

Varsity Film Expo 2022 Announces Award Winners

The Varsity Film Expo was held in Gaborone, Botswana, and was held under the theme, Africa Animating Sustainable Development goals. The best films were selected based on adherence to theme, creativity, production values and aesthetic appeal.



Gaborone, Botswana Dec 25, 2022 ([IssueWire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - The Varsity Film Expo is pleased to announce the best films for 2022:

The best short films were announced at an awards ceremony during the Varsity Film Expo held at the Molapo Showcase in Gaborone, Botswana from 15-17 December 2022. This year's theme was Africa Animating SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals). A total of 600 entries were received and the best films were selected based on adherence to theme, creativity, production values, and aesthetic appeal.

The Varsity Film Expo is an annual event for emerging content creators in 'varsity'. The event which celebrates film and filmmaking at universities features film screenings, speaking sessions, workshops, exhibitions, and awards for outstanding productions.

This year's theme supports the UN 2030 Global goals and Sustainable Development Goals for a better world. The theme is in line with Agenda 2063, Africa's master plan to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development by the year 2063. The film is a powerful and effective medium for raising awareness and motivating community action toward Sustainable Development Goals.

The guest of honour, Angelique Saverino, Director of Alliance Francaise underscored the power film has to influence action towards sustainable development.

‘Film can be a tool for social, cultural, and economic emancipation. It can be an economic pathway for young African filmmakers. According to the 2021 UNESCO report, ‘The African Film Industry: Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities for Growth’ citing the Pan African Federation of Filmmakers (FEPACI), the film industry generates US\$5 billion in annual revenue against a potential US\$20 billion,’ she said in her Keynote Speech

Angelique Saverino also appealed to African governments and other stakeholders to support Pan-African content.

‘What percentage of the content currently watched on platforms such as Netflix, Showmax, and Apple TV is African in the sense of its origin and production? The cultural production of any given society feeds into its own self-concept. African filmmaking provides Africa with a chance to counter the ages-old dark continent narratives. There is a need for African stakeholders to be intentional about the representation of the continent’s people and their potential. I urge African governments to prioritise financial investment in film production and distribution.’ Said Angelique Saverino

Speakers who participated in the Varsity Film Expo include leading filmmakers like Adze Ugah, Berry Lwando, Chike Nwoffiah, Memory Kumbota, Tendai Sokostina Garwe, and Lebogang Mpofu to mention but a few. South Africa-based Adze Ugah, is best known for speaking about the need to shape a positive African Narrative in our films. The title of his presentation was ‘Making films for Africa.’ Berry Lwando from Zambia’s Multichoice Talent Factory spoke about the need to build a Film ecosystem for Africa so as to make the industry sustainable. Chike Nwoffiah from the Africa Silicon Valley Film Festival spoke about how to create marketable content. Producer, Tendai Sokostina Garwe shared her insights on Impact Filmmaking. A visual arts exhibition titled Animating the Canvas was also on show at the Art Case Gallery as part of the Varsity Film Expo. It was curated by Fisani Nkomo from Zimbabwe & Thabo Kgatlwane from Botswana.

The organiser Fumani Tekere highlighted the importance of creating synergies as African filmmakers and thanked everyone for their participation.

‘We are indebted to the support we got from all the participants. We had high-profile speakers who gave us their time voluntarily because of the faith they have in the vision. We need to forge synergies that facilitate co-productions and collaborations with creatives within the continent’, said Fumani Tekere

The founder and CEO of Varsity Film Expo Kudzai Chikomo expounded on the vision and theme for this year’s expo.

‘The overarching vision of the expo is a critical mass of audacious young filmmakers across the African continent. One production house is not enough to fundamentally impact the sector and neither is one country doing it alone. We, therefore, need programs, initiatives, and platforms to help galvanise young talent to enter into the sector which is essentially part of the knowledge economy. I also realise that collaborative effort is a key foundational principle of the film enterprise.’

‘Africa has one of the fastest-growing higher education sectors in the world. Young people are the opportunity for Africa’s makeover. Currently, there are 9 million students enrolled in African universities according to UNESCO statistics. These students’ creativity and innovation can be harnessed to motivate positive transformation in Africa. Africa also holds a record for the highest youth population in the world. Young people are the biggest drivers of new media and technology and this makes them the ideal vehicle to spread the message of sustainable development for Africa,’ said Kudzai Chikomo

'Africa is on the rise. It is the world's fastest-growing continent in terms of Gross Domestic Product and has 10 of the world's fastest-growing economies as noted by Africa No Filter in a recent report. The internet and mobile market is booming in Africa creating huge opportunities for the creative and digital economy. According to a recent report by UNESCO, the film has the potential to generate over 20 million jobs and contribute US\$ 20 billion to Africa's combined GDP', he added.

The winning films are:

BEST 2D ANIMATION

Follow the Lemming

Directed by Sean Stroud

South Africa

BEST 2D ANIMATION 1ST RUNNER UP

A Shot

Directed by ahmed al-haddad

Egypt

BEST 2D ANIMATION 2ND RUNNER UP

Ghost

Directed by Kawtar Waddi

Morocco

BEST 3D ANIMATION

SIGN

Directed by Joseph duke

Nigeria

BEST 3D ANIMATION 1ST RUNNER UP

Utopian

Directed by IMAD Ghadjetti

Algeria

BEST 3D ANIMATION 1ST RUNNER UP

The day Santa came to Africa

Directed by Leonel Jason Fowdar

Zimbabwe

BEST SCI-FI

Still Waters

Directed by Kelvin Macharia

Kenya

BEST STOP MOTION

Pa Aromire

Directed by Adeoye Adebayo Adetunji

Nigeria

BEST STOP MOTION 1ST RUNNER UP

White Night

Directed by Issam Taachit

Algeria

BEST STOP MOTION 2ND RUNNER UP

The Red Fish

Directed by Bassem Ben Brahim

Tunisia

BEST LIVE ACTION

Jabu

Directed by Ally Hajji Simai

Tanzania

BEST LIVE ACTION 1ST RUNNER UP

Oumou, destiny ripped

Directed by Gaoussou Tangara

Mali

BEST LIVE ACTION 2ND RUNNER UP

Basma's Drawing

Directors Yahia Tag El-din, Mohamed Ezz

Egypt

BEST MIXED MEDIA ANIMATION

Just a show

Directed by Mustapha Benghernaout

Algeria



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