

Adapted from the stage play by renowned
Zambian playwright Samuel Kasankha
Directed by Jabbes Mvula
Produced by Cyndi Greening

BAD T!MING

Zambia's first dramatic feature film

SYNOPSIS

BAD T!MING is the story of Chiku, a respected Zambian social activist who is invited to lead the U.N. Task Force to investigate and improve the **Future of the African Child**. As the head of Children's Paradise, an organization that cares for orphans in the Zambian capital of Lusaka, Chiku is well suited for the task. **Chiku is respected by his peers** and loved by the many children in his care. During this period, Chiku is also preparing for his wedding. The son of a Ngoni chief, he is to marry Mutinta, the daughter of a Tonga leader. First, Chiku must visit the bride's village located near Victoria Falls to make the marriage arrangements with her father. Shortly before he marries, Chiku is **seduced by a seemingly innocent neighborhood girl**. When the police come to arrest Chiku at his wedding, his bride is horrified to discover that the young woman has **accused her new husband of rape**. Wanting to avoid a life sentence in prison, **Chiku begins an epic struggle** to restore himself personally and professionally. A tale of failure, corruption, forgiveness and redemption, **BAD T!MING** reveals the rich culture and social interactions of contemporary Zambians, set against the rich backdrop of Zambian countryside.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT **Jabbes Mvula, Director**

(JAH-bes em-VU-la)

"If I had gone to Hollywood, I don't think they would have put their money on a project to go and shoot a film in Africa," said Mvula about his decision to learn film making at Mesa Community College in Arizona (MCC) instead of a school in California.

"I had a successful career in television, stage and radio back at home and **came to Arizona to study**

digital filmmaking. I wanted to pursue filmmaking in honor and memory of my son, Jabbes, Jr. who died suddenly and unexpectedly at age three." With the **collaboration and support of MCC**, Mvula is able to turn his dream of filmmaking into a reality and give his nation's people a voice in summer 2006.

When Mvula started his broadcasting career in Zambia in 1989, there was one radio and one television station. After researching the nation's opportunity for the development of a film industry, he helped launch the **National Association of Media Arts** to support the growth of the film arts in Zambia. When he heard MCC Media Arts professor Cyndi Greening attended Sundance and loved indie film, he asked her to produce his film. **"When people ask me what drove you to attempt to do this for your people and your country,"** said Mvula, **"I will say 'my son.'"**

"Why is it that one person's loss can cause us to look at our own lives and appreciate what we have? All the love and hopes I know Jabbes had for his son, I also have for mine."
— Jason Werner

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

Zambian native, **Jabbes Mvula, 36**, was born and raised in the eastern village of Katete. In January 2005, he came to **Mesa Community College to study filmmaking**, and he will return to Africa in summer 2006 to direct the first feature film in his country. In his vision, **BAD T!MING** is a very contemporary tale combining a **dramatic narrative of modern life** with the **rich customs and culture of his people**. Mesa Community College students, led by **film producer and MCC professor Cyndi Greening**, will accompany Mvula to Zambia. In addition to shooting his feature, they will produce



For more information: www.FilmZambia.com

Contact: 602.740.1446

1

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FILMMAKER (cont)

a documentary film, **VOICE OF AN AFRICAN NATION**, about the making of the film **BAD T!MING**.



As producer for **ZNBC (Zambian National Broadcasting Corporation)**, Mvula produced dramatic programs for radio and television. Mvula has obtained skills and experience in digital film, cinematography, radio and television broadcasting as well as news writing. His professional achievements include: **President of National Association for Media Arts (NAMA); Councilor of the National Arts Council of Zambia; and Festival Director for Zambian International Film Festival.**



PRODUCER'S PERSPECTIVE

Cyndi Greening Executive Producer

When Jabbes first asked me to serve as the Executive Producer of the first dramatic narrative feature to be produced in his country, we discussed the story he wanted to tell. He shared that he wanted to do **a film about contemporary Zambians and the rich, cultural heritage of his people.** He didn't want to do a folk tale, a "puff piece" or a scathing documentary. As an art professor, one of my primary goals is to get students to create works that contribute to humanity by presenting an original point of view, and have a strong aesthetic sensibility. The thought of helping to bring the voice and face of the Zambian culture to the global cinema was very exciting.

Jabbes' collaboration with Zambian playwright **Samuel Kasankha** assured me that the film would be something powerful and unique. Shortly after the project began, I attended the **South By Southwest (SXSW) Film Festival** in Austin. I had the opportunity to talk with an industry professional who specializes in funding films to be distributed in Europe and Asia. I shared what we were doing in Zambia and questioned him about where I might find funding. He was a kind and gracious fellow so I was completely surprised when he said, "There is **NO** money for Africa." How could an entire continent be unable to secure funding, I questioned. He explained that the only news that came out of Africa was bad — genocide, HIV and AIDs, the janjaweed, corruption, starvation, refugee camps. "There will likely be no funding for Africa," he said, "**until a different voice can be heard, a different face shown to the world.**"

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Through knowing Jabbes, I have come to see the face of a different Africa...a kind and gentle face. I have heard the voices of caring and creative people, longing to be seen and heard in the world. I am honored and grateful to be allowed to bring the Zambian film, **BAD T!MING**, to the global cinema. When the film achieves international distribution, I hope that the rest of the world will be moved when they hear the voice and see the **face of a continent that has been missing from our world.**

VISIT ONLINE

Jabbes' Digital Story:
www.cyndigreening.com/2006/05/the_digital_story_that_started.html

Website: www.FilmZambia.com

Blogs: www.FilmZambia.com/badtiming/
www.FilmZambia.com/africanvoice/

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ZAMBIAN FILM INDUSTRY

Zambia is one of the several African countries that **do not have a film industry**. The country has two television channels. It also has about 15 theatre houses that screen only Western movies. There has not been even one locally produced movie that has been screened in the theatres. With a rich **tradition of story telling**, Zambians are **movie loving people**. Several attempts have been made by local Independent Producers to produce local movies, but these have not achieved anything due to equipment and technology limitations. A film produced in Zambia — written by a Zambian, starring Zambians, directed by a Zambian — will help **launch the film industry in the country**.



POSITIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT

Economically, one of the major problems facing Zambia as a third world country is unemployment, especially among the youth. A developing film industry can help provide employment for the youth and contribute to the economic development of Zambia.

The making of the film will:

- encourage the marketing of the country to potential visitors from abroad,
- feature scenes from **Victoria Falls, one of the Seven Wonders of the World**,
- show scenery from a **National Park** and include the natural beauty of Zambia in the film. This will also help market Zambia as a tourist destination, as it offers many opportunities to see **large game in natural surroundings**, and
- depict many of the **positive traditional values** of Zambians to showcase their rich culture.



CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE

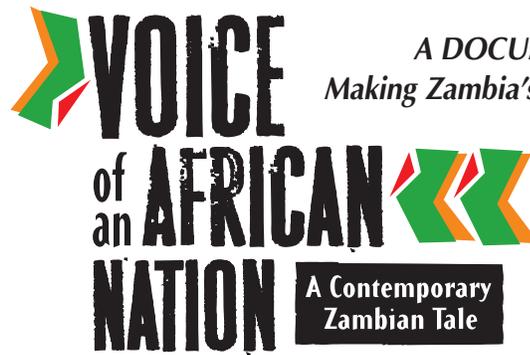


Following the filming of **BAD T!MING**, Mesa Community College faculty will provide technical and artistic instruction to Zambian filmmakers, artists and educators in the hopes of encouraging **future production and distribution of additional Zambian films**. The ongoing educational exchange will further develop the Zambian film industry, provide **technology and tools to strengthen the artistic voice** of the nation, and positively affect the economy.

We have begun to make friends with institutions and individuals in Zambia who have invited us and who are interested in **sustaining a long term relationship working in film**. The positive response to the filmmaking project in Zambia has inspired individuals and corporations to come forward with offers of financial and in-kind assistance. The **National Council of the Arts** is the primary learning institution serving as a base for the film development.

“We’ve scheduled a three-week shoot this summer. We’ve allowed for a fourth week, if we need it. Ideally, we plan on teaching interested Zambian directors, artists and filmmakers during the fourth week so that even more Zambian stories can be shared with the world.” — Cyndi Greening, Exec. Producer

VOICE of an AFRICAN NATION



A DOCUMENTARY
Making Zambia's first feature film

A Contemporary
Zambian Tale

Directed by Cyndi Greening
Produced by Cyndi Greening

GOALS OF THE PROJECT



Cyndi Greening, Director
Cynthia Greening, Program Director of the Media Arts program at MCC, is the executive producer of the feature film, **BAD T!MING**, and director of the documentary **VOICE OF AN AFRICAN NATION**. Greening and MCC faculty and student filmmakers will complete the documentary film – **VOICE OF AN AFRICAN NATION**, which chronicles the making of the first Zambian feature, **BAD T!MING**.

This documentary will explore the educational and creative journey of Jabbes Mvula from **Zambian National Broadcast to Arizona**, and it will reveal the cultural exchange that occurs between Americans and Zambians. The film crew is comprised of **students and faculty from Mesa Community College (MCC)**, in Mesa, Arizona, where Mvula studied filmmaking. The documentary follows them from their relatively affluent, **predominantly white community** to this economically challenged nation in Africa. It will explain the efforts of Greening and MCC faculty to provide **digital filmmaking training and technology** to Zambian producers, directors and teachers.

By making **TWO compelling and exciting high-definition films**, Mvula and Greening intend to accomplish several goals. They hope to bring the **stories and the voice** of a previously unrepresented African nation to the global cinema. They are committed that their efforts support the **growth of the film industry in Zambia**. Through the films, they intend to reveal the **beauty of Zambian regions** for potential tourists, visitors and investors. With such a varied landscape and rich culture to offer international and native filmmakers, this joint venture promises **growth and expansion** for all parties involved.

AFRICAN FILM INDUSTRY AND THE WORLD

One of the primary goals of Jabbes Mvula is to get the attention of the film industry for Zambia, and to nurture the growth of filmmaking in this nation. **BAD T!MING** and **VOICE OF AN AFRICAN NATION** are the catapults for such a presence in film.

The **Sundance Film Festival** programmers have added both the Zambian documentary and feature film to their tracking sheets for the 2007 Festival. The **nation of Zimbabwe** has invited Greening and crew to submit an official form for screening at the 2006 international film festival. Several U.S. production companies and providers have been contacted and they offered support for this momentous event. **Interest is high in the United States.**



Jabbes Mvula
Zambian filmmaker

VOICE of an AFRICAN NATION

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Making Zambia's first feature film

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PARTNERSHIP OF SUPPORT Zambia and Mesa Community College

Mesa Community College has granted the Media Arts faculty the privilege of using its **state-of-the-art technology**—high-definition cameras, lens packages, production lighting kits, audio production equipment and editing equipment for the production of Mvula's film and Greening's documentary.

Access to the equipment, expertise and production personnel will help ensure a **successful production process in Zambia**. Also greatly aiding the production of these films is the fact that logistics and lodging support are being **provided by the Zambian government**, by **arts patron Dr. Edgar Ng'oma**, by the **Zambian National Arts Council** and the **Zambian National Broadcast Corporation**.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING MCC professors will stay an additional week in Zambia

following the film production to teach filmmaking to Zambians. The film and educational projects promise to be exciting and beneficial in a number of ways for the Zambian citizens.

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Celtel Zambia

ZNBC, Zambian National Broadcast Co.
Zambian National Arts Council
Zambian Tourist Board
Embassy of the Republic of Zambia
JW Design, Inc.

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