



AMADI



A short film by Zia Mandviwalla

INTERNATIONAL SALES

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NEW ZEALAND FILM



15mins/ 1:1:85/ 35mm/ Dolby Digital/ Colour

Writer/Director	Zia Mandviwalla
Producer	Owen Hughes
Director of Photography	Christopher Pryor
Production Company	Frame Up Films
Languages	English/Kina-Rwandan



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ONELINER

As their worlds fall apart, an unlikely connection occurs between a Rwandan refugee living in New Zealand and his mentally unstable neighbour.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

As their worlds fall apart, an unlikely connection occurs between a Rwandan refugee living in New Zealand and his mentally unstable neighbour. Though at first a mutual prejudice exists between them, they grow to realise their life experiences are not that dissimilar from one another.

LONG SYNOPSIS

Amadi, a recently resettled refugee from Rwanda is in constant dispute with his mentally unstable neighbour who insists on cluttering the hallway of their building with her possessions. A mutual prejudice exists between them. But when they observe each other more closely, they grow to realise their life experiences are not all that dissimilar from one another. They have suffered loneliness, tragedy and together experience painful separation from family.

FESTIVALS

2010 Melbourne International Film Festival, Australia
2010 New Zealand International Film Festival, New Zealand
2010 Hawaii International Film Festival, New Zealand
2011 Australia Refugee Film Festival, Australia



BACKGROUND

Amadi was born out of writer/director Zia Mandviwalla's experiences working as a volunteer for Refugee Services in New Zealand: assisting newly arrived refugees adjust to life in an unfamiliar country. Though New Zealand has one of the most comprehensive resettlement programs in the world, the process of adjustment remains a challenging and lonely one. Once the initial relief of escaping war torn homelands dissipates, refugees are faced with the challenges of everyday life in New Zealand: working menial jobs, encountering prejudice and trying to find their place amidst an alien landscape.

Amadi, faces all of this alone, waiting through the uncertain, bureaucratic process of reunification with his family who remain in Africa.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Amadi is a film that inspires us to look beyond the surface – it reminds us that even the most seemingly disparate people can share a common experience of life. Both Amadi and Jane live on the social periphery and exist in a kind of exile: while Amadi copes with being a refugee in an alien culture, Jane's unstable mental health makes her an outcast living alone in squalor. Like the zoo animals they live so close to, both Amadi and Jane are displaced and isolated. Yet like anyone, they yearn for companionship and connection and slowly, the echoes and similarities between their experiences grow increasingly evident.

By the end of the film Amadi and Jane understand enough to develop considerable empathy for one another. And while their respective futures may seem uncertain, the film ends with a glimmer of hope for the continued connection between these two characters.

Amadi's story has been taken from a feature film in development with Frame Up Films, which was short-listed at the 2007 Berlinale Talent Campus. The feature script, currently under the working title "Milk," is three interconnected stories of migrants living in suburban New Zealand. This short film was born out of an exercise to investigate and develop the connection between Amadi and Jane –who feature prominently in the feature story.



DIRECTOR BIO

Indian by birth and parentage, Zia immigrated to New Zealand with her family in 1996. She has made several successful dramatic short films, including *Eating Sausage* (2004) which was selected for a number of international film festivals including London and Pusan as well as numerous other festivals around the world. *Eating Sausage* went on to win a host of awards including Best Short Film Script at the 2005 NZ Screen Director's Guild Awards and Best Director and Best Short Film at Fitzroy Shorts in Melbourne. In 2005, Zia was a runner up for SPADA New Filmmaker of the Year in New Zealand and in 2007 she was selected to represent New Zealand at the Berlinale Talent Campus. Her next short film *Clean Linen* premiered at the Melbourne International Film Festival in 2007 as part of the prestigious Accelerator program and was also nominated for the Grand Jury prize at the South Asian International Film Festival in New York 2008. Zia was also a member of the creative collective that brought *A Thousand Apologies*, New Zealand's first pan-Asian sketch comedy television show to air. She currently has several projects in development including another short film and several feature film scripts. Most recently, Zia was awarded the Screen Production and Development Association prize for New Filmmaker of the Year 2009.

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY BIO

Coming from a background in stills photography, Chris Pryor left his studies in engineering to pursue a career in visual arts. He has been making films for the last ten years and has been nominated for a host of awards on a number of projects including *Woodenhead*, *Kaikohe Demolition* and the highly acclaimed *Rubbings of a Live Man*. In 2004 Chris represented New Zealand at the Berlinale Talent Campus and after *Clean Linen*, *Amadi* is his second short film collaboration with Zia Mandviwalla. Chris currently travels New Zealand shooting arts programs and documentaries and recently received funding for a project to be shot on the remote Wanganui River in New Zealand.



PRODUCER BIO

Owen Hughes set up Frame Up Films in 1977 as a television commercials' producer, changing to TV and film production in 1990.

He has produced 40 documentaries for *Inside NZ* and *Documentary NZ*, eight arts documentaries for *Artsville*, a number of short films, a half-hour drama anthology *Another Country*, six one-hour dramas for Montana Theatre and Niki Caro's first feature film *Memory & Desire*.

Two of his short film productions were selected at Cannes in 1994, Niki Caro's *Sure to Rise* in Official Competition and Michael Hurst's *I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry* in a New Zealand selection.

In 1996, at the NZ Television Awards, he won "Best Drama" for *Overnight* and *Trifecta*, winning the same award in 1998 for *Home Movie*.

In 1999 he won "Best Film" for the movie *Memory & Desire* at the NZ Film Awards. Previously *Memory & Desire* had been selected for Cannes Critics Week in 1998.

In 2000 and 2001 Frame Up Films administered a Short Film Fund, two of their commissions being selected for the Berlin and Sundance Festivals.

In 2007 he produced Roseanne Liang's short film *Take 3*. This short was selected for Berlin 2008 where it won a Special Jury Prize.

Since 2005 he has been developing a feature script with Zia Mandviwalla. This project received seeding funds from TVNZ and the NZFC and was taken by Zia to the Berlinale Talent Campus in 2007. *Amadi* is an offshoot of this project, a short film to test the waters.

CREDITS

AMADI	Francois Byamana
JANE	Elizabeth Hawthorne
GORDON	Glen -Paul Waru
DELLA	Hera Dunleavy
LITTLE GIRL	Milo McColl
CASEWORKER	Simon Ward
CROSS CULTURAL WORKER	Francis Kimata
MOVING MAN 1	Paul Ledingham
MOVING MAN 2	John Young
AMADI'S WIFE V/O	Nosia Fogogo
Director of Photography	Chris Pryor
Art Director	Pete Sweeney
Editor	Tom Eagles
Casting Director	Mike Dwyer, Barefoot Casting
Prod Manager	Viktoria Berryman
1 st AD	Quentin Whitwell
Location Manager	Sean Tracey-Brown
Prod Coordinator	Anna Buchanan
Prod Assistant	Anna Gibbons
Prod Runner	Michael Lim
Translator	Karen Jin
	Simon Zhao
	Xiao Li
Catering	Susan Humphries
Focus Puller	Caleb Staines
Loader	Alex Glucina
Video Split OP	Ashley Thomas
Key Gaffer	Gilly Lawrence
Gaffer Assistant	Merlin Wilford
Brendon Chan	John Young
Costume Design	Cathy Pope
Standby Wardrobe	Amber Rhodes
Make-Up	Dannelle Satherley
Art Dept Assistant	Dion Boothby
	Jade Irons
	Kezia Hinchey
Continuity	Katharine Phyn
Sound Recordist	Jeffery Holdaway
Boom Operator	Stuart Kilpatrick
Sound Designer/Editor	Justin Doyle
Sound Design Facility	The Blue Room Studio
Sound Mixer	John Boswell
Mixing Studio	Park Road Post
Camera Equipment	Metro Films
Lighting Equipment	Fat Lighting
Vehicles	Metropolitan Rentals
Insurance	Crombie Lockwood Ltd
Edit Facility	RPM
Rushes Transfer	Digital Post
DI Services	EFilm Australia
DI Conform/Colourist	Jamie Hediger
Titles/Compositor	Robert Stollar

Digital Supervisor	Matthew North
Production Liaison	Katherine Heads
Laboratory	Deluxe
Stills	Dominic Fryer

Many Special Thanks to:

Briscoes, Auckland Zoo, Housing New Zealand, TAPAC, The Department of Labour, Radio Rentals, Auckland City Council, Refugee Services, Diako Amin, Charlotte Chapman, Felix Becroft, Olivia Holmes, Johnny Rakai Whitwell, Tania and Lula Vuletich, Emily and Olive Stenhouse-White, Kirsty Charles and Leyla, Amanda Brinsden, James Murch, Arnold du Toit, Jani Liebenberg, Robin Livingstone, Wendy Preston, Ray Beentjes, Margaret-Mary Hollins, Marc Chesterman.

Iain Blanshard, Soonu and Ronny Mandviwalla, Marie Winfield, Abigail Smith, Antoinette Tanguay, Eni Seuao, Peter and the residents at Wade Ave, Dicken Lee, Simon Zhan, Lude Zhu, Lynne Cardy, The residents of 7 Jordon Ave, Peter O'Donoghue, Corner Café Pt Chevalier, Coffee Supreme Ponsonby, Pete Moerenhout, Dean Thomas, Marty Clist, Martin Siebrits, Thad Lawrence, Alison Ingram, John Neill, Dave Whitehead, Melanie Graham, Grant Campbell, Katie Flannigan, Lou Flagel, Gay and John Hay, Dave Whitehead, Bruce McArthur, Glen van Prehn.

'Ruzima' and 'Kamananga Ka Sebjura'
Traditional Rwandan Songs
In the collection 'Musiques du Rwanda'
Editors Musée Royale d'Afrique Centrale and Fonti Musicali, Brussels

"Best Served Chilled"
Written and Performed by David Chaulk
Recorded and Produced by Steven Bremner
From the album "Dancing With Torunn"
Zootus Macimus Music 2009

"Heat Like Me"
Written and Performed by Steven Bremner
Recorded by Steven Bremner
Zootus Maximus Music 2009

Executive Producers NZFC Short Film Manager	Vicky Pope, Rob Sarkies Juliette Veber
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Producer	Owen Hughes
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Writer /Director	Zia Mandviwalla
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Logos - Kodak, Deluxe, Dolby

A Frame Up Films Production
Produced In Association with the
Short Film Fund of the New Zealand Film Commission
and Big Shorts Ltd.

NZ Film Commission Logo

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