PRESS KIT

THE NIGHT ILEFT AMERICA



Erick Kiyeega

. _{Lydia} Namagembe

Steven Kiyinigi

A FILM BY LAKI KARAVIAS

508 M

WRITTEN & DIRECTED LAKI KARAVIAS PERFEORMANCES ERICK KIYEEGA LYDIA NAMAGEMBE HENRY TUMWESIGYE STEVEN KIYINGI PRODUCED PAULA FAIRFIELD HENRY TUMWESIGYE SOUND MIXER ERIC KABANDA 1ST AC IVAN ASHIMWE ORIGINAL SCORE BRIAN HALL ASST COMPOSER PAUL RAMEY SOUND DESIGN PAULA FAIRFIELD RE-RECORDING GARY COPPOLA FOLEY ARTIST VINCENT GUISETTI VEX JAPHY RIDDLE ADAM SAGER MUSIC BY BRIDGE OF HOPE AFRICA CHILDREN'S CHOIR TRANSLATION DOROTHY KAZIMOTO

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SYNOPSIS

While awaiting the results of his mother's visa renewal request, a teenage boy living in Texas is forced to confront memories of the life he so desperately wanted to leave behind in Uganda.

The Night I Left America follows the story of a teenage boy named Chamagello who, from a very young age, became enraptured with the American dream. He always imagined that one day he might move there with his family and make a better life and, perhaps, event a name for himself.

As fate would have it, years later, Chamagello finds himself living with his mother in a ramshakle trailer in the middle of "nowhere Texas." It wasn't exactly the life he imagined for himself but, for him, it was better than the life of struggle he perceived his family had had before.

But with the threat of his mother's work visa not renewing, Chamagello finds himself at a crossroads; wanting to hold onto the promise of opportunity set before him in America or learning to embrace the life he left behind in Uganda?















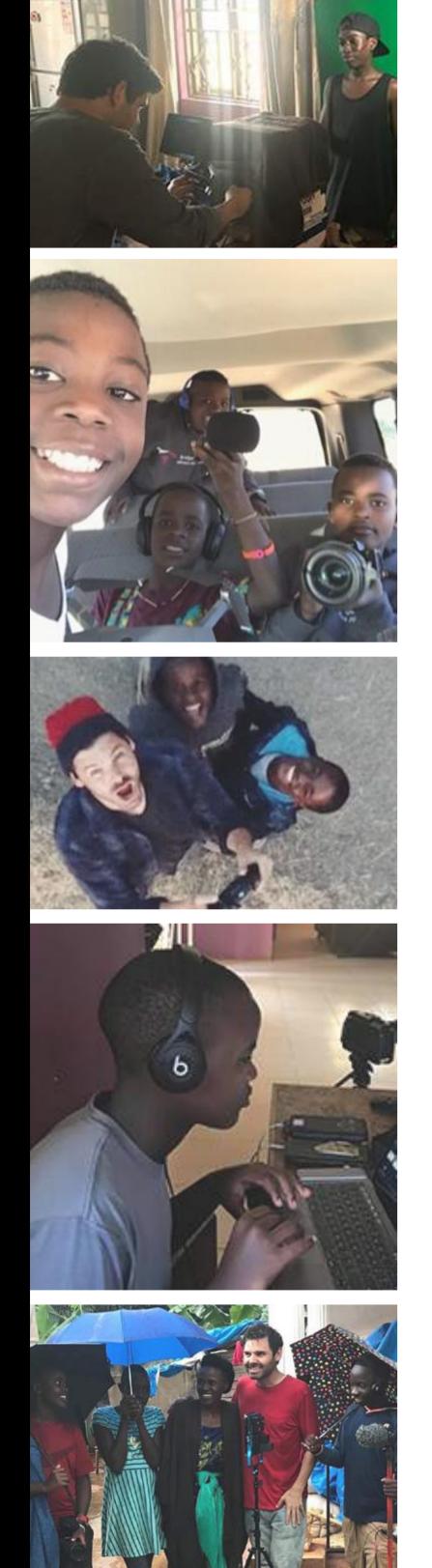


AN INSIGHTFUL STORY TO TELL."

-Alan NG, Film Threat







BEHIND THE STORY

It all started when director, Laki Karavias, was asked if he wanted to put his directorial aspirations on hold to be a driver for a Ugandan children's choir during their U.S. tour. A few months prior, Laki had met all the kids and leaders of the choir in Uganda while working on a film project. He couldn't imagine a better group to hit the road with, so... he took the leap.

because of their time together.

While traveling down the west coast, Laki's love for film started rearing it's head. Some of the choir kids started showing a strong interest in learning what it takes to make a film and before any of them knew it, they were all crammed into a ramshackle trailer in the middle of Texas, shooting their first dialogue scene between Chamagello, Erick Kiyeega (Choir Member) and his mother, Lydia Namagembe (Choir Director).

After witnessing a bit of the magic that was captured there, they knew there was a bigger story to tell and began dreaming of what we could make together. That simple dialogue scene soon became a full blown production with the choir kids and leaders making up the entire cast and crew.

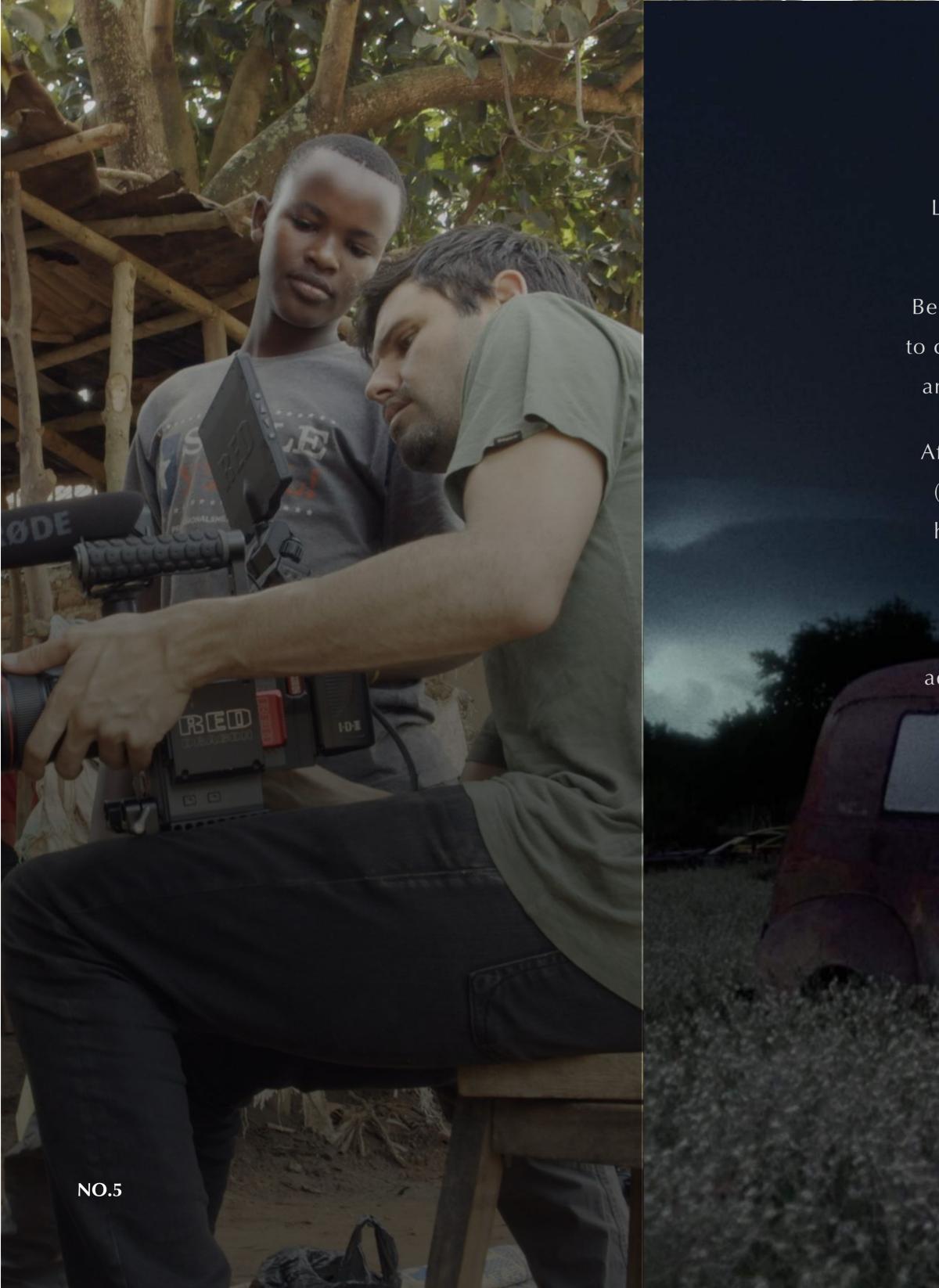
The story would eventually lead Laki back to the very village in Uganda where the choir was from.

Upon assembling a rough edit of the film, a fundraiser was held in Portland, Oregon and some of the cast and crew were flown over for a private screening of the film where we surprised the kids with \$10k worth of camera gear for them to take back to Uganda to continue to tell their own stories.

In just one year, they have written, shot and edited their own short film, have produced music videos for local artists and have been contracted to create videos for a couple local humanitarian organizations. Several of the kids are now set on and working hard towards a future career in filmmaking.

NO.4

Throughout their travels, they shared many amazing experiences and Laki could easily say his family grew 25 strong



DIRECTORS BIO

Laki Karavias is a Greek-American filmmaker, currently dividing his time between Europe and the Pacific Northwest.

Because much of his childhood and post graduate work has been abroad, he is drawn to characters, settings, and experiences that take viewers beyond American boundaries and into the lives of some of the extraordinary people he has met during his travels.

After studying scriptwriting and directing at the National Film and Television School (UK) and the Prague Film School, Laki began crafting on paper the narratives he'd hope to see one day on the big screen—stories mixing gravitas and whimsy, while maintaining a human core.

When not making films, Laki looks for opportunities to pursue his passion for adolescent film education, particularly for youth living in underserved communities and economically fragile contexts both locally and abroad.

FILMOGRAPHY

"MESSANIA'S STORY" 2020. Documentary Short. Oscar Qualifying.

> "QUI JE SUIS" 2018. Narrative Short.

"35 YEARS TO THE MOON" 2016. Narrative Short.





CHAMAGELLO Erick Kiyeega

Erick was born and raised in the village of Busega, Uganda, where he lives with his mother and older sister.

When not studying hard in school or helping his mother tend to the grocery shop they run from the front of their home, Erick takes any and every opportunity to get lost in a good film or television show.

As a child, it was not an uncommon occurrence for Erick to rally with kids in his village to write and perform little plays for their community. Watching how his embodiment of a character could bring joy to an audience has stuck with him to this day.

While playing the role of Chamagello in *The Night I Left America*, Erick's determination to pursue a career began to flourish and he is now convinced that his journey in film has only just begun.



MAMA CHAMA Lydia Namagebe

Although this was her first time acting for film, Lydia is no stranger to performance.

After losing her parents as a young child, Lydia was raised and educated all the way through high school by the African Children's Choir. During her time there, she danced her way through Africa, Europe, Asia and America with her fellow choir members.

During the filming of The Night I Left America, Lydia not only served as the choir director for the Bridge of Hope Africa Ministries Choir but graced the screen with her performance as Mama Chamagello.

Today Lydia works as a Community Development Director in Wakiso, Uganda and is committed to helping children in need and their families imagine and work towards a better future.





YOUNG CHAMAGELLO Steven Kiyingi

Steven is the eldest of four, where he lives with his parent's in Wakiso, Uganda.

Although Steven has a prococious and endlessly energetic temperment that would not seem not to mix with the rigor and repetition of screen acting, he seemed to effortlessly snap into character as soon as "action" was called.

Outside of his newfound passion for acting, Steven enjoys playing soccer, watching movies and getting into a healthy amount of trouble with his friends.



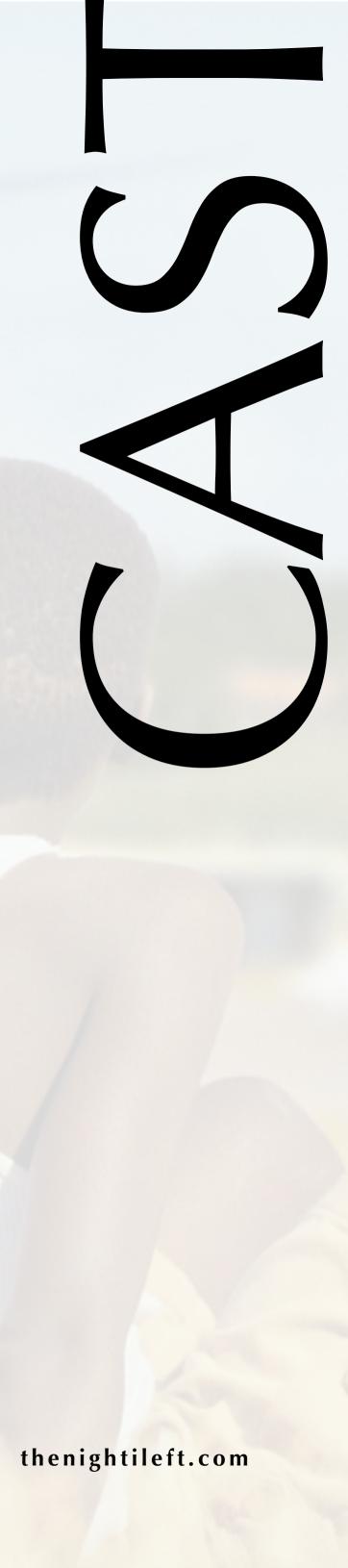
PAPA CHAMA Henry Tumwesigye

Henry was raised and educated by the African Children's Choir after losing his parents at a young age.

Growing up in similar circumstances, Henry always had a passion for helping the poor, the orphans, and street children. It was this passion that led him to establish the Bridge of Hope Africa Ministries.

Henry holds a Diploma in Journalism from the Uganda Institute of Business

thenightileft.com



downloadable links

Poster Art vertical, horizontal & square

Trailer W/ LAURELS, W/O LAURELS

Film Stills, BTS

Screener H264, PRORES, DCP



WRITER & DIRECTOR

Laki Karavias

PRODUCERS

Henry Tumwesigye, Paula Fairfield, Katie Walter

SOUND MIXER

Eric Kabanda

1ST AC

Ivan Ashimwe

PRODUCTION ASSIST

Diana Kisakye, Henry Sewante

STORY CONSULTATION

Lydia Namagembe, Griffin Magezi

EDITOR

Laki Karavias

MUSICAL PERORMANCES Bridge of Hope Africa Ministries Choir

ORIGINAL SCORE *Brian Leroy Hall*

ASSISTANT COMPOSER Jonah Ramey

SOUND DESIGN *Paula Fairfield, MPSE*

RE-RECORDING MIX Gary Coppola CAS, Paula Fairfield

FOLEY ARTIST Vincent Guisetti

COLORIST Darren Hartman

VISUAL EFFECTS Japhy Riddle, Adam ager

TRANSLATION

Dorothy Kazimoto





Paula Fairfield is an International and Emmy award winning sound designer for tv, film, commercials, and basically anything that makes noise. She has 11 Emmy nominations for her work on Lost, The River, Game of Thrones and Lovecraft Country, with two wins for Game of Thrones, and multiple other wins and nominations for her work in both The US and Canada. Her passion is high concept sound design and her main interest is working with visionary creators, which is clearly reflected in her resume and her background as an artist. Recent projects include "Motherland: Fort Salem", "Warrior Nun", "Lovecraft Country", "Them: Covenant" and "The Nevers".

SOUND DESIGN PAULA FAIRFIELD, MPSE





At an early age, Brian made his mark as a rising young maestro in the music production business, working with a long list of music houses and agencies. This is the third film he has worked on with director, Laki Karavias. In addition, Brian has scored spots for brands including Levi, Nike, Bud Light, Google, Nintendo, McDonald's, HTC, Wikipedia, Intel, Lowe and many others.

Brian is the co-founder and creative director at Marmoset Music, a boutique music house. When he's not working on demos until 3 am in his recording studio, he finds time to write for and lead his Portland-based folk pop band.

Music Performances BRIDGE OF HOPE AFRICA MINISTRIES CHOIR

The members of this choir were not only an integral part of the script development and production of the Night I Left America, they also performed much of the music in the film. With the leadership of choir director and lead actress, Lydia Namagembe, they unearthed various traditional Ugandan songs that were aligned with the themes of the film.

Through voice, body movement, and instrumentation, they worked together to bring an authenticity to the story that only they could.





INTERNATIONAL TITLE / The Night I Left America DURATION / 13Mintutes ASPECT RATIO / 2.35 YEAR / 2021 ORIGINAL LANGUAGE / Luganda, English COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION / Uganda, USA





DIRECTOR, Laki Karavias

hello@lakikaravias.com

PRESS/SALES, Deborah Sheppard

deborah@iheartcinema.co.uk







