DOCUBOX

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SANDBOX FILMS

Filmmakers



Aida **Muluneh**

Aida Muluneh is an Ethiopian photographer, visual artist, educator, curator, and cultural entrepreneur. She graduated from Howard University in Washington, D.C., where she majored in Film. Her photography has been widely published and is held in major institutional collections, including the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), the Smithsonian's National Museum of African Art, the Hood Museum, and the Museum of Biblical Art in the United States. Muluneh received the European Union Prize at the Rencontres Africaines de la Photographie in Bamako in 2007, the CRAF International Award of Photography in Italy in 2010, and was named a CatchLight Fellow in 2018. In 2020, she received the Royal Photographic Society Award in Curatorship. In 2019, Muluneh became the first Black woman to co-curate the Nobel Peace Prize exhibition and returned the following year as a commissioned artist. She founded Addis Foto Fest in 2010 and the Africa Foto Fair in Cote d'Ivoire in 2022.



Hannington Juma **Adero**

Juma Adero is an award-winning filmmaker and writer. In 2018, Juma was selected to be part of the Stories Found initiative, a workshop organised by the US Embassy. There, he worked on two documentaries - ***Shoto and Zumari*** - that received local and international acclaim. In 2019, he participated in the Machakos Film Festival. His film, ***The Read***, made the final ten. Since then, Juma has also participated in the Nairobi edition of the 48-Hour Film Festival, where his film, ***Hypnagogia***, scooped five individual awards - Best Actor, Writer, Director, Editor and Cinematography. In 2023, Juma was selected to be part of the Realness Episodic Lab, where he developed an 8-episode series concept for Netflix Africa. Juma's most recent project, ***If Turtles Could Talk***, was selected to participate in multiple festivals: Aesthetica, Africa in Motion, Big Sky Documentary Festival, and the Sebastopol Documentary Film Festival. In 2024, he began work on his first feature film.



John **Omahe**

John Omahe is a Kenya-based director and writer working across fiction, documentary and the spaces in between. His films have received international recognition, screening across four continents, from Namibia Film Week, Entertainment Week Africa, Arkwood Africa Film Market & Awards and Ateker International Film Festival, to the African Smartphone International Film Festival. His short film, 6.25, won the Best International Production award at Brazil's Festival Internacional de Cinema Escolar de Alvorada (FECEA). His most recent body of work includes ***How They Stole Our Future***, a docuseries produced under the Okoa Uchumi Campaign in partnership with The Institute for Social Accountability, interrogating the systems and decisions that have shaped Kenya's economic reality. He is currently creating ***In Full Color***, a documentary project supported through DOCUBOX's Why Freedom development lab, run in partnership with The WHY Foundation.



Jackie **Lebo**

Jackie Lebo is a filmmaker, writer, photographer, and founder of the Nomadic Arts Festival and Content House collective. Raised in the Rift Valley, her work is inspired by the region, its topography, and the peoples within it. Her films include ***Gun to Tape***, a documentary following 800 Meters World Record Holder David Rudisha and Marathon World Champion Edna Kiplagat in the run-up to the London Olympics, and ***The Last Fight***, on the once-great Kenyan boxing team. Jackie is currently working on several projects that explore the nexus between traditional societies and modernity. The projects, including film, photography, and music, come together at the Nomadic Arts Festival, a showcase of the art and culture of Northern Kenya that promotes collaborative creation and offers a new platform for the communities where the work is rooted. In 2025, she gave a TED Talk on Content House's work in Northern Kenya.

Filmmakers

Zippy Kimundu is an award-winning Kenyan filmmaker who has worked in the global film industry for nearly two decades. She holds a MFA from New York University and has worked across more than 20 countries. She has directed and produced numerous short films, including ***A Fork, a Spoon & a Knight***, which she co-directed with Mira Nair. She was also Assistant Editor on Disney's feature film ***Queen of Katwe***. Her award-winning feature documentaries, ***Our Land, Our Freedom*** and ***Widow Champion***, have screened at major festivals, including IDFA, Sheffield, Hot Docs, Tribeca, Seattle and DC/DOX, among others, and continue to create impact. Zippy is also an educator and community builder. She is the Creative Director at Terrace Kilifi, a Film Educator at I'll Tell You My Story, and Co-founder of the Kilifi Creek Festival and Afro Films International, a creative collective dedicated to igniting socio-political consciousness and action across continents.



Zippy **Kimundu**

Wavua Mwambonu is a Kenyan filmmaker and creative communications strategist working across documentary, human-centred storytelling, and social impact. Her practice is rooted in a simple question: how do we tell complex stories in ways that preserve their depth, dignity and humanity while making them accessible to wider audiences? Wavua has worked across film and communications with organisations and initiatives focused on agriculture, food systems, gender, governance and community development. Her documentary work includes ***What's Eating My Mind, Rooted in Trust, Firebird,*** and ***From the Margins***. She is also developing original projects around African food heritage and cultural storytelling, including ***Everyday Food Stories***. As a filmmaker, Wavua is interested not only in making a strong film, but in understanding the ecosystem around a story: who needs to see it, what questions it can open up, and how it might live beyond the screen.



Wavua Rose **Mwambonu**

E. M. Mwangi is a Nairobi-based director and cinematographer working across documentary and fiction. He is also the founder of Ripple Productions Ltd in Nairobi and a director at Backroads Pictures in California. His fiction debut, ***Act of Love (2023)***, explores the journey and mental health struggles of a young Nairobi, and won the Nile Grand Prize at the Luxor African Film Festival. ***Island of Hope (2024)*** follows a doctor's mission to revolutionise healthcare on Idjwi Island in the DRC. ***Funding Africa*** examines systemic inequities in global philanthropy through African-led social impact organisations. He is developing ***Empalikino***, his first feature documentary, which follows a community in an Amboseli weighing forgiveness against vengeance as it lives alongside elephants and lions. Mwangi is an alumnus of the American Film Showcase Fellowship at USC, the Safari Storylab Fellowship with WildlifeDirect, and the Solutions Storytelling Residency with Video Consortium, the Skoll Foundation and Docubox.



Eric Maina **Mwangi**

Dylan Habil is a Kenyan filmmaker, documentary photographer, cultural historian and media strategist. His work blends authenticity with striking visual storytelling. With a strong foundation in conservation and cultural science, Dylan has grown into a multifaceted creative producer passionate about narratives that reflect African identity and lived experience. Dylan is currently producing and directing his debut feature documentary, ***Chorwet (The Rhino Friend)***, a deeply personal project that continues his mission to tell grounded, impactful stories from the continent.



Dylan **Habil**

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Pauline **Kyalo**

Pauline Kyalo is a Kenyan environmental scientist and wildlife filmmaker whose work sits at the intersection of science, natural history, and human stories. She holds a BSc in Environmental Science and an MA in Wildlife Filmmaking from UWE Bristol. Pauline has worked across research, story development, and film production for organisations including WildlifeDirect, National Geographic, BBC Studios Natural History Unit, AFRISOS, and Silverback Films, contributing to natural-history stories filmed mostly across Kenya, East Africa, Southern Africa and the UK. Her documentaries include the award-winning ***Wild Frames, My Okavango Lilies,*** and ***Asante Nyuki,*** which follows Kenyan beekeeper Jason Runo from Kenya to Nepal as he explores the ancient honey-hunting traditions of the Gurung community. The film was supported by Docubox East Africa, WildlifeDirect, and the Whitley Fund for Nature. Her stories take audiences into Africa's wild places alongside the scientists, researchers, filmmakers and local experts discovering and shaping them.



Beza Hailu **Lemma**

Beza Hailu Lemma is a writer, director and curator based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. His work spans both documentary and fiction, with short films including ***Ballad of the Spirits (2016), Katanga Nation (2022),*** and ***Alazar (2024). Katanga Nation*** screened at numerous international festivals, including Visions du Reel, IDFA, and FESPACO, where it won the Silver Foal Award for Best Documentary Short. Alazar premiered at Cannes Critics' Week and later screened at TIFF and Clermont-Ferrand, winning the Silver Yusr Award for Best Short Film at the Red Sea International Film Festival. Beza is also a co-founder of Videobet, an arthouse cinema based in Addis Ababa.



Jigar **Ganatra**

Jigar Ganatra is an award-winning Tanzanian filmmaker whose ecophilosophical documentaries reconnect humanity to mother nature. He has made films in over 16 countries in Africa in collaboration with local communities. He is the co-founder of AFRISOS, an organization that empowers upcoming documentary talents in Africa.



Solomon **Emuria**

Solomon Emuria, professionally known as Artsy Solomon, is an award-winning documentary filmmaker, visual storyteller and digital nomad. He was a recipient of the Netflix Creative Equity Scholarship Fund, which allowed him to earn a diploma in film and TV production from the African Digital Media Institute in 2024. He is the founder and festival director of the Ateker International Film Festival, a dynamic platform that highlights the voices of emerging filmmakers, artists, and underrepresented communities through storytelling and cultural expression, which takes place in Turkana, Kenya. He also co-founded the Ateker Creatives Lab, a collaborative space for artists and creatives based in Turkana. His film ***Red Cycle*** was selected for the Mobile Film Festival Africa 2023, while ***Forever Home*** has received widespread acclaim and numerous prestigious local and international awards. Additionally, his documentary ***Staki Glue*** won first place at the 2021 Smartphone Film Competition at Alliance Française de Nairobi.

Scientists

Hewan Demissie Degu is Associate Professor and Associate Dean for Research and Technology Transfer at the College of Agriculture, Hawassa University, Ethiopia, and currently serves as Vice President of Society of Ethiopian Women in Science and Technology (SEWIST). A bioresource engineer and biotechnology expert, she has established herself as a leading scholar in plant molecular breeding, agroforestry systems, and multi-omics approaches to crop improvement. Her research spans genetic diversity, metabolomics, and intercropping systems, with a strong focus on sustainable agriculture and climate-resilient crops. She earned her BSc in Biology from Addis Ababa University, pursued her MPhil in Appropriate Science and Technology for Sustainable Development at the Institute of Environmental Studies, University of Tsukuba, Japan. She received her PhD in Bioresource Engineering at the same university. Dr. Degu chairs the College of Agriculture Research Ethics Committee, has been a panelist at the Iowa World Food Prize program, and is a member of the African BioGenome Project.



Dr. Hewan
Demissie Degu

Solomon Nsumba is an artificial intelligence researcher, computer scientist, and software engineer specializing in computer vision, digital health, and African language technology. He is a Computer Science PhD candidate at Makerere University, serving as the Technical Lead at the Makerere AI Health Lab and a Software Engineer at Sunbird AI. He has collaborated closely with researchers at the University of Washington through an exchange fellowship with the Mobile Intelligence Lab. His research focuses on developing and deploying practical AI solutions designed for complex, real-world conditions, particularly within resource-constrained environments. In digital health and computer vision, he works on clinical decision-support and patient-safety systems, including AI-enabled wearable cameras that flag medication-administration errors in operating rooms and smartphone- based diagnostic microscopy tools for screening diseases like malaria, tuberculosis, and cervical cancer. He also advances language technology and machine translation for Ugandan languages, and helps make AI tools accessible to underserved communities.



Solomon **Nsumba**

Thomas Odeyo is an early-career researcher and Research Fellow in Herpetology at the National Museums of Kenya and the Kenya Wetlands Biodiversity Research Team (KENWEB). He recently completed his MSc in Animal Ecology at Kenyatta University, where his research examined the ecological and spatial drivers of reptile species distributions in the Shimba Hills ecosystem on Kenya's southern coast. Thomas has contributed to conservation projects focused on threatened reptiles and amphibians, including the endangered Usambara soft-horned chameleon and banded shovel-snout snake in the Shimba Hills, as well as the critically endangered Taita Hills warty frog. He is also working with researchers at McMaster University on genomic approaches to understanding sex determination in the African clawed frog. In addition, Thomas is a Teaching Assistant with the Turkana Basin Institute and Stony Brook University, supporting field schools, mentoring students, and contributing to fossil research in the Turkana Basin.



Thomas
Nyaranga Odeyo

Sophia Kutiti Olesambu is currently serving as the Chairperson of the Mineral Rights Board in Kenya, where she oversees the responsible management and allocation of mineral rights. Sophia has over 15 years' experience in the mining sector and a remarkable track record. She is committed to promoting sustainable practices and driving economic growth through the exploration and developments of mineral resources in our country. Having previously worked as an Operations Manager at Elris Communications Services and a Lead Geologist/General Manager at Drilling & Prospecting International Limited. Sophia developed strong expertise in geological and geotechnical analysis, regulatory compliance, and community and stakeholder engagement. She holds a BSc Degree in Geology from the University of Nairobi, and is currently pursuing a MA in Leadership Studies at the International Leadership University (ILU), Kenya.



Sophia **Kutiti Olesambu**

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Susan **Murabana Owen**

Susan Murabana Owen is a visionary science communicator and entrepreneur with over a decade of experience advancing astronomy and space education across Africa. As CEO and Co-Founder of The Travelling Telescope, she has brought hands-on astronomy experiences to over half a million students, inspiring curiosity and scientific thinking in classrooms and communities across the continent. A pioneer in Africa's emerging astro-tourism sector, Susan has led innovative partnerships with schools, tourism operators, and science institutions to make the uni- verse more accessible. Beyond her work with The Travelling Telescope, she has served as President of the Rotary Club of Nairobi and on the board of the International Planetarium Society. She is an active board member of World Space Week, contributing to global efforts in science outreach and public engagement. Susan's contributions have been recognized by the Europlanet Society and featured on platforms including CNN African Voices, BBC, Al Ja- zeera, and The Guardian.



Engineer **Bainomugisha**

Engineer Bainomugisha works on harnessing computational intelligence to solve complex societal challenges. His work includes AirQo, which leverages sensors and AI to monitor air pollution in African cities, Sunbird AI, ad- vancing African language technology to expand the benefits of AI, and Bombeke, promoting STEAM education for 7-12-year-olds in Uganda through hands-on, practical skills. He cares about improving people's lives through technological solutions and practical computer science education.



Dr. Emmanuel **K. Ndiema**

Emmanuel K. Ndiema is Senior Research Scientist and Head of the Department of Earth Sciences at the National Museums of Kenya. For twenty years, he has worked across the Turkana Basin excavating how humans survived and thrived through climate crisis. His research bridges archaeology, paleoecology, geochemistry, and ethnogra- phy to understand long-term patterns of adaptation and what ancient resource management practices teach us about conservation and resilience in the face of environmental change today. His deepest questions center on storytelling and knowledge exchange: how to translate scientific discovery into narratives that genuinely move people, and how to practice research that honors and amplifies the knowledge of the communities where he works.



Nancy **Iraba**

Nancy Iraba is an award-winning Tanzanian marine scientist, National Geographic Explorer, coral reef restoration expert, and blue economy entrepreneur. As a Co-Founder and Technical Advisor of Action for Ocean, she advanc- es marine conservation and ocean access through science, dive training, and community-led conservation. She works at the intersection of science, storytelling, and social entrepreneurship. Her work has earned international recognition, including the 2024 National Geographic Wayfinder Award, and has been featured by Forbes and BBC Africa. She is also a recipient of the Hidden Eco-Heroine Award (2017), was recognized by the Next Einstein Forum (2019), named among the 100 Tanzanian Sheroes (2020), and is both a Mandela Washington Fellow (2021) and Kinship Conservation Fellow (2025). Through leadership, mentorship, and policy engagement, Nancy is committed to transforming ocean conservation by equipping local leaders to innovate and drive lasting change.

Scientists

Clare Tekla Mukankusi Mugisha is a scientist, wife, and mother of three, with a strong commitment to advancing agricultural research, plant breeding, and capacity development in Africa and globally. She holds a PhD in Plant Breeding from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, an MSc in Crop Science, specializing in Plant Pa- thology, and a BSc in Agriculture from Makerere University, Uganda. She currently serves as a Principal Scientist and Global Breeding Lead for Common Bean at the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, where she co- ordinates the development and implementation of the global common bean breeding strategy. She also leads the common bean breeding program at Kawanda, Uganda. Through the Pan-Africa BeanResearch Alliance (PABRA), she supports National Agricultural Research Systems across Africa. She is deeply involved in global, regional, and national training initiatives for the next generation of bean breeders. She has authored and co-authored more than 70 scientific publications in plant breeding, bean improvement, and related agricultural research.



Dr. Clare **Tekla Mukankusi Mugisha**

David Kiragu Mwaura is a PhD researcher in Ecological Data Science (Infectious Diseases) at the University of Glasgow, with a background in molecular biology, bioinformatics, genomics, and One Health research. He is pas- sionate about scientific capacity development, mentorship, and promoting open and reproducible research across Africa. As a co-founder of the Bioinformatics Hub of Kenya Initiative (BHKi) and a certified Data Science Car- pentry instructor, he has contributed to securing research funding, organising training programmes, facilitating workshops, and building collaborative networks that empower early-career researchers to answer life-science questions using bioinformatics and data science approaches. Through his involvement in Open Life Science and other international collaborations, he continues to advocate for accessible scientific training, knowledge sharing, and inclusive research communities. His goal is to bridge analytical skills gaps and strengthen sustainable research capacity, particularly in bioinformatics and data science.



David **Kiragu Mwaura**

Evance Ouya is a Lecturer in the Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management at Maasai Mara University, involved in teaching, research, and conservation initiatives. He holds an MSc and a BSc in Wildlife Management. His research interests include mammalian ecology, biodiversity conservation, habitat modification, and the application of camera-trapping technologies in wildlife monitoring. Beyond academia, he has extensive experience in community-based environmental restoration, youth engagement, climate action, and environmental education. He also serves as the Regional Youth Coordinator for Africa under the Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development (RCE), championing youth leadership and sustainability initiatives across the continent. His work focuses on bridging scientific research, storytelling, community knowledge, and practical conservation action to inspire meaningful environmental change.



Abdullah **Hussein Ali**

Jackline Mutwiri is a Research Scientist with the Wildlife Research and Training Institute (WRTI), working within Kenya's Hell's Gate–Mount Longonot ecosystem. She has over 15 years of experience in biodiversity research, wildlife conservation, ecological monitoring and ecosystem management. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Botany and Zoology from the University of Nairobi and a Master of Engineering in Environmental Engineering from Suzhou University of Science and Technology, China. Her work includes biodiversity assessments, wildlife and avifaunal monitoring, vegetation surveys and habitat evaluation. She collaborates with organisations including Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), KenGen and OrPower on conservation research and environmental assessments, particularly around geothermal developments in Olkaria. Her creative practice draws on scientific curiosity, nature, field observations and emerging technologies. She is interested in integrating ecological knowledge with environmental engineering, artificial intelligence, image processing and computational methods to advance wildlife monitoring, biodiversity conservation and sustainable ecosystem management.



Jackline **Mutwiri**

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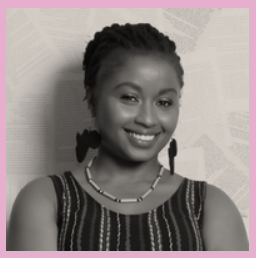
Renny is a seasoned and multi-skilled professional with over seven years of experience in program and finance management, audit, fundraising, and corporate communication. As the Project & Administrative Manager at Doc- umentary Africa (DocA), she oversees day-to-day operations, manages diverse program and finance portfolios, and supports African documentary filmmakers and organizations through effective fundraising and grant devel- opment. Renny is skilled in building and leading high-performing teams, designing efficient program systems, and implementing operational strategies that enhance organizational impact. Her professional background spans the non-profit, banking, and audit sectors, bringing a well-rounded perspective to her work. Renny holds a Master's in Management & Organizational Development from United States International University-Africa among other aca- demic qualifications. She values diligence, accountability, and authenticity, and is passionate about using her skills to support mission-driven organizations across Africa.

Renne **Matsiko**



Sydelle Willow Smith is a South African documentary photographer, filmmaker, impact producer, and social entrepreneur. She is the co-founder and executive director of Sunshine Cinema, a youth-led, solar-powered mobile cinema network working across Southern Africa. She trained in documentary photography at the Market Photo Workshop in Johannesburg and studied Anthropology and Visual Anthropology at the University of Cape Town. She also holds an MSc in African Studies from the University of Oxford. Her photography has been commissioned by The New York Times, National Geographic, Doctors Without Borders, and Equal Education. Her long-term project ***Un/Settled*** examines white identity and belonging in South Africa, the United States and Australia, and has been published and exhibited internationally. In 2017 she co-founded Sunshine Cinema with filmmaker Rowan Pybus. Sydelle is a Senior Atlantic Fellow for Racial Equity and a Rockefeller Foundation Africa Big Bets Fellow.

Sydelle Willow **Smith**



Cindy Makandi is a Kenyan film distribution strategist and founder of Tunga Media Afrika, an educational streaming platform pioneering film-in-education as a non-theatrical distribution channel for African cinema. With over ten years of experience across acquisitions, international sales, and impact distribution, she builds sustainable pathways for African films to reach and grow audiences across the continent.

Cindy **Makandi**



Emily Wanja is an impact producer and strategist who uses storytelling to drive social change and advance climate justice. As Lead of the Climate Story Unit and Africa Programmes at Doc Society, she works across policy, civil society and media ecosystems to support stories that centre marginalised voices and imagine more just futures. She previously served on the Climate Justice Resilience Fund Advisory Council and the Global Impact Producers Alliance Committee, and currently sits on a number of advisory bodies including the UNFCCC's Entertainment & Culture for Climate Change (ECCA) Steering Committee, the board of STEPS and the Open Planet advisory board. Her work focuses on harnessing storytelling as a tool for shifting power and inspiring collective action.

Emily **Wanja**



Judy Kibinge is a trailblazing Kenyan filmmaker, writer and director whose work has shaped contemporary East African cinema. She began her career in advertising, becoming the continent's first African Creative Director at McCann Erickson, leading award-winning Pan-African campaigns for major brands. Her filmmaking debut was ***Aftermath (2002)***, followed by ***Dangerous Affair (2002)***, the first independent pop culture film of its kind on the continent. Her films have received global recognition, with her latest, ***GOAT***, premiering at Woodstock Film Festival in October 2025. In 2013, she founded Docubox, East Africa's first documentary film fund and support hub, championing independent African storytelling through funding, mentorship and screenings. She continues to serve on its Board. In 2025, she co-founded KEJA, an initiative developing collaborative spaces for artists, designers and entrepreneurs, positioning creativity as a driver of innovation and inclusive growth.

Judy **Kibinge**

Counsellors – Camp Sandbox

Marcus Wright is an Associate Producer at Sandbox Films, operating in both film development and scientist en- gagement. In addition to coordinating the pitch review process and conducting end-to-end management of RFP initiatives, Marcus works with directors and partners including Sundance Film Festival to help advance film projects navigating the intersection of science and culture. Marcus also manages the scientific accuracy review process for all Sandbox Films' productions, and leads on discovering trailblazing researchers whose work is situated within the broader science zeitgeist and who share a commitment to communicating science to the public. Through this growing community, he fosters collaboration, strengthens scientific integrity across projects, and connects scien- tists with Sandbox Films' programs and initiatives.



Marcus **Wright**

Counsellors – Docubox

Susan Mbogo is the Executive Director of Docubox – East Africa Documentary Film Fund, providing strategic leadership and direction to the organisation. She leads its work in supporting filmmakers, building partnerships, mobilising resources and strengthening its institutional capacity. Under her leadership, Docubox continues to champion independent African storytelling, with its grants and capacity-building programmes having supported more than 150 films and their filmmakers. Over eight years, Susan has grown within Docubox, taking on roles across finance, grants management, production and programme development. She brings extensive hands-on experience as a producer, production manager, line producer and production accountant. Since producing her first short film, Unspoken, in 2022, she has produced two feature documentaries and served as Executive Producer on several films. Susan believes stories can influence culture, challenge perceptions and create new possibilities. She is committed to ensuring African storytellers have the resources, freedom and platforms to tell their stories and reach audiences beyond their borders.



Susan **Mbogo**

Njonjo Kiroga is the Programs and Operations Director at Docubox, the East African Documentary Film Fund, where he oversees programme strategy, organisational operations, and partnerships that support documentary filmmaking across East Africa. With a background in film and project management, Njonjo brings extensive experience in programme delivery, operational leadership, and organisational development. At Docubox, he leads the implementation of initiatives that nurture emerging and established filmmakers through funding, mentorship, professional development, and opportunities for exhibition and audience engagement. His work focuses on strengthening the regional documentary ecosystem, building sustainable partnerships, and creating opportunities for East African filmmakers to develop and share compelling stories with local and international audiences. Njonjo holds a Bachelor's degree in Film and has pursued an MBA in Project Management.



Njonjo **Kiroga**

Brandon is a Project Coordinator at Docubox, supporting the planning and execution of docubox projects. With a background that spans music and creative production, he brings a multidisciplinary perspective to coordinating teams, managing workflow, and advancing impactful narratives. Passionate about the intersection of storytelling, culture, and social impact, Brandon is committed to contributing to projects that elevate authentic African voices and create lasting cultural influence.



Brandon **Israel**

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Gertrude **Mbela**

Gertrude is a Nairobi-based communications and events professional whose work sits at the intersection of storytelling, culture, and the creative industries. With a background in International Relations and Diplomacy from the University of Nairobi, she has a longstanding curiosity about how culture, power, and ideas shape how people see and understand the world. She currently serves as Communications & Events Manager at Docubox, East Africa's documentary film fund and creative hub supporting independent African storytellers. Her work spans communications, strategic visibility, partnerships, and events, creating platforms that connect filmmakers, audiences, and the wider creative community. Through this work, she is invested in how African stories are developed, shared, experienced, and positioned locally and globally. Beyond communications, Gertrude is interested in the relationship between storytelling, cultural identity, and public engagement, and in how creative spaces can bring people together, shift perspectives, and create opportunities for African voices to be heard.



Wambui **Gathee**

Wambui Gathee is a Kenyan director, producer, film curator and freelance photographer. She is currently the Screenings Manager at Docubox, where she has curated and programmed award-winning documentaries for monthly screenings at Alliance Française, Nairobi. She has also curated short fiction films for the quarterly screening event Shorts, Shorts & Shots. Wambui is best known for her award-winning short film Love Zawadi, which has received three awards. Her producing credits include Blurred, which has gained international recognition. She has also contributed to impact filmmaking as the Regional Impact Producer for ten short documentaries under the Comic Relief-funded Sema Stori campaign. Wambui is an alumna of the Southern Africa Locarno Industry Academy (SALIA) and Some Fine Day Pix. She is passionate about artistic visual storytelling and continues to explore film curation, programming and production.



Ronald **Owen**

Ronald wears many hats at Docubox! As our office assistant, he's dedicated to ensuring a smooth and comfortable work environment for both staff and guests. He's your go-to person for anything you might need, fostering a supportive atmosphere where everyone can focus on achieving Docubox's goals. Ronald's passion extends beyond the office. When Docubox hosts film screenings for the community, he puts on his technical hat to ensure everything runs flawlessly. But Ronald's talents don't stop there! Outside of Docubox, he's a dedicated filmmaker who recently debuted his first short film. Currently, he's busy crafting another one, showcasing his creative drive and well-rounded skill set.