



BEYOND

Tarkwa Bay

A Short Documentary by Peter Oke



Amidst a dark tide...they dare to dream.

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THE STORY

Runtime: 25 Minutes | Location: Lagos, Nigeria | Language: English/Pidgin (English subtitles)
Shooting Format: 4K Digital | Screening Format: DCP, ProRes 422 HQ | Audio: 5.1 Surround Sound
& Stereo Mix | Year: 2026 | Country: Nigeria / Canada

LOGLINE: When Naval bulldozers raze his beachfront community, a teenage surfer channels his fight into a surfing competition that could be his only way out.

SYNOPSIS: In the vibrant coastal community of Tarkwa Bay, Nigeria, teenage surfer Abraham finds his dreams at odds with reality. Mentored by local legend Godpower, Abraham overcomes his fear of the ocean to embrace a newfound passion for surfing.

But when naval bulldozers suddenly destroy their island homes, his dreams are left hanging in the balance. Refusing to be defeated, Abraham returns with his father's support to pursue a competition that could take him beyond the only home he's ever known.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Growing up in Lagos, Nigeria, *Beyond Tarkwa Bay* is a deeply personal project, born from my desire to amplify the voices of young Nigerian athletes who place their hopes for a better life in their abilities. The talent and passion are typically present, but they often lack solid mentorship, investment, and modern facilities, which hinder their ability to compete with their peers globally. Eventually, they resign themselves to menial jobs to get by, despite all that potential.

Building on the success of our previous award-winning documentary, *Boys On The Brink*, this project was made possible through deep community trust and exclusive access. We navigated the complex bureaucracy of the Nigerian Surfing Federation and the Nigerian Navy to secure us filming in a conflict zone, ensuring we could tell this story from the inside out, not as observers, but as partners with the Tarkwa Bay community.

This story showcases the resilience of a community often overlooked, where surfing symbolises freedom despite systemic barriers. This film is a testament to the power of youth, the strength of mentorship, and the unyielding spirit of Tarkwa Bay. I hope it inspires audiences to pursue their dreams, regardless of the odds.

- PETER OKE



THE MOVEMENT

What began as a personal passion has evolved into a national movement. It started when John Micheletti and friends introduced the youth of Tarkwa Bay to surfing, offering a pathway to greater purpose.

To formalize this vision, John Micheletti co-founded the Nigeria Surfing Federation, dedicated to securing resources and opportunities for these teens to "surf their way" to a better future. Under the leadership of Federation President Prince Adewale Fawe, the organization has been officially recognized by the National Olympic Committee.

This recognition has opened doors previously unimaginable, allowing Tarkwa Bay's top talent to compete internationally. The ultimate goal is clear: The Olympics.

Beyond Tarkwa Bay is produced in direct collaboration with the Federation, who serve as integral partners in the storytelling process. Therefore, this film is beyond a documentation of struggle, but a platform for their Olympic dreams.



VISUALS



WHY NOW?

THE OLYMPIC MOMENT

History is about to be made. With the **Youth Olympic Games heading to Dakar, Senegal, in 2026, the first Olympic event ever held on African soil**, the eyes of the sporting world are turning to West Africa. Surfing is now beyond just a pastime for the youth of Tarkwa Bay; it is a viable path to national representation as it is listed as a major "engagement sport" in the program, promoting youth involvement. This documentary is set in the only known surfing site in Nigeria, the sole environment that has the potential to birth Nigeria's first Olympic surf team.

This is not a retrospective. The Nigerian Surfing Federation is building now. The evictions are ongoing now. The road to the Olympics is happening now. **This film captures a lightning-in-a-bottle moment where sport, politics, and youth culture collide.**

REFRAMING DISPLACEMENT

In a global moment defined by forced migration, the visual language of displacement is too often reduced to static images of despair and dependency. *Beyond Tarkwa Bay* disrupts this trope. When the state seized their land, the Tarkwa Bay youth took to the ocean.

By juxtaposing the attempted erasure of a community with the fluid mastery of surfing, the film offers a radical new framework for resilience. It moves beyond the narrative of 'refugees' to present a story of 'pioneers', proving that while territory can be confiscated, the human spirit remains sovereign.

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER



AWARDS

- Winner: Best Documentary Feature, Political Film Festival (Boys on the Brink)
- Winner: Best Documentary Feature, International Gold Festival (Boys on the Brink)

PETER OKE is a Nigerian filmmaker and multidisciplinary artist currently based in Toronto, Canada. With over seven years of experience in directing, producing, and cinematography, Peter's work is defined by a deep commitment to socially impactful narratives and the exploration of African identity in the diaspora.

He creates from a distinct vantage point, holding a background in Psychology that informs his empathetic approach to character-driven storytelling. This lens allows him to navigate complex social landscapes with nuance, evident in his award-winning feature documentary, *Boys on the Brink*, which won the Best Documentary Feature at both the Political Film Festival and the International Gold Festival.

Currently a graduate student at OCAD University, Peter is expanding the boundaries of non-fiction storytelling through his thesis on Africanfuturism and Virtual Reality. His latest film, "Beyond Tarkwa Bay," continues his exploration of resilience, capturing the vibrant surf culture of Lagos against the backdrop of displacement.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER/ CO-PRODUCER



RUME ONOSODE is a development consultant and filmmaker focused on social impact. She founded The Earth Alternative in 2021, a creative platform connecting Nigerians to life-changing opportunities, and produced and co-directed the acclaimed documentary *Boys on the Brink*, an official selection of the 2022 Capri–Hollywood International Film Festival and the opening film of the 2023 iREP International Documentary Film Festival.

The film has continued to create measurable impact through private support and partnerships with organizations, including the Ishk Tolaram Centre and The Special Foundation Nigeria. In 2024, Rume began developing *Beyond Tarkwa Bay*, an impact documentary produced in partnership with the Nigerian Surfing Federation and Aella Microfinance Bank, following young Nigerian surfers striving to succeed against significant odds.

She is based in Lagos, Nigeria, and currently leads business development for a media production company and an African job-creation startup.

AWARDS

- Winner: Best Documentary Feature, Political Film Festival (*Boys on the Brink*)
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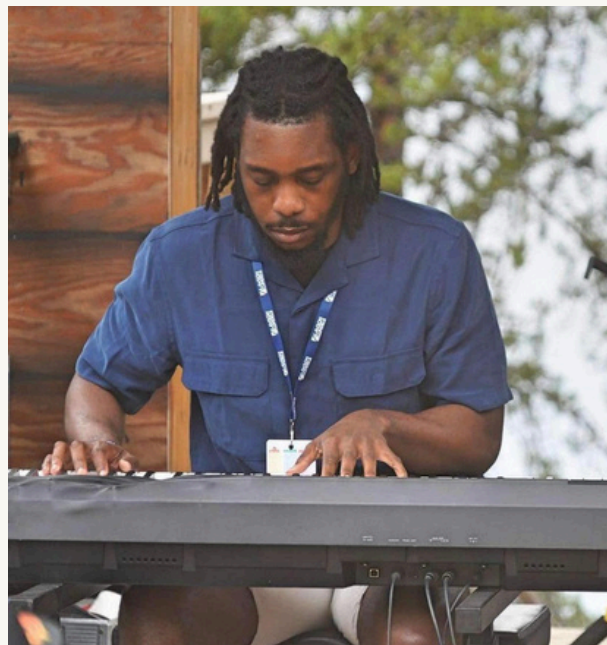
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY



MICHAEL OKORO is a seasoned cinematographer and editor with a sharp focus on documentary and branded content. With a background as the Main Cinematographer at Blush & Slate Film Company (Nigeria), he has mastered the art of visual storytelling, seamlessly blending technical precision in lighting and lens selection with emotive post-production editing.

His portfolio includes the award-winning documentary *Boys on the Brink*, as well as corporate narratives for Nigerian Machine Tools and the *Caverton Journey*.

SCORE COMPOSER



SIJI OLUNUGA is a captivating composer specializing in the art of minimalism. His craft was honed through work with the Nelson and District Arts Council in British Columbia and has since expanded into a diverse filmography. His musical journey, which has traversed the scenic landscapes of Nelson, BC, and the vibrant culture of Lagos, allows him to bring a distinctive, cross-cultural texture to his scores.

Siji's portfolio spans feature films, television, and documentaries. His credits include the feature film *Baby Maker* (Prime Video) and the hit TV series *Phases* and *Love Like This* for Ndani TV.

A frequent collaborator with director Peter Oke, Siji previously scored the award-winning documentary *Boys on the Brink*. For *Beyond Tarkwa Bay*, he employs his signature evocative simplicity to capture the resilience of the surfing community.

FESTIVAL SELECTION

Beyond Tarkwa Bay will premiere at the **34th Pan African Film & Arts Festival (PAFF)** in Los Angeles, USA.

As America's largest and most prestigious Black film festival, PAFF is an Academy Award-qualifying festival for short documentaries. This selection places *Beyond Tarkwa Bay* on the global stage, offering a rare glimpse into a unique Nigerian subculture that is fighting for its survival.



A dark, moody photograph of a sunset or sunrise over a body of water. In the foreground, a person is silhouetted against the light, standing on a beach and holding a long pole. In the background, a long boat is visible on the water, with several other people inside it, also silhouetted. The sky is a mix of dark and light tones, suggesting the sun is low on the horizon.

CONTACT

Email: beyondthebaydoc@gmail.com

Instagram: [@BeyondTarkwaBay](https://www.instagram.com/BeyondTarkwaBay)

Website: www.beyondtarkwabay.com