

Producer/Facilitator : Iranti-org

Director: Makgano Mamabolo

Contact: getinfo@iranti-org.co.za

"I Rise" & "Purple" **Webseries short films**

SHOOT DATES: 14-17 April

LOCATION: Johannesburg

AUDITIONS

JOHANNESBURG VENUE

87 De Korte Str, Braamfontein

Iranti-org offices, 3rd floor

Monday 27 March - 14:00

All auditions by appointment

Johanna (20-30) is a black, plus-sized, androgynous trans writer in Johannesburg. She is quiet and suffers from agoraphobia (fear of outdoors and public spaces). Her illness and a recent breakup have led Johanna to seclude herself at home, not taking care of herself. Most of her time is spent at home, shying away from the outside world, but she finds herself on the road to wellness with the help of her friend and former lover. Her favourite colour is purple, reflected in her bold clothing choices.

Episode: Purple

Proposed shooting dates: 14-17 April

Malusi (20-30) is a thin black, queer man, and Johan's best friend, former lover, and main supporter. His attitude to Johanna can be seen as paternal at times. He is compassionate, but outspoken. He often checks up on Johanna to make sure they're safe and stocked with food during the worst bouts of agoraphobia. Malusi is proud of his clothes and his car and he loves listening to Motown music and jazz. Malusi isn't afraid to confront Johanna's behaviour when he is disturbed by it.

Episode: Purple

Proposed shooting dates: 14-17 April

Luis (18-20s), a trans-feminine person of colour who is the best friend of NYANJA (A Malawian trans woman who has come to South Africa). She is liberated and woke, talking for many hours on politics and trans civil rights. She has long hair, and is soft-spoken, calm and is drawn to the artistic and poetic forms of expression. There is a strength and conviction to her, and her friendship helps Nyanja find strength in her identity, knowing that there are people like Luis who stand with her.

Episode: I Rise

Proposed shooting dates: 14-17 April

Please note that the following conditions apply to any successful applicants:

- *I will not discuss the content of the production narratives with parties outside Iranti-org or the production team.*
- *I understand that Iranti-org is a non-profit advocacy organisation, and as such, reimbursement for participation cannot be formally guaranteed at this point, although meals and a small stipend are being budgeted for.*
- *The production is intended to raise awareness around transgender rights in the region, and I accept that I will be associated therewith by virtue of my involvement.*
- *I am "out" and/or safe within my community and to the best of my knowledge my participation in the project will not put myself or others in harm's way.*
- *I am available for the shooting dates of 14-17 April, and understand that I am obligated to attend shoots timeously once a formal contract has been signed.*
- *The information I have provided will be held in a database for future projects if I accept these terms.*

To book your place at the auditions, please contact Iranti-org at getinfo@iranti-org.co.za before **Monday, 27 March, 12:00**

For your convenience, please find attached the script excerpts that will be required for the audition reading.

"PURPLE"

6. **INT. JOHANNA'S HOUSE, KITCHEN, NIGHT**

Johanna and Malusi are having tea.

MALUSI

What do you mean you can't go? Do you know what an opportunity this is? You might find a job there.

JOHANNA

I can't go. I can't leave this house. Every time I go outside. I can't breathe. I can't move.

MALUSI

But I've seen you out of doors. You handle it well.

JOHANNA

I'm good at hiding it.

MALUSI

Then hide it again. Give it a try. You have to go to this. They're having snacks.

JOHANNA

We're taking snacks.

MALUSI

So you are going?

The two laugh.

JOHANNA

This agoraphobia it's not just unreasonable fear. If I leave this house dressed the way I want to dress. I've been hurt before.

MALUSI

We've all been hurt. It's the cost of being queer.
But you're fabulous. You rise like a phoenix every
time. And how is that dress coming along.

JOHANNA

I need fabric.

MALUSI

Purple, right?

JOHANNA

You'll have to come to the shops with me.

"I RISE"

1. INT. LIVING ROOM. DAY.

Nyanja and Luis are sitting close to each other. Their conversation is passionate.

NYANJA

Let's start where everybody should, what are your pronouns?

LUIS

(smiles)

If only everyone did. I use she and her but am also happy with they and them.

NYANJA

Trans or trans*?

LUIS

The way I understand it the asterix is there to remind us that the word trans includes all trans identities. But I also think the astreix has lead people to think trans without the asterix only means trans men and trans women, which isn't true.

I prefer the asterix, but to be honest with you, asterix or no asterix, as long as you are explicitly using and understand the word trans as all inclusive, then that's okay.

NYANJA

What does de cis-gendering mean to you?

LUIS

It means that trans* existence won't be synonymous with suffocation. Cis-people would stop asking me if I have had or when I'm going to get bottom surgery . . . actually it would mean no more transphobia. . . at all! . . . and that includes painful and deadly cis-ignorance.

NYANJA

(reflectively)

How do you think we ought go about tackling . .
. trans* erasure?

LUIS

Call out culture. We cannot be silent. We've got to make sure people who try to figuratively and literally cut trans* people out of the picture get called out. But don't just call them out for erasure, call them out when they are transphobic in anyway. Report them if you need to. The 'cis'-tem doesn't work in our favour, but sometimes it can help us feel a little more safer than usual, I mean it's helped me get the man who assaulted me locked up.

NYANJA

(pauses)

And improving trans* representation?

LUIS

(passionately)

Trans* representation needs to be truthfully trans*; by which I mean we need more trans* narratives for trans* people by trans* people.

#translivesmatter and that needs to be understood not only in the media but in our history, families, work places, and the law. Our lives matter in all spheres.

Nyanja and Luis are looking straight at each other.