

## “More than Words” Cinema Project with Liceo Classico Manzoni

### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Despite the diversity of people groups across Africa, the continent shares a tradition of oral storytelling that instills and maintains cultural values and belief systems. Whether about the ocean, animals, or people, traditional storytelling addresses life lessons, the spirit of ubuntu, and ways in which man can live harmoniously with each other and the natural world. To varying degrees across different genres of film, these traditions can still be seen in African filmmaking and screenwriting today.

This program offers a collaborative opportunity for students to engage with film industry professionals in South Africa and Zimbabwe as they learn the mechanics of storytelling and literary techniques from across the continent. Through interactive workshops, students will be allowed the space to imagine and create their own stories that promote a more inclusive society. The program includes a cohort of students from Cape Town, South Africa, who will actively participate in learning and discussions, offering opportunities for cross-cultural dialogue, the development of valuable intercultural communication skills, and the broadening of world views.

A group of students from [Liceo Classico Manzoni](#), Liceo Classico Parini, Liceo Classico Tito Livio, Liceo Scientifico Bottoni, Liceo Scientifico Vittorio Veneto e Liceo Classico Parini, together with a group of students from the Digital Club at the [YMCA Athlone](#) in Cape Town will share about their own culture and stories, look at comparisons between their cultures, and collaborate to write a text for the MORE THAN WORDS Award. The theme of this assignment is **Inclusion: Cultural, Social, Sexual, Linguistic**. Together the students will select one of the themes addressed by the project and write a screenplay for a short film, which will be submitted to the MORE THAN WORDS Awards.

Date	Time (Italy)	Time (South Africa)	Sessions	Contributors/Facilitators
2 Oct	9 - 11am	9:30 - 11am	Peer-to-peer Engagement: Introductions & an exploration of “More than Words”	EDU Africa
3 Oct	9 - 11am	9:30 - 11am	Masterclass: Introduction to Storytelling Traditions in Africa	Adrian Van Wyk
4 Oct	9 - 11am	9:30 - 11am	Peer-to-peer Engagement: Writing Your Own Film	EDU Africa
5 Oct	9 - 11am	9:30 - 11am	Masterclass: Writing Workshop	Adrian Van Wyk
9 Oct	9 - 11am	9:30 - 11am	Peer-to-peer Engagement: Inclusion & Representation on Screen	EDU Africa
10 Oct	9 - 11am	9:30 - 11am	Masterclass: Feminism and Gender Activism through Music & Filmmaking	Nalenhe Moyo
12 Oct	9 - 11am	9:30 - 11am	Masterclass: African Women in Film   Gonarezhou: The Movie	Tariro Washe Mngangwa

## PROGRAM CONTRIBUTORS

### Adrian Van Wyk, Filmmaker



Adrian Van Wyk is a filmmaker/creative producer and cultural historian from Cape Town, South Africa. He completed a MA in History at Stellenbosch University. His dissertation, titled "From Jamaica to the Cape Flats: Reflecting on the manifestations of a Cape Town Hip Hop Culture", unpacked the diasporic movements of Hip Hop culture onto the Cape Flats periphery of Cape Town. This research laid the foundation for the documentary feature film he is currently co-Directing and producing titled "Notes From The Underground: A Cape Town Hip Hop Story", which has received support from the South African National Film and Video Foundation. This film forms part of a feature film slate currently in collaborative development with Azania Rizing Productions, that includes the magical realist urban adventure film titled ApeTown. Adrian has previously been nominated by the Mail and Guardian as one of the top 200 South Africans in the arts and culture sector for his work creating platforms for cultural expression around the country. In 2023, a documentary short film that he researched and produced titled "What The Soil Remembers" had its world premier at International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR) where it was also awarded the Ammodo Tiger Short Award. Alongside this, "What The Soil Remembers" has recently won the Best International Short Documentary at the Regina International Film Festival and Awards. Adrian was selected as an artist in residence by the Singapore Art Museum for 2023 where he is writing a feature film he will direct titled Bedrock, set in the Northern Cape of South Africa.

### Nalenhle Moyo



Nalenhle Moyo is a published author, translator and communications enthusiast who believes that sustainable development is possible through merging the world of art and the world of corporate business. Having lived in 4 countries, she is open-minded and has a wide perspective on global issues such as gender roles and identity. She hosts a YouTube channel called "Unearth" which seeks to explore the journeys of women who are making impactful differences in their communities through visual storytelling.

### Tariro Washe Mngangagwa, Actress & Producer



Tariro Washe is a young Zimbabwean actress and conservationist who made her debut as a film producer and actress in the 2020 film, Gonarezhou: The Movie. She is the youngest daughter of current Zimbabwean president, Emmerson Mnangagwa. She was raised in Zimbabwe's capital city of Harare, and later moved to South Africa where she acquired a Diploma in Professional Photography at Cape Town's CityVarsity, after graduating with an Honours in Sport Management at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology. Soon after returning to Zimbabwe, Tariro joined an all-female anti-poaching ranger unit, Akashinga, which is an arm of the International Anti-Poaching Foundation. She was approached by Sydney Taivavashe to co-produce the anti-poaching awareness film, Gonarezhou: The Movie (2020). In 2020, the film won "Best First Feature Narrative" in the Pan African Film Festival.

IG: <https://www.instagram.com/tarirowashe/>

## GENERAL DETAILS & RESOURCES

### **Contact:**

For any questions/concerns/feedback, please email EDU Africa Program Designer, **Desireé Haakonsen** at [desiree@edu-africa.com](mailto:desiree@edu-africa.com)

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## SESSION PREPARATIONS

### **2 Oct: Peer to Peer: Introductions & an exploration of “More than Words”**

We will kick off the program by getting to know one another and share a bit about parts of the world. We will do some practical exercises to get our creativity going as we consider what “more than words” means to us.

#### Pre-session prep:

- Please complete the [Participant Agreement](#) form by 30 September 2023
- You can review the [EDU Africa's Virtual Exchange Pre-Program Information](#)
- Please ensure your name is correct on the screen when you log into Zoom
- Please be prepared to engage in conversation and speak about yourself.
- We ask that you keep your camera on
- Please keep your microphone muted when you are not speaking

### **3 Oct: Masterclass: Introduction to Storytelling Traditions in Africa**

In this interactive Master Class with filmmaker, Adrian van Wyk, students will learn about African storytelling traditions through myth and folklore. All students need to come prepared with a folktale to share from their own country or culture. In preparation for the next peer-to-peer session, Adrian will introduce the 5 questions students need to answer to map a story.

#### Pre-session prep:

#### **1. Bring a folktale to the session**

*“A folktale is a poetic text that carries some of its cultural contexts within it; it is also a traveling metaphor that finds a new meaning with every telling.” —A.K. Ramanujan*

Taking this quote into consideration, students must please bring a folktale or mythology from their home country or culture to share in the session. We will use this to talk about how storytelling becomes part of our practice as filmmakers. Students can write the story down and tell it in their way.

#### **Mapping your story**

*This activity will be introduced in the session and built on in the next peer-to-peer session, but students can start thinking about these questions beforehand:*

#### **5 questions to ask yourself when writing your story:**

You need to define the questions that will help in bringing to life the story that's within.

1. What is my story?
2. Who is my story or who is part of my story?
3. Where is my story taking place?
4. Why is my story taking place here?
5. How is my story going to take place (film, song, animation etc)

### **4 Oct: Peer to Peer: Writing Your Own Film**

Students must come to the session with a film concept. During the session, students will be guided through a series of interactive engagements. By the end of the session, the students will work in groups and use the "Mapping your story" prompts to come up with a logline and synopsis for a group film concept.

Pre-session prep:

1. **Writing your own film**

**Think of a film concept to share in today's session.**

Your concept must not be a full story - just a brief idea of ANY story that you would like to bring to life.

**5 Oct: Masterclass: Writing Workshop**

Filmmaker and storyteller, Adrian van Wyk, joins us again for a Masterclass writing workshop. Students will share their logline and synopsis work from the previous peer-to-peer session for Adrian to review and share critical feedback. Using the "Sensory Reflections of Home" as a point of departure, students will be guided through a thought provoking conversation to consider creative ways of bringing everyday items to life through their words. The group will also discuss the concepts of "Cinema as Activism" and "3rd Cinema" as students start considering new ways of storytelling to develop their writing skills for the MORE THAN WORDS project.

Pre-session prep:

1. **Bring your Logline** (and a synopsis if you have developed one)

2. **Cinema as Activism**

**Please watch this clip:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u9LP4nxomnc&t=1s>

Please engage this quote by cinema great, Ousmane Sembène and summarise your interpretation of what he is saying?

3. **What is Third Cinema?**

**Please watch this clip:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CVohdIUNuGk>

Prepare to let us know, what do you think "Third Cinema" is? How is it important in this contemporary moment? How does it help us to articulate new forms of storytelling?

**You can also watch this clip on Italian Neoliberalism:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v\\_uLv6Wt2io](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v_uLv6Wt2io)

4. **Sensory Reflections of Home**

*This activity will be introduced in the previous peer-to-peer session, and (time-permitting) students may start writing 1 - 2 lines of their poems. Students will continue the exercise in the session, but should come prepared with ideas.*

Activate the senses and engage imaginative poetic language that speaks to your conceptions of home. In this reflection, please write down a sentence for each sense that describes what this reflective memory of home is. Each sentence should start with "My home" followed by the sense, e.g:

My home smells like... *(describe what home smells like)*

My home tastes like... *(describe what home tastes like)*

My home looks like... *(describe what home looks like)*

My home feels like... *(describe what home feels like)*

My home sounds like... *(describe what home sounds like)*

Please employ your imagination and allow descriptive language to connect with your image of home through the senses. **Listen to this clip for an example:** [Where's My Hoodie](#)

## **9 Oct: Peer to Peer: Inclusion & Representation on Screen**

In our final peer-to-peer session, students will review various ad campaigns that promote Inclusion and Representation on the screen. In breakout groups, students will be prompted to share more about their own cultural contexts and engage with issues of inclusion and representation that matter to them. Together they will decide which theme they would like to address for the MORE THAN WORDS Awards.

## **10 Oct: Masterclass: Feminism and Gender Activism through Music & Filmmaking**

Nalenhe Moyo brings a Masterclass that focuses on gender roles and identity. She encourages students to make an impact in their own community by exploring creative ways to advocate for inclusion and justice through music, visual storytelling, and any other media that they are passionate about!

*Pre-session prep:*

1. **Please watch this clip: HER: A Disintegrated Notion by Sikhanyisiwe Sebata:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pHSYDw1PtIw> (8 min)

This short film looks to bring to light the true narrative of an everyday Zimbabwean woman. Perception plays a very big role in how women are viewed, the idea of what a woman is and what she faces in Zimbabwe is completely different from what is real and on the ground. The idea (Notion) is blurred, obscured and fantasized (Disintegrated). Statistics will show that she is at a disadvantage in many scenarios: her health, her work, her home, her environment and surroundings.

2. **Please watch this clip: Celebrating Women In Tech In Africa: Rap Report:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v83Jm2u8\\_8E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v83Jm2u8_8E) (5:30 min)

This Rap Report talks about the exclusion of women in tech. It was created for the Women's Month theme #DigitALL. The clip highlights the use of music side but has cinematic visuals too.

## **12 Oct: Masterclass: African Women in Film: Gonarezhou**

With experience in front of the camera and behind-the-scenes, Zimbabwean actress, conservationist, and film producer, Tariro Washe shares the story of how her real life role in the all-female anti-poaching ranger unit, Akashinga, came to life on screen in the award-winning film, Gonarezhou: The Movie (2020). Tariro will share about her experiences as an actress and producer, and the importance of representation on screen.

*Pre-session prep:*

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### **Additional resources shared in the sessions:**

- X Men Days Of the Future Past QuickSilver Scene HD: <https://youtu.be/1NnyVc8r2SM>
- A Car Crash & A Harmonium (Opening Sequence) | Punch-Drunk Love | CineClips: <https://youtu.be/E76frqnfMwk>
- Sometimes a Mouse can take Down an Elephant (The Woman King soundtrack): <https://youtu.be/WW0TyahcB5s>
- Gcina Mhlophe performing "I Dream a River". Watch the full storytelling here: <https://youtu.be/pz02kc6YhSw>
- Cape Crusader: <https://vimeo.com/124319398>
- Khadija Heeger - I come from (Timecode: 00:03:32 - 00:06:51): <https://vimeo.com/486290223>
- Compare the structure of the Logline & Synopsis of "Avengers: Infinity War": <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt4154756/plotsummary/>