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OFFICIAL SELECTION
50+
Festivals
2018-2019

OFFICIAL SELECTION
6 wins
2018-2019
OFFICIAL SELECTION
16
nominations
2018-2019

TO LIVE, HE DARED DEATH.

A film by Wanjiru M. Njendu



LOGLINE

A fictionalized short film based on the true story of the terrifying, daring escape of Henry "Box" Brown, who used creativity to escape from slavery in 1849 by mailing himself to freedom.



[Narrative Short]

Running Time: **6.09 minutes**

Written, Produced & Directed By: **Wanjiru Njendu**

Associate Produced By:

Benjamin A. Onyango

Maggie Manyan

Production Company: **Magic Works Productions**

Edited by: **Hanna Sturwold**

Cinematographer/Co-producer: **Bongani Mlambo**

Composer: **Dara Taylor**

Post Sound Mix: **John Cantu**

Website: <https://www.boxedthefilm.com/>

Contact: info@magicworksproduction.com



Director's statement



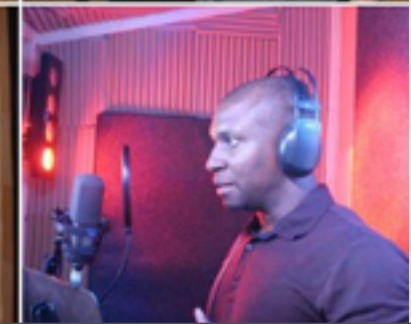
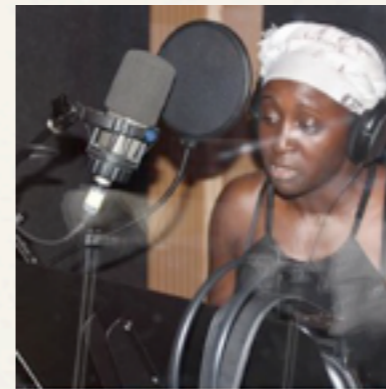
The idea for *Boxed* came about via chance encounter I had with Karyn Parsons (Fresh Prince of Bel Air, Major Payne) at the 2018 Hollywood Creative Forum. Karyn runs a company Sweet Blackberry that teaches children Black History via animation. The first story they did was Henry Brown's.

I latched onto the idea of telling Henry's story, but as a psychological thriller with the audience in the box with him for the duration of his trip. I thought inside the box.

I wrote the script on March 5th and on March 18th wrapped production 3 days before I underwent a surgical procedure. During my recovery time at home I worked remotely with my post team to complete the film.

The film was shot MOS on location with all voice, ADR and sound recorded and designed in post-production to enable us to capture the authenticity of the time period and the fear that Henry would have gone through during this treacherous journey.





WRITER, PRODUCER, DIRECTOR

Wanjiru M.Njendu



Wanjiru Njendu is an award-winning filmmaker of Kenyan descent based in Los Angeles. Her creative imagination earned her the nickname '**Magic**' at a young age. Wanjiru Njendu is an award-winning filmmaker of Kenyan descent based in Los Angeles. Her creative imagination earned her the nickname 'Magic' at a young age. Her African and American upbringing influences her approach as a writer and director for film and television enabling her to have a versatile voice in both African stories and Western stories. This versatility led to her being chosen as a finalist in the Producer's Guild of America Diversity workshop.

Wanjiru's film credits include several award-winning short films which have played in over 70 film festivals. Her films have been shown in festivals in the USA and internationally, nominated for an African Movie Academy award and screened at Creative Artists Agency as part of a selected showcase curated by industry executives, managers and agents as well as at SONY Pictures Entertainment. Her latest short film **Boxed** is *For Your Consideration - Best Short Film-Live Action* to the 92nd Academy Awards (2020).

Her documentary short film *Safari ya Jamhuri: The Journey to freedom* was used to provide evidence for a lawsuit against the British Government by the MAU MAU colonial war survivors from Kenya.

Wanjiru has studio experience having worked for both Disney Studios in various areas and Universal Pictures' Creative Marketing.

She was the shadowing director on the Netflix series "*Daybreak*" under Mark Tonderai. She is currently working on getting two feature films, *Reghost*, a comedy-horror and *Lionheart*, a coming of age film set in 1995 Brooklyn, financed.

[Website](#) [IMDB](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#)

Production team

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER, Benjamin A. Onyango

Benjamin Alfred Onyango left his native country Kenya to pursue further studies in the United States of America. After graduation, he relocated to Hollywood, California to pursue a career in Music and Acting. After a few years with Funk Rock band P.F.O. and part-time acting, he made the decision to be a full-time actor.

Since then he has worked on numerous feature films and TV shows. His TV credits include *General Hospital*, *The Shield* and *The X-files*.

His Film credits include the following: *The God's not dead Trilogy films*, *Tears of the sun*, *Heavenly Deposit*, *Beautifully Broken*, *Father Africa*, *The Boy*, *Road to redemption*, *Default*, *Kwame*, *Chains*, *Thunder chance*, *The disciple*, *American Crude* and *The Terminal*.

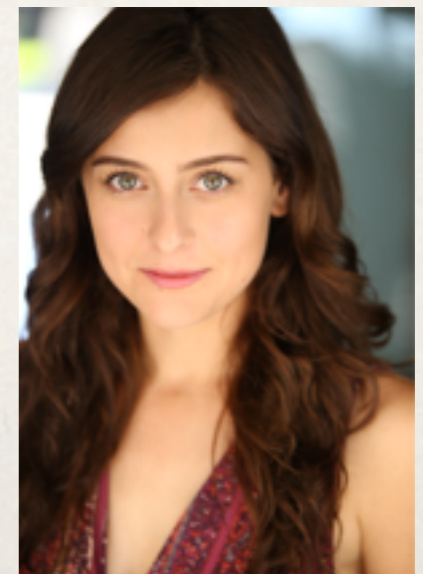
His knowledge of and fluency in the Swahili language has landed him voice acting and ADR roles in many Hollywood films including: *the Last face*, *Furious 7*, *Constantine*, *Night at the museum I & III*, *Machine gun preacher*, *Inception*, *The day the earth stood still*, *Primeval*, *League of extraordinary gentlemen*, *The path to 911*, *Mighty joe young*, *E-ring*.

His TV writing credits include: TV Series *The Wives*, *Dysfunctionally Organized*(web series), *Two World* (Not released).

His film writing credits include: Short Films *Mind Tricks* and *Curse of devil's mountain*, a feature length movie *Cheza (Dance)* and a feature length Sci-Fi, *Original Man*.

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER, Maggie Manyan

Maggie Manyan is a Russian-born, Angeleno-raised actor/director/producer. She has been a part of many film and theatre productions as an actor and is excited to be on the other side for *BOXED*. She is thrilled to be working with Wanjiru Njendu on this amazingly written and directed film. She hopes to continue working with Wanjiru in telling important stories like this one.



Production team

CINEMATOGRAPHER / CO-PRODUCER) Bongani Mlambo

Bongani Mlambo is a Zimbabwean South African cinematographer based in Los Angeles obsessed with telling visually creative and compelling stories and exploring the world.

Bongani's recent projects include All Creatures directed by Collin Schiffli, starring David Dastmalchian (Blade Runner 2049, The Dark Knight) and Karen Gillan (Guardians of the Galaxy, Jumanji); Three Days In August by Johnathan Brownlee; Upstream Color by Shane Carruth; and Woodshock starring Kirsten Dunst. His work has won awards at the NBC Universal Short Film Festival, SXSW, and numerous other festivals and he is a 2018 Film Independent Project Involve Fellow.

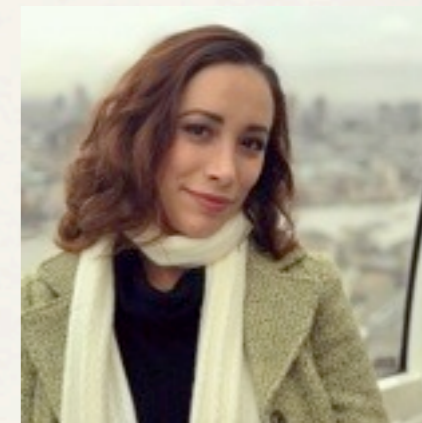
Beyond his artistic pursuits, Bongani loves to dance, drum, and ponder on social issues and the meaning of life. He is passionate about sharing his knowledge and talents and plans to establish an arts & film school in Zimbabwe, inspiring and helping the next generation of Africans to pursue their dreams in the visual and performing arts. [Website](#)



PRODUCTION DESIGNER, Makenzi Jordan

Makenzie knew from a young age that she would be a designer. It wasn't until 4 years ago she realized she wanted to work in the film industry and design sets. Driven by a strong passion for interior design and architecture working in TV & film has opened up even more creative doors for her as both as Production Designer and Art Director.

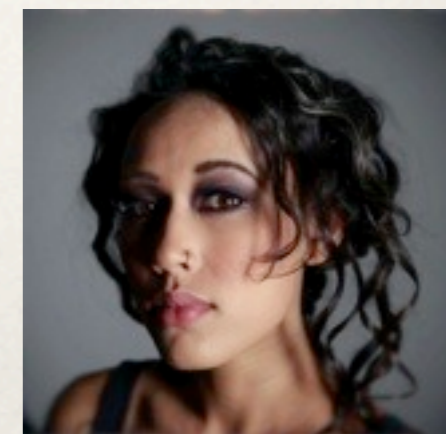
She loves wearing multiple hats in her career, not just as a designer. Her motto is "I learned if you work in a career you're passionate about you will thrive." Makenzie was core to creating the claustrophobic space that was BOXED bringing an authentic look and feel that will pull audiences right back to 1849 in the film.



ADD'TL PRODUCTION DESIGN, Brittany Ingram

Brittany is an Asian-American production designer dedicated to transforming visually stimulating stories into real physical worlds. Much of her film work has been recognized by a unique look and style that is distinctive and memorable. In the first five years of her career, Brittany has designed 9 features, 12 shorts, as well as numerous music videos and commercials. Commercial clients include Lays, Ziegenbock, Ford, Pizza Patron, Suave, Valero and many more. In between ad work, Brittany explores new stories in narrative genres. She recently designed Puppet Master: The Littlest Reich starring Tom Lennon, a re-boot to the original cult classic, and 1985 starring Corey Michael Smith and Virginia Madsen, which premiered at SXSW 2018.

[Website](#)



Production team

EDITOR, Hanna Sturwold

Hanna is a commercial/documentary/short film editor who shapes stories that touch, inspire and challenge audiences. She has cut commercials for Gucci, Google, Polaroid, Cartoon Network, and Kodak. Hanna is currently based in Los Angeles. [Website](#)



COMPOSER, Dara Taylor

Dara Taylor is an award winning composer for film and television based in Los Angeles. She has composed music for a wide variety of Independent thrillers, dramas, comedies and and has done additional music, arrangements and score production for large studio productions like *A Bad Moms Christmas*, *Smurfs The Lost Village*, *Baywatch*, *Sausage Party*, ABC's *Agent Carter* and *Galavant*, CW's *Supernatural*, and more.

After graduating cum laude in Music and Psychology from Cornell in 2009, Dara went on to study Film Music Composition under Mark Suozzo at New York University where she received a Masters of Music in 2011. In 2015, she was nominated for a Hollywood Music in Media Award for her score on the film *Undetectable* . In 2016, she was one of the composers asked to take part in Women in Film's *Women Composers in Media* concert.

Dara currently lives in Los Angeles, CA working on studio and independent projects and is highly active in the composing community. [Website](#)

POST SOUND MIX, John Cantu

John Cantú is a writer and director who also works as a trailer editor for Universal. He has cut award-winning trailers for GET OUT, NIGHTCRAWLER, and SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK and US. He was one of the 2 people behind the remixed tethered version of "I've got 5 on it".



CAST



Adetokumboh M'Cormack

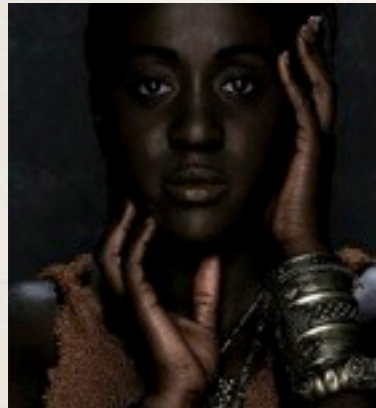
Henry "Box" Brown

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0530771>

Gregor Manns

Hunter/ Port Police (Voices)

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1048035>



Peres Owino

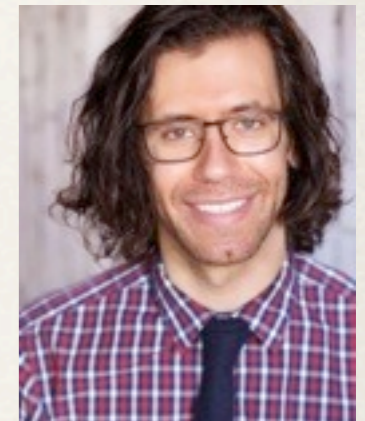
Woman (Voice)

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1381185>

Emerson Gregori

Samuel / Man 2 (Voices)

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm5421438>



William Joseph Hill

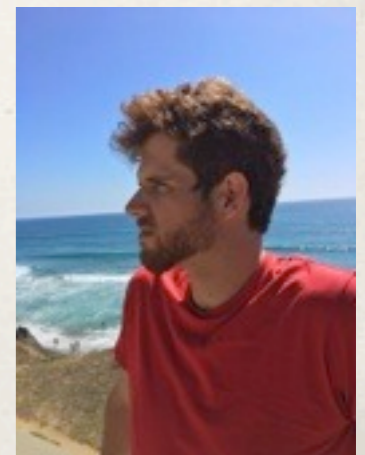
Wagon Driver / Steamboat crew (Voices)

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0384069>

Mikey Kettinger

Passmore Williamson (Voice)

www.mikeykettinger.com





CREDITS

Written, Produced & Directed by: **Wanjiru M. Njendu**

Associate Producers

Benjamin A. Onyango

Maggie Manyan

Director of Photography/ Co-Producer **Bongani Mlambo**

Production Designer **Makenzi Jordan**

Production Designer(additional) **Brittany Ingram**

Editor/Sound Design **Hanna Sturwold**

Sound Mix **John Cantu**

Color Correction **Neil Anderson**

Composer **Dara Taylor**

Wardrobe **Maggie Manyan**

Hair & SF Make-up **Camilla Dupin**

CAST

Adetokumboh M'Cormack

Peres Owino

William Joseph Hill

Gregor Manns

Emerson Gregori

Mikey Kettinger