

NATIVE VOICE FILMS & SUDAN FILM FACTORY

with
BBC Storyville
Gisa Productions
Ayin Network
XTR

KHARTOUM

A FILM BY

ANAS SAEED

RAWIA ALHAG

IBRAHIM SNOOPY

TIMEEA M. AHMED

&

PHIL COX

FEATURING

LOKAIN & WILSON

JAWAD

KHADMALLAH

MAJDI

PRODUCED BY

GIOVANNA STOPPONI (UK) & TALAL AFIFI (SUDAN)

WORLD CINEMA FUND LIGHT ECHO PICTURES IDFA BERTHA FUND DOCUBOX
BBC STORYVILLE Supported by DOHA FILM INSTITUTE UK GLOBAL SCREEN FUND
AYIN NETWORK GISA PRODUCTIONS XTR SUDAN FILM FACTORY
NATIVE VOICE FILMS

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KHARTOUM
Five lives, one city ...
...the fate of a nation

Short SYNOPSIS (51 words)

Five lives, one city... the fate of a nation.

From the metropolis of Khartoum five Sudanese characters: a civil servant, a tea lady, a resistance committee volunteer, and two street boys all in search of freedom, have their stories unexpectedly woven together through animated dreams, street revolutions and a civil war.

Long SYNOPSIS (212 words)

In 2022, four Sudanese filmmakers, along with a British director-writer, began filming the lives and dreams of five very different citizens in Khartoum:

Street boy LOKAIN (12) and his best friend WILSON (11) embark on a mission in Khartoum's rubbish dumps to buy two beautiful shirts

KHADMALLAH (28) a single mum and tea vendor engages her daily clientele in gossip and cardamom coffee whilst studying math to start her dream business

JAWAD (30) is a Sufi Rastafarian resistance volunteer who rides a motorcycle and protests for a civilian government against the military

Civil servant MAJDI (45) escapes office life by racing pigeons with his son

When filming started, the Sudanese were faced with a military leadership that had brought down the previous civilian government. Soon, however, war broke out between the army and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) militia, displacing over ten million people.

The filmmakers and participants escaped to East Africa but continued their innovative cinematic storytelling, combining animation, green screen reconstructions, and documentary 'dreamscapes' to tell their stories.

Filmed on location with donated iPhones, the four emerging Sudanese filmmakers (Anas Saeed, Rawia Al Hag, Brahim Snoopy and Timeea M. Ahmed) capture the stark realism of one of Africa's great cities as it is consumed by turmoil and war.

KHARTOUM

World Premiere Sundance Film Festival 2025 / European Premiere Berlinale 2025

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Technical DETAILS

Running Time: 80 mins
Colour
Language: Arabic with subtitles
Country of Origin: United Kingdom, Sudan, Germany, Qatar
Screening Formats: DCP
Aspect Ratio: 1:85
Camera(s): Iphone 14 Pro
Sound: Stereo / 5.1
Spoken Language: Arabic
Subtitles: English
Closed Captions: Yes
Principle Location(s): Khartoum, Cairo, Nairobi
Web Site: www.khartoummovie.com

The World Premiere of **KHARTOUM** is at Sundance Film Festival 2025 in World Cinema Documentary Competition

SCREENINGS Sundance:

Egyptian Theatre Park City	1 / 27 / 2025	2.45pm
Holiday 2 PC / In person P/I	1 / 28 / 2025	3.30pm
RedStone Cinemas Park City ¾	1 / 28 / 2025	8.50pm
Broadway Center Cinemas – 3	1 / 29 / 2025	2:45pm
Holiday Village Cinemas, Park City 1	1 / 31 / 2025	12:15pm

The European Premiere of **KHARTOUM** is at the Berlinale 2025 in Panorama

SCREENINGS Berlinale:

Haus der Berliner Festspiele	2 / 19 / 2025	5.30pm
Press and Industry Screening	2 / 15 / 2025	Time TBC

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PRODUCERS NOTES about the FILM

Producers Giovanna Stopponi (UK) & Talal Afifi (Sudan)

Filmed on donated iPhones by four emerging Sudanese filmmakers, Anas Saeed, Rawia Al Hag, Brahim Snoopy and Timeea M. Ahmed, in a two year collaboration with British writer / director Phil Cox and Palestinian Irish editor Yousef Jubeh, **KHARTOUM** mixes stark verité street realities with green screen reconstructions and animation graphics.

A modern and personal take on documentary storytelling in Sub-Saharan Africa, **KHARTOUM** is set against a Sudan in revolution, a military coup, and civil war. The emotions and inner worlds of five very different Sudanese citizen-participants, struggling to stay alive in their country's turmoil, are in profile.

The five participants, through raw street filming, convey what it is to be caught in a city in conflict--becoming refugees for the first time: A civil servant flies on a racing pigeon smoking a shisha over his burning city; two young Khartoum street-boys ride a lion through gun-toting militias, and a Sufi Rastafarian motorbiker flies upwards over the Sudanese pyramids only to land at the Hollywood Hills. A tea vendor sings her hope to protect her child under a blooming tree on the Nuba Mountains.

KHARTOUM captures a stark realism of one of Africa's great cities as it is consumed by turmoil and war.

A Production and Creative Style Forged out of War

This production originally began as a small documentary workshop proposed by British documentary filmmaker Phil Cox in collaboration with Talal Afifi, CEO of the Sudan Film Factory in Khartoum in 2022 with the support of the Ayin Network, one of the few independent media organizations still operating in Sudan, and with funding acquired by Native Voice Films. The filming in Khartoum became increasingly tense with continual riots, protests, and arrests, including narrow escapes for all team members, including Cox who was forced to leave. Editor Yousef Jubeh eventually stepped in to assist the director Cox in coordinating the Sudanese filmmakers during those difficult times.

Production was then stopped by the war breakout in April 2023 as warplanes bombed Khartoum from above and armed men roamed the streets. The producers Giovanna Stopponi and Talal Afifi immediately decided to use the remaining film funds to help the Sudanese filmmakers Rawia, Anas, Timeea, and Ibrahim escape to safety in East Africa. Once there, refuge and support were given by DOCUBOX Kenya. The production regrouped and determined to find and bring out the participants of their filming: Khadmallah, Majdi, Lokain, and Wilson. A painstaking search to find them and secret

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routes out of Khartoum began. Over months in late 2023 and early 2024, the production team found ways out for each participant to join them in Kenya, and soon a new family was born: filmmakers and participants, all living together, supported by the production, in one building as refugees. In this moment, a bond and determination arose to continue the film that had started before the war and create a work that could represent Sudan and its people. In a collaboration led by creative director Phil Cox, participants and filmmakers embarked on green screen reconstructions of their own stories in their own voices, with graphic animation, interviews, and 'dream reversions' or 'dreamscapes', all weaved through the original iPhone film material shot before the war. This is how KHARTOUM's eclectic visual style and dreamscape interviews came into being.

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The PARTICIPANTS

MAJDI (45) is a civil servant working for the Sudanese government. He is obliged to continue working despite a state apparatus that has fallen apart with little functioning amidst revolutionary protests, violence, repression, and an impending war. Majdi seeks refuge in his office, daydreaming and discussing his love of racing pigeons with his son. War soon arrives on his doorstep, and he becomes a marked man by the militias hunting government employees, street by street. As government jets bomb his neighbourhood, he must hide his gun and get his son out of Khartoum to family in Egypt before planning his own escape.

LOKAIN (11) & WILSON (12) are two feisty young plastic bottle collectors who live and work in an infamous slum on the outskirts of Khartoum called Jabarouna. The fearless boys, best friends since they decided to share a bicycle together, run their own plastic bottle collecting gang in their neighbourhood. They are often treated with racist prejudice due to their social status and ethnicity. When war arrives, the boys must quickly learn to survive bombing raids by government jets and shootouts by marauding militias taking place in their neighbourhood. They both use their imagination to escape the harsh reality, taking a ride on an invisible lion through Khartoum, which cannot be seen by 'stupid adults'. The two boys eventually find an exit from Khartoum to Nairobi, where new life beckons.

KHADMALLAH (27) is a single mother of Rita (7) and a tea vendor who came to Khartoum from the Nuba Mountains. Determined to be a good mother to her daughter, she works tirelessly to expand her roadside tea stall and keep her customers happy alongside teaching her daughter maths. "Tea ladies", as they are known in Sudan, are an important part of Sudanese life, providing community spaces where people gather and share gossip, politics, and community news. They were often attacked under former regimes, accused of being spies and potential sources of instigation. Khadmallah suffered racism for being from Nuba in Khartoum. But the civilian revolution helped change tribal attitudes, and, to an extent, racism diminished. When war explodes across Khartoum, Khadmallah is witness to a brutal killing and then captured by militias and savagely beaten. She finds a way to escape Khartoum and a new life with her daughter.

JAWAD (28) is a Sufi Rastafarian working for the resistance committees—voluntary, pro-democracy civil groups that helped topple former dictator Omar al-Bashir in April 2019. A warm extrovert, frustrated at being single with dreams of being a famous actor, he works as a motorcycle volunteer, carrying those wounded and injured in protests against military rule. The revolution in 2019 changed life for his generation—at last they had freedom of thought, of work, of opportunity. When the military coup happened in 2021, they took to the streets. When war breaks out in April 2023, Jawad finds himself in Cairo and stuck in a limbo world of TV news and distressed text messages. He can only watch his city burn from afar and learn of the deaths of his friends. He begins a

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street food business where Sudanese escaping the war to Egypt can get work and dignity and, despite the overwhelming grief they all feel, he continues to dream of a better life. One day he will make it to Hollywood.

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A STATEMENT by the Sudanese filmmakers

“As Sudanese storytellers, we want to represent the reality of our fellow Sudanese in this moment of war and division in an authentic way. We want to portray our fellow Sudanese with a humanity and depth beyond being just refugees or victims. Due to the dangers of carrying professional cameras on our own streets, we began shooting our film on iPhones, which meant we had to be close, to be intimate, and we want the audience to feel this.

“These beautiful phones have delivered the cinematic intimacy and the identity of our film. With the outbreak of war and the ensuing destruction of our city and our homes, we are thankful to our producers for finding safety for us and supporting us. Even though we left our country with nothing, we realised we had to continue to make our film as this would be our act of positive resistance.

“We developed a new storytelling language, where we collaborated fully with our participants and together entered the world of green screens, dreams, and animations in a path led by the creative director Phil Cox. Despite this diverse visual style, we have strived to keep an emotional and deeper truth to our stories. We refuse to make news that portrays us as just ‘Africans in crisis’.

“As filmmakers and participants, we are all from different backgrounds, ethnicities, ages, genders, and social classes. Such differences are what have too often been used to fuel past Sudanese conflicts as well as the current civil war in our country. However, we have discovered each other through this film journey and learnt to work together and support each other. We have become one cinema family irrespective of our age, class backgrounds or ethnicity. We wish our film to be a valuable piece of archive for the future and a poetic tribute to Khartoum and its people and to all the people of Sudan at this pivotal moment in our nation’s history.

“This film represents our resistance to war and our belief in the Sudanese people to overcome.”

Directors Anas, Rawia, Snoopy & Timeea

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A STATEMENT by the Creative Director & Writer Phil Cox

“I have worked in Sudan since 2004 both as a journalist, a filmmaker, and as a media collaborator with Sudanese colleagues. I have seen firsthand the resilience, humour, and determination of everyday Sudanese citizens to strive for a democratic Sudan, free from military rule and endless coups.

“**KHARTOUM**, a film collaboration with Anas, Rawia, Snoopy, and Timeea, and editor Yousef Jubeh, is an extraordinary love poem to a city and its people. Its innovation and visual approach were born out of a response to war and a rejection of the TV news medium to convey stories and conflict in Africa.

“Our working process was simple; each filmmaker focused on reaching a poetic depth and dream intimacy with participants Majdi, Khadmallah, Lokain, Wilson, and Jawad. I would then share pathways and different visual possibilities to join and link these individual stories into one binding cinematic film. I also encouraged the filmmakers to not be afraid to break form and rhythm and trust audiences to simply watch and find the city of Khartoum in the faces and small acts of its people. Khartoum is a city but also for me a state of mind. It is a fusion of all that is Sudan, incredible diversity and coexistence yet always balancing a powder keg of entrenched political elites, corruption and rival military powers.”

“This creative process, where I created ‘dream reversions’ or ‘dreamscapes’, led to a nonlinear structure that reveals an emotional memory to a city now destroyed. It also weaves a coup, a revolution, a civil war, and the destruction of Khartoum through graphic animation FX and a vérité documentary.

“The power of the storytelling is in our creativity and an intention to lead with emotion and experience over ‘information’. We worked collaboratively and sensitively with the participants and invited them to reflect their inner worlds, memories, and dreams as much as their physical journeys of survival.

“The result is a dynamic hybrid between vérité and graphic animated narrative that provides a unique and immersive viewing experience. **KHARTOUM** is a cinematic poem and homage to an incredible metropolis and its people.

“We are proud that we completed and that we worked to keep each other safe and that we always prioritized the physical and mental well-being of the team. We have all learnt from each other, and we all understood the value and importance of what we were doing: creating a film that documents a moment in Sudan’s history, a film honouring the resilient and enduring heartbeat of the Sudanese people.

Writer/Director Phil Cox

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The FILMMAKERS

Brahim Snoopy is a Sudanese filmmaker and cinematographer working recently for ARTE, BBC and The Washington Post, as well as music videos, commercials, and shorts. Notable works include the feature documentaries **Khartoum Offside**, which won Best Documentary at the Carthage Film Festival, and *From Argentina to Sudan*, as well as the award-winning shorts *Serotonin* and *Journey to Kenya*. This is his second feature.

Rawia Alhag is a Sudanese filmmaker and screenwriter now based in Nairobi, Kenya. Her work focuses on women's and children's issues, shedding light on the experiences and struggles of Sudanese people both within their communities and in the diaspora. She directed the award-winning short film *"Out of Coverage"*, which won Best Foreign Film at the Juba Film Festival.

Anas Saeed a Sudanese media maker, started working as a video journalist for the independent media house, Ayin Network. He has produced several reportage works for international media that focus on human rights issues affecting different communities across Sudan. His work for Ayin Media has focused on covering culture and the recent war. His latest work is *Five Meals of Resistance*, soon to be released to festivals.

Timeea Mohamed Ahmed is a Sudanese director, editor & producer based in East-Africa. His work explores non-narrative experimental & documentary. He directed short films, including *Saddari* (2023) and *Is it War?* (2024). Other credits are *Flower of Sinkat* (2018), *Hope Journey* (2021), as well as advocacy and commercial campaigns. His films center on the culture and struggles of Sudan.

Creative Director & Film Writer - Phil Cox – Native Voice Films

Phil is the co-director of award-winning indie film collective Native Voice Films since 1998 and has directed and shot over 30 films for TV and cinema. His recent cinematic features as director/writer are *THE BENGALI DETECTIVE* (Sundance and Berlin premiere – HBO), *LOVE HOTEL* (Toronto premiere. Netflix / BBC Storyville), *BETTY THEY SAY I'M DIFFERENT* (IDFA premiere, ARTE / BBC / Amazon), *THE CLEANER (FR2)*, *AND THE SPIDER-MAN OF SUDAN* (ARTE / GUARDIAN). He is the recipient of a British Grierson Award, a Rory Peck Award, and the Hinzpeter and Bayeux Calvados awards for his work in Sudan since 2004.

Producer - Giovanna Stopponi - Native Voice Films

Giovanna has been developing and producing international creative documentaries and reportages since 2006 for ARTE, BBC, Channel 4, France 2, NETFLIX, HBO, AMAZON, and premiered at SUNDANCE, BERLINALE, TORONTO, IDFA, Sarajevo & others. Her creative features docs include *THE BENGALI DETECTIVE*, which premiered at

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Sundance and Berlinale and is winner of a British Grierson Award; the Japanese feature LOVE HOTEL in a UK-France co-production with Oscar winning company Bonne Pioche, for Netflix USA, BBC Storyville and France 2; and the ARTE/BBC film BETTY—THEY SAY I'M DIFFERENT. Her work SPIDER-MAN OF SUDAN for ARTE and The GUARDIAN in 2023 won the Prix Bayeux Calvados and Hinzpeter Award. She is the lead producer of KHARTOUM . Along with her production work, Giovanna is Director of REACT – Refugee Education Across Conflicts Trust – a UK charity working with those from a migratory background to access education and a dignified life.

Producer, Talal Afifi Sudan Film Factory

Talal Afifi is a Sudanese film producer and the CEO of Sudan Film Factory, an independent film production house based in Khartoum. Since the establishment of Sudan Film Factory in 2010, Talal Afifi has produced and supported the production of over 40 films, encompassing both short and feature-length works in fiction and documentary genres.

Through collaborations with international producers and production funds such as the Robert Bosch Foundation (Germany), Preve Films (Argentina), Cornell University (US), Prince Claus Fund (Netherlands), and International Media Support (Denmark), his projects have garnered significant recognition and received international awards. Some notable films that Talal Afifi has produced include "Al-Sit," "You Will Die at Twenty," "The Art of Sin," "From Sudan to Argentina", "A Handful of Dates."

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Sudan Film Factory & Native Voice Films: A JOINT STATEMENT

“In this collaboration, we are presenting what may be the final testament to a city forever altered by war, displacement, and the systematic erasure of its soul. This creative feature documentary is an elegy to Khartoum, a haunting visual symphony dedicated to five lives that symbolise its strength of spirit: a civil servant, a tea vendor, two young street boys, and a resistance committee volunteer.

“Together, they embody a new, daring leap in Sudanese documentary cinema, arriving at a watershed moment in Sudan’s history.

“This project is a living testament to the transformative power of intercultural collaboration. At its core beats the spirit of Sudan, carried forward with the global reach of our partners and supporters. From the IDFA Bertha Fund to the BBC, Doha Film Institute, World Cinema Fund, DocuBox the Arab Fund for Arts and Culture, Aflamuna, InMaat, XTR, Gisa Productions and the UK Global Screen Fund, we are deeply indebted to the organizations that recognized the urgency of this vision, the voices it amplifies, and the universality of its message.

“The support received allowed us to mentor and work with emerging filmmakers and forging bonds of mutual trust and respect. We endured the trauma of war and displacement to which we responded with dedicated care and safeguarding, allowing the participants and filmmakers to find the courage and determination to recount and narrate their own experiences in a healing creative process.

“Along with our filmmakers from a country standing at the edge of upheaval, we see this film as a cinematic act of defiance. It is an archive of resilience, a visual monument to individuals too often painted as victims. Through this lens, they are revealed as fighters, dreamers, and survivors. Their lives are as complex as the city they once called home, navigating unimaginable loss while daring to hope and live.

“Our journey began with iPhones-intimate tools (kindly donated by Apple) capturing unfiltered truths in the heart of chaos. When war fractured Khartoum and scattered our crew into exile, we adapted, finding strength in the fragments. Together with writer and director Phil Cox, the filmmakers forged new cinematic languages, melding observational realism with green screen techniques, animation, and performance.

“Through this union of art and reality, the directors crafted a space where dreams and memories collide with the raw immediacy of lived experience. At the heart of the film are five human stories - a tapestry of hope and despair, love and loss, survival and dreams.

“From Khartoum’s now-silent streets to a green screen studio in Nairobi, these individuals recount their journeys, weaving a narrative that stretches across borders, from the ruins of Sudan to the uncertain paths of displacement. Against the backdrop of

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a war-torn revolution, this cinematic poem bears witness to a people whose struggle for freedom remains heartbreakingly unfinished. In this film, we are in front of an act of remembrance, a declaration of hope, and an offering to the world. It stands as a testament to the unbreakable human spirit, a bridge between cultures, and a reminder that stories, even those born from destruction, can transcend the rubble to ignite understanding and solidarity.

Talal Afifi & Giovanna Stopponi

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The FILM TEAM

Film Editor & Associate Producer Yousef Jubeh

Yousef is a Palestinian-Irish editor. He has over a decade of experience editing in film and television, which includes work for the BBC, Al Jazeera, ARTE, Lorton Entertainment, M&C Saatchi, Burst Pictures, and Native Voice Films. Some of his recent feature work includes 'Detained under the Houthis', 'Tim Westwood: Abuse of Power' and THE SALON for ARTE France. For KHARTOUM Yousef worked both on the ground in camera and sound with the filmmakers as well as supporting production and the film edit.

Animation & VFX Philip K Good (UK) is an award-winning animator and motion graphics artist. He has directed and created animations for feature films, television, and brands for 15 years. He specialises in using a mixed media approach, elegantly combining photography, video, and 2D animation into powerful scenes that drive narrative forward. His recent work includes the feature documentary Betty, They Say I'm Different (Native Voice Films), the UK number 1 Netflix documentary Who Killed Jill Dando? He is currently working on two major Netflix documentary series due for release in 2025. Phil and his team created all GFX and animated graphics for KHARTOUM.

Co-Producer Trevor Snapp Gisa Productions

Trevor Snapp is the co-founder of Gisa Productions, he is producing TIMEPASS, a feature documentary on family and resistance in India supported by Eurodoc and the Sundance Documentary Fund. He was part of the producing team for the IDA nominated short SUDDENLY TV (2022), the Sudanese feature doc KHARTOUM (2025) and the Sudanese fiction film A KASHA (2018) which premiered at Venice. As a director he pioneered new online video formats like PORTRAITS OF MOGADISHU for Vice and WE WHO REMAIN, an award-winning VR documentary with AJ+, ARTE and The New York Times. He is currently filming AFFAIRES PUBLIQUES on rituals of protest in France selected for the Points North TV5 MONDE Short Film Grant. He works between Paris, Nairobi, and Atlanta with a passion for supporting community cinema and emerging storytellers.

Co-Producer Frank W. Albers Germany, Light Echo Pictures

German based Frank W. Albers set up the international film fund at the Robert Bosch Foundation in Stuttgart, with a regional focus on co-productions with Central and Eastern Europe, the Arab World and East Africa. In 2022, he set up his own production company, run the nationwide film project "On Screen", as the official supporting program of the European Football Championship UEFA Euro 2024. Frank is currently developing a multi-year project on "cinematic-cultural education" in close cooperation with local football clubs. He is also co-director of the international football film festival "11mm" in Berlin.

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Executive Producer Tom Rhodes – Ayin Network

Tom helps run one of the few independent media houses still operating in Sudan, 'Ayin Media', a leading news organisation that pioneers in video documentaries and investigative journalism. Formerly, Tom helped launch South Sudan's first independent newspaper, *The Juba Post*, and supported African journalists across the continent by heading the Africa desk for the press freedom advocacy group, the Committee to Protect Journalists. Tom's freelance writing can be read in the BBC, *The Guardian*, and Foreign Policy Magazine, among others.

Executive Producer USA Anne Sundberg

Anne Sundberg is an American film director, screenwriter, and producer, most known for her documentary work. She works alongside Ricki Stern. She is most known for *The Trials of Darryl Hunt*, *The Devil Came on Horseback*, *Knuckleball!*, *Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work*, *Reversing Roe* and *Surviving Jeffrey Epstein*.

Executive Producers DocuBox Kenya

Docubox, East Africa's first fund for independent, empowering them to create engaging and authentic films that reflect diverse African identities. Over the past 11 years, Docubox has supported over 100 films through grants and capacity-building initiatives, awarded over \$1.5 million in grants, hosted 70+ workshops with 650 participants, and reached live audiences of 200,000 through 200+ screenings across communities, schools, and cinemas.

Executive Producer Kenya Judy Kibinge:

Judy Kibinge is a Kenyan filmmaker, writer and director. She has produced, written and directed a number of fiction and documentary films. She founded East African Documentary Film Fund- DOCUBOX in 2013, Sub-Saharan Africa's first homegrown fund and hub for independent filmmakers, which has played a transformative role in the East African documentary film industry. A founding member of the Creative Economy Working Group (CEWG) and a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, she has also served on the Documentary Branch Committee for three years. In 2021, she was named the Most Influential Women in Film at the Women in Film Awards (Kenya)

Executive Producer: Kenya Susan Mbogo

Susan is the Programs and Partnerships Manager at Docubox, the East African Documentary Film Fund. A Creative Producing graduate from the New York Film

Academy, Susan is currently overseeing the production of two documentaries while fostering impactful storytelling in the region. Her dedication to the industry is reflected in her jury roles at several prestigious festivals, including the Sharjah International Film Festival (2022), Under Our Skin International Film Festival (2023), and the Encounters Al Jazeera Best African Documentary Jury (2024).

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Executive Producer: Bryn Mooser - XTR

Bryn Mooser is a twice Oscar-nominated, Emmy-winning filmmaker, humanitarian, and the founder and CEO of XTR and DOCUMENTARY+. In 2019 Mooser founded the documentary studio XTR and launched the streaming platform DOCUMENTARY+ in 2020. As a humanitarian, Mooser spent three years in the Peace Corps in West Africa, and was the Country Director for Artists for Peace and Justice in Haiti. For his charitable work he was made a recipient of the prestigious Nelson Mandela Changemaker Award, and Esquire Magazine named him as one of their Americans of the Year. In 2024, Mooser started the clean model AI animation studio, Asteria.

Executive Producer: Justin Lacob -XTR

Justin Lacob is a 2x Emmy nominated producer, executive, and content strategist, with a mission to entertain, inform, and move culture through innovative storytelling. He is the President and Co-Founder of XTR, a nonfiction studio that produces and distributes award-winning documentaries, series, shorts, and podcasts. He is also a co-founder of DOCUMENTARY+, an Oscar nominated streaming platform and channel that showcases diverse and impactful stories from around the world.

Executive Producer: Laura Choi Raycroft -XTR

Laura Choi Raycroft is a senior producer at the documentary studio XTR. Raycroft produced the feature documentary Daughters about four young girls who attend a father-daughter dance in a D.C. jail. The film premiered at Sundance in 2024, won the Audience Award: U.S. Documentary and Festival Favorite Award, and was picked up by Netflix out of the festival. She has also worked on other feature documentaries including Ashima, Lakota Nation vs. United States (IFC Films), and Liquor Store Dreams (P.O.V.).

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World Premiere Sundance Film Festival 2025 / European Premiere Berlinale 2025

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Background to the CONFLICT IN SUDAN

In 2019, a social revolution in Sudan ended the thirty-year dictatorship of Omar Al Bashir. Then began a transitional, civilian-led government that partially transformed Sudanese society to discover new freedoms and possibilities. However, the military felt increasingly threatened and, in October 2021, instigated a coup together with a paramilitary force, the Rapid Support Forces. Two years of pro-democracy protests ensued, which ended on April 15, 2023, as civil war broke out between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). Former allies that instigated the coup and repressed the pro-democracy movement, Sudan's military, and the RSF worked in tandem in the past to crush dissent in the western Darfur region in 2003.

Former dictator Omar al-Bashir had created the RSF militia, formerly termed 'the Janjaweed' to help Sudan's army repress rebellion in western Sudan. Under Bashir, the RSF grew in size and prosperity, having control of lucrative gold mining operations and contracted mercenary operations in the gulf. Over time, a competition for political and economic dominance developed between the army and the RSF, leading to the destructive war Sudanese citizens struggle with today.

Since the outbreak of conflict on April 15 in Khartoum, the war has spread across Sudan, displacing over 11 million people. Some estimates hold that up to 150,000 people have been killed. Life in Sudan has come to a complete standstill. Cities across the country have been devastated by intense fighting, and several villages and towns have witnessed massacres. Civilians have not been spared the fighting, with many attacked or killed.

Rape has become a widely used weapon of warfare in Sudan. Homes have been ransacked; others have been destroyed by wanton collateral damage, hit by shells or bombs. Museums and cultural centres have been attacked and emptied. National archives, libraries, and other sites of historical significance have been plundered and, in some cases, burnt to the ground.

Famine today spreads across Sudan, with roughly 26 million people facing acute hunger. 11 million people have been displaced. An estimated 19 million children remain out of school. The RSF today controls most of western Sudan and the majority of Khartoum, whereas SAF army controls the North and East of the country. It is unlikely either side can affect an outright military victory.

Sudan is now the epicenter of the largest displacement crisis in the world. In the face of this unprecedented crisis, the international community's response has been limited, leaving the Sudanese people to rely on their own strength and solidarity. Local neighbourhood resistance committees have emerged as lifelines, pooling resources to provide essential aid. Sudanese charity initiatives have stepped in to fill the gap left by the lack of international support. These initiatives have become vital for many, offering food and relief in the midst of chaos. Every day, volunteers risk their lives to support their communities, embodying a spirit of resilience and unity that stands as a beacon of hope.

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CREDITS (Credits are not final nor contractual)

FRONT LOGOS

WORLD CINEMA FUND
IDFA BERTHA FUND
DOCUBOX
BBC STORYVILLE
Supported by DOHA FILM INSTITUTE
AYIN NETWORK
GISA PRODUCTIONS
XTR
SUDAN FILM FACTORY
NATIVE VOICE FILMS

END CREDITS (within film & with directors photos)

Director Anas Saeed
Director Rawia Alhag
Director Brahim Snoopy
Director Timeea Mohamed Ahmed

CREDIT END CARDS (On black)

Director
Phil Cox

Created & Written by
Phil Cox

Producer
Giovanna Stopponi

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Producer

Talal Afifi

Film Editor

Yousef Jubeh

VFX & Animations

Philip K Good

Original Music

James Preston

Co-Producers

Trevor Snapp Frank Albers

Executive Producers

Tom Rhodes Anne Sundberg

Executive Producer

Bryn Mooser Justin Lacob Laura Choi Raycroft

Executive Producers

Judy Kibinge Susan Mbogo

Executive Producer for BBC Storyville

Emma Hindley

Associate Producer

Yousef Jubeh

ROLLER

Featuring:

Lokain & Wilson

Jawad

Khadmallah

Majdi

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Associate Producer Sudan

Abdeen Abdelrazig

Camera & Sound

Anas Saeed
Snoopy Ibrahim
Waleed Alaa
Yousef Jubeh
Phil Cox

Additional Camera

Mustafa Saeed
Rawia Alhag

Consulting Editor

Ben Stark BFE

Sound Design and Mix

James Preston

Drone Footage Sudan

Phil Cox

Production Manager Khartoum

Waleed Alaa

Development Directors Khartoum

Mustafa Saeed
Areej Zarrouq

Production Manager Kenya & Sudan

Rafa Renas

Green Screen & FX Studios

MGM Studios Kenya

Studio Cinematography Kenya

Ibrahim Ahmad 'Snoopy'

Studio Sound Recording Kenya

Joe Wamae

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Post Production Coordinators

Zeinab Charara
Yousef Jubeh

Colorist

Vic Parker

Archive Producer

Jasmine Dick

Music Supervisor

Giovanna Stopponi

Khartoum Mural Advisors:

Mustafa Abdelmoneim Dafaallah Salih

Esam Eldin Ismail

with sincere gratitude to:

Martyrs Murals Initiative

Translations

Rooa Elhag

Zeinab Chrara

Mohamed Abdalhaleem

Vocalist

Tahleel Dafalla

Khartoum Radio DJ

Ahmed Hikmat

For Native Voice Films

Head of Production

Giovanna Stopponi

For Sudan Film Factory

Production Accountant

Samar Ali

For Ayin Network

Head of Production

Mosaab Baba

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For Gisa Productions

Head of Production
Roopa Gogineni
Finance Managers
Olivia Bueno & Evelyne Muli
Logistics officer
Terry Wambaa

For Sudan Memory

Marilyn Deegan - King's College London
Erica Carter - King's College London

For BBC Storyville

Dawn Cleaver -Business Affairs Manager
Henna Khan-Hussain- Commissioning Co-Ordinator

Archival Materials Courtesy of

AP Archive
British Movietone
Agence France Presse
Pitt Rivers Museum & Pawel Wolf & Habibi Funk collections
administered by Sudan Memory

Children Drawings

“Wiener Holocaust Library Collections”
Courtesy of Waging Peace

Additional Video Archive

Ayin Network
Native Voice Films
Sudan Memory
Private contributors

Music Credits

“Gedima”

Written by Ahmed Mohamed Yaqoup Eltom
Published by Ostinato Soho Publishing Performed by Jantra
Recording Courtesy of Ostinato Records

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“Makhafi”

Written by Ahmed Mohamed Yaqoup Eltom
Published by Ostinato Soho Publishing
Performed by Jantra
Recording Courtesy of Ostinato Records

“Iki Igli Meshka” / إك ايجلي إك مشكا

Written and Performed by Mohamed Wardi
Published by Abdul Wahab Wardi
Licensed Courtesy of Abdul Wahab Wardi

#19’_ Stone in Focus

Written by Richard D James
Performed by Aphex Twin
Published by BMG Rights Management (UK) Limited
Licensed Courtesy of Warp Records

Watermusic II

Written and Performed by William Basinski
Published by Musex International
Licensed Courtesy of Temporary Residence Limited

Despair

Written and Performed by Roger Abaji
Published by Kapagama Atmosphere Music Ltd
Licensed courtesy of PRS for Music, under licence from MCPS

We Are the Army of God and of Our Land نحن جند الله جند الوطن

Composed by Ahmed Morjan
Lyrics by Sayed Ahmad Muhammad Salih

Military Coups March

Al-Rowad Music Band

O tree climber, bring some fruit with you

Traditional Children Song

Mother tree, let us mothers pick your fruits

Traditional Nubian lullaby

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Bilad Al Noor – Land of Light
Composed by Osman al-Naw Lyrics by Emad Ibrahim
Arranged By James Preston
Performed by Tahleel Dafalla

Underground Khartoum I & II
Composed & Performed by James Preston

Dream Khartoum
Composed & Performed by James Preston

With thanks

Rebecca Lichtenfeld, Emiliano Battista, Ed Owles, Esteban Uyarra, Briony Hanson, Chantal Harrison-Lee, Karla Simpson, Catherine Bailey, Maddy Crowther & Sonja Miley of Waging Peace, Christopher Morton of Pitt Rivers Museum, Nuba Mountain Sound, General K.D / Ganjaa Farmer, The resistance committees, The booksellers, students and clients of tea stall of Comboni College, The Khadmallah family, Mohamed A. Eisa, Nashwa Marjy, Zina Abdelkareem, Hafez Haroun, Faris Hamid, Mohamed Alamin Jafar, Awatif Musa, Amna Mohamed Alamin, Jafar Mohamed Alamin, Jameela Mohamed Alamin, Jihad Mohamed Alamin, Mohamed Tarig, Badawi Ahmed Hussien, Sayed Khaleel, Mohamed Elfatih, Tamer Abdallah Ahmad Alameen , Algali Suliman Yahya- The Scale man, Waleed Al Ameen-Howida Hassan, Shadia Othman, Nema Othman, Abdalla Ibrahim, Wahj Mohamed Khair, Amro Mohamed Alamin, Mohamed Altayeb , Almwafag , Hamad Alhel Jarsota, Mutaz Elamin, Ibrahim Abdallah, Ibrahim Ahmed & Aswat Almadina, James O' Connor, Tom Murray and Romeo Mercurio Cox.

In Association with
BBC Storyville

Light Echo Pictures

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Supported by The Arab Fund for Arts and Culture

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End Rolling Logos

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