through his recollections, love becomes less a feeling than an echo that is distorted, idealized, and quietly unraveling.

Blending poetic narration with evocative imagery, "About Sarah" meditates on how memory reshapes affection and how the search for meaning often becomes an act of self-deception. It is a story about the woman he loved and the man he becomes in remembering her.

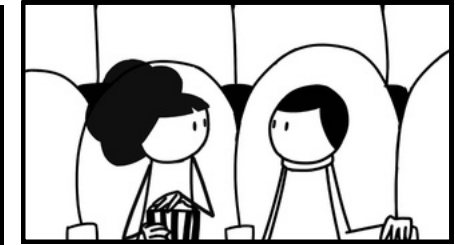
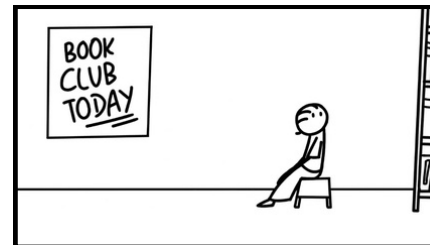
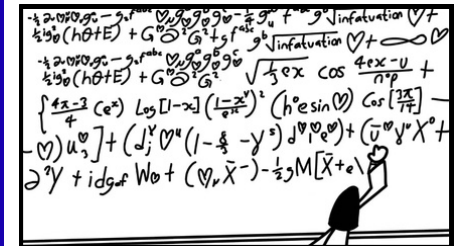
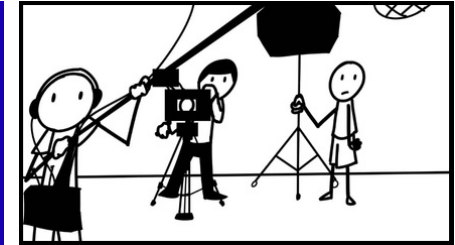
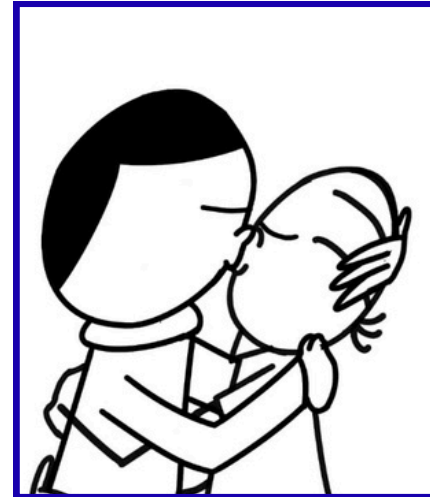
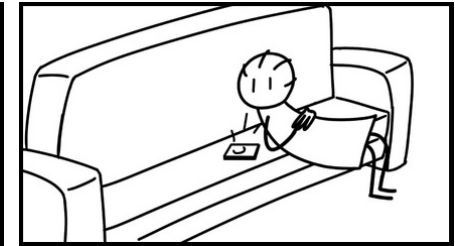
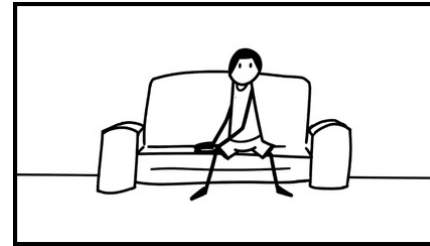
Creator's Statement

"About Sarah" began as a spoken word poem I wrote in my final year at **Covenant University**, a piece I performed at our Writers' Conference under the theme "Emotions." Back then, I was trying to capture, unrequited infatuation, a feeling I could barely name, that strange space between admiration and obsession, where love feels more imagined than real.

Years later, that poem became this film. I wanted to see what that emotion looked like when drawn, framed, and given breath. Every frame was written, animated, and edited by me as an act of introspection and honesty. Visually, "About Sarah" draws from Don Hertzfeldt's minimalist storytelling and the awkward realism of films like "Annie Hall".

I wanted the simplicity of the animation to mirror how memory really works. Memory is messy, nonlinear, and sometimes, painfully sincere. This film is a reflection on what happens when we mistake longing for connection, when love exists more vividly in recollection than in life. I hope that viewers leave remembering someone, their own unfinished sentence of affection.

Film Stills



Press Notes

About Sarah (2025)

Written, Directed, Animated & Edited by **Daniel "S.A.D" Alaka**

Music by **Great Osagwu**

Animation & Style

The film was entirely animated, written, and edited by Daniel himself, a seven-month on-and-off process completed between late nights in Lagos and borrowed studio hours at Basement Animation. Using a combination of hand-drawn 2D frames and digital compositing in Tahoma2D, he intentionally preserved imperfections like visible line jitter, offbeat timing, and the stark black and white that echo the narrator's emotional disarray.

Daniel cites Don Hertzfeldt's "It's Such a Beautiful Day" as a visual touchstone, merging minimalism with surreal storytelling. He also infused cinematic pacing inspired by Woody Allen's "Annie Hall" and Wes Anderson's symmetrical framing, creating a rhythm that feels both intimate and self-aware.

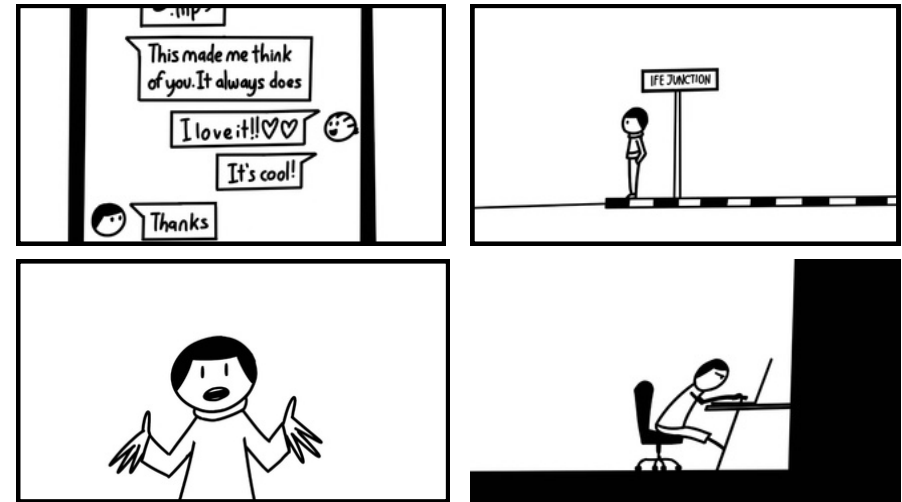
Sound & Music

The score, composed by Daniel's college buddy and underground artist Great Osagwu, was designed to sound like memory with muted piano tones, reverse-layered hums, and recurring motifs that fade in and out, mimicking how emotions resurface when recalling someone you once loved. The entire sound mix was crafted using open-source tools and consumer headphones, an approach Daniel describes as "scrappy, but sincere."

Challenges in Production

With no external funding, Daniel relied on a two-year-old drawing tablet, a refurbished laptop, and a friend's borrowed microphone to complete the film.

Film Stills



Rendering took hours, often interrupted by Lagos power cuts. "The interruptions," he says, "became part of the rhythm of making it like life insisting on its own edits."

Cultural Influence & Reception

Though deeply personal, "About Sarah" is also a distinctly Nigerian reflection on modern love filtered through online exchanges, creative isolation, and the quiet ache of memory. The film premiered at the Covenant University Writers' Conference before entering the festival circuit, where it was praised for its emotional sincerity and minimalist beauty.

Director's Note to Journalists

"This film is about one woman," says Daniel. "It is about one man. It is about all the unfinished feelings we carry, the people who exist longer in our memories than they ever did in our lives."

Poster Artworks



Early Review

"Funny. Poignant. Relatable. Connects the dots our brain so desperately need help connecting."

-- **Adebayo Oduwole** (writer, "When Nigeria Happens")

Premiere status: National

Festival selections: Lift Off Sessions Jury Selection, S16 Film Festival

Awards: Lift Off Seasons Award Shortlist

ABOUT SARAH



[Watch Trailer](#)

Suggested Headlines

“How A Nigerian Animator Turned a College Poem into a Haunting Animated Love Story”

“Nigeria’s Indie Animation Finds Its Memory in Daniel Alaka’s ‘About Sarah’”

“From Spoken Word to Animated Screen: The Unlikely Journey of ‘About Sarah’”

Interview Angles

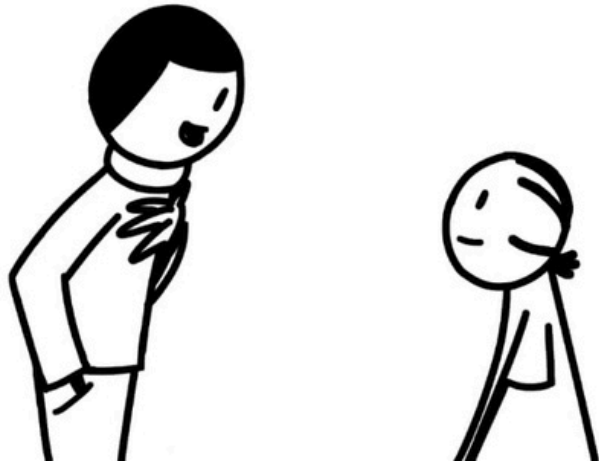
The direct role of undergraduate communities in fostering Nigerian art and expression.

DIY Animation in Lagos: Building a film on a refurbished laptop and borrowed gear.

Exploring how online intimacy and nostalgia shape Nigerian youth art.

New Nigerian Animation Voices: Positioning “About Sarah” within Africa’s emerging independent animation scene.

A S.A.D Cartoon



Key Talking Points

Created entirely by one artist. No studio team, no budget, just six months of relentless iteration.

Inspired by Don Hertzfeldt's "It's Such a Beautiful Day" and the emotional pacing of "Annie Hall".

Premiered at Covenant University's Writers' Conference before entering film-festival circuits.

Blends traditional hand-drawn animation with digital compositing in Toon Boom Harmony.

Score by Great Osagwu designed to mimic the ebb and flow of memory.

Reflects a distinctly Nigerian creative experience, balancing romantic introspection with cultural realism.

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