

Ng'endo Mukii

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**Writer, Film Director and
Professor of the Practice**

Education **Royal College of Art (RCA)**
London, UK. Graduated 2012
Master of Arts in Animation

Rhode Island School of Design (RISD)
Providence, RI, USA. Graduated 2006
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film Animation and Video

About I am an Annie Award and Silver Hugo Award-winning and British Animation Award nominated film director. I am most well known for 'Enkai,' an episode on the Disney+ animated anthology, *Kizazi Moto*. At the prestigious Design Indaba conference I presented my talk, 'Film Taxidermy and Re-Animation,' proposing the use of animation as a means of re-humanizing the 'indigenous' image; a people whose 'real' image is burdened with stereotypes of being the 'Other.' I am a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design, and hold a Master of Arts in Animation from the Royal College of Art. I am an alumni of the beautiful Berlinale Talents, the distinguished Urucu Media REALNESS Screenwriter's Residency, and the incredible Goethe Institute Bahia Vila Sul artists' residency. She is a Professor of the Practice at SMFA at TUFTS University in Boston, and a writer on Netflix's first African animated series, *Supa Team 4*.

Work and Experience **School of The Museum of Fine Arts at TUFTS University**
Boston, USA 2021 - Current
Professor of the Practice: Full time professor teaching traditional and computer-based 2D animation. My courses are primarily focused on character animation behavior and documentary-animation practices. I have created two boutique syllabi introducing the key techniques artists employ to bring a character to life, beginning with the foundations of posing, simple movements, gestures and expressions, and interweaving this with storytelling and 1st person narrative forms.

Disney+ & Triggerfish Studios
International 09/2020 - 03/2023

Film Director & Writer: I was invited amongst more than 70 leading directors and creators from across Africa to pitch ideas for a short film. Following more than a year of development, my project, *Enkai*, was shortlisted amongst 10 projects for mentorship by Academy Award®-winning director Peter Ramsey and the creative teams from Triggerfish and Disney. *Enkai* will premier as part of the *Kizazi Moto : Generation Fire* anthology which launched to critical acclaim on Disney+ in 2023.

Vimeo & Mailchimp
USA / Kenya 01/2021

Film Director, Kesho Pia Ni Siku: I was one of 7 directors selected from around the globe for the Vimeo Stories In Place Spring 2021 grant. In partnership with Mailchimp, the grant highlights talented creators and small businesses that support communities impacted by racial injustice. My film, *Kesho Pia Ni Siku* (*Tomorrow Is Another Day*) combines animation, archival photography and live action. It unravels my mother's journey as she escaped a violent marriage, through a business she started from the boot of her car.

Netflix & Triggerfish Animation Studios
South Africa / Kenya 09/2019 – 04/2020

Writer on the Mama K's Team 4 (WT) animated series: Following a continent-wide application process, I was one of the 8 all-female writing team selected to work on this groundbreaking series. During the writer's room in Cape Town we worked with the head writers and creator of the show to storyline the first season. Following this we have worked remotely on our individual episodes for Season 01. In addition I have punched up the comedy and helped localise the spoken language in the scripts based on Lusakan colloquialisms.

Ng'endo Studios
International 02/2014 – current

Director: I direct animated and 360 films commissioned by international and local organisations, including projects for Huffington Post and Plan International. I am a recipient of funding from the New Dimensions Virtual Reality program (South Africa), Docubox Kenya, and Focus Features Africa First (USA) grants. I continue my independent film career through such funding opportunities.

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Residencies
And Activities

African Animation Masterclass Series by Disney, American Film Showcase (AFS) and Triggerfish International 03/2022 - 09/2022

Scholar: I participated in this virtual series featuring instruction from creative and professional leaders from Disney Animation, faculty at the University of Southern California's Animation Division, as well as American animation experts from the broader industry. I attended the 90 - minute lectures twice a month, learning and interacting with industry giants such as Pamela Ribon, Juan Pablo Chen, Sidney Kombo, Amritha Vaz and Peter Ramsey amongst others! Through this series I finessed my understanding of developing my directorial vision and communicating with the team throughout the production pipeline.

Vila Sul residency, Goethe Institut Salvador-Bahia, Brazil, 10/2018

Resident: I was one of 5 international artists invited to Brazil for a two-month residency exploring Global-South connections. I held lectures in Salvador and in Rio de Janeiro, participated in film festivals, and studied the beautiful Candomblé religion. I also kept a left-handed sketch book. My residency culminated in a 4-day long animated workshop which I organised and ran at a local activist space, Acervo da Laje. There, we made a short experimental film celebrating the Kenyan Nobel Peace Laureate, Wangari Maathai. What was very beautiful about this, was that the participants made this film in response to a previous workshop film I had created in Nairobi, which celebrated Marielle Franco, a Brazilian human-rights activist assassinated in 2018.

TIFF Filmmaker Lab, Toronto International Film Festival Toronto, Canada, 09/2018

Participating Filmmaker: I was invited and sponsored by TIFF to attend the lab, having been selected from the participants at the REALNESS screenwriter's program. We spent an intense 5 days at the heart of the film festival. Our diverse group of filmmakers was mentored by experienced industry members such as Julie Dash and Cassian Elwes. We even joined emerging actors in an incredible acting workshop led by Miranda Harcourt.

Locarno Filmmakers Academy, Locarno Film Festival Locarno, Switzerland, 08/2018

Participating Filmmaker: I was very honoured to be invited to join the competitive Locarno Filmmakers Academy. Hand-picked from the REALNESS program, I attended masterclasses held by world-renowned directors, such as Bruno Dumont and Ethan Hawke, panels debating the future of filmmaking, and I mingled with industry at one of the oldest film festivals in the world.

REALNESS Screenwriter's Residency by Urucu Media Nirox Foundation, Krugersdorp, South Africa, 06/2018

Resident: I was one of 5 African writer-directors selected for REALNESS 2018. This intensive 6-week writing program is run by Cait Pansegrouw and Elias Ribeiro. We were mentored by internationally-renowned script advisors, Selina Ukwuoma and Mmabatho Kau. During the program I developed the concept of my mixed-media feature film, *The Goat Sunday*, a magical-real coming of age story about a young girl confronted by a darkness in her outwardly religious family.

African Futures Virtual Reality Workshop 2015 Johannesburg, South Africa, 10/2015

Participating Artist: Along with five other African filmmakers, I was invited to take part in a joint collaboration between the Goethe Institute (JHB) and Big World Cinema, introducing Virtual Reality as a medium in visual storytelling across the continent. Following this, Big World Cinema selected my pitch for the inaugural New Dimensions Virtual Reality grant. I created *Nairobi Berries* (2017) which won the very first Immersive Encounters Award at the Encounters Short Film and Animation Festival in the U.K.

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Design Indaba 2015

Cape Town, South Africa, 02/2015

Speaker: I presented my theories on the relationship between ethnographic film and taxidermy at the prestigious Design Indaba conference. I included the use of animation as a means to re-humanise the representation of 'indigenous' people in mass media.

Grafikens Hus Artist Residency 2015

Stockholm, Sweden, 11/2015

Artist In Residency: I was invited by Grafikens Hus and Iaspis to participate in a month-long printmaking residency at Grafik Skolan, a specialised printmaking school. I produced multi-media prints, gave lectures and workshops on my process and discussed my theories on the politics of representation.