

# THE DESTINY OF LESSER ANIMALS

SIB3 NE KRA, DAB3 NE KRA

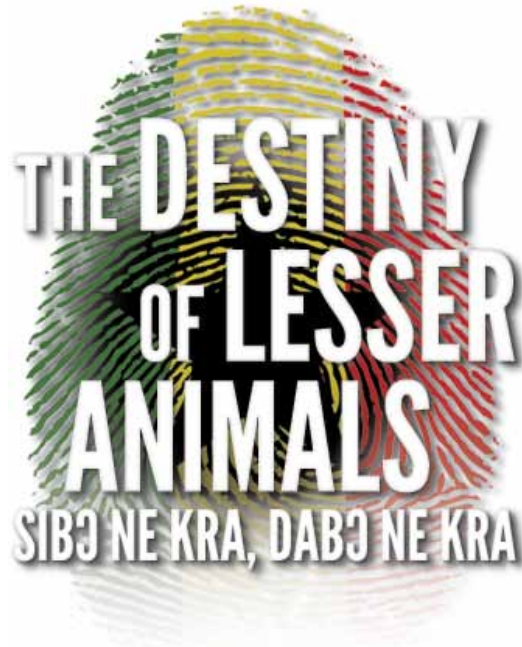
a film by **Deron Albright**  
written by and starring **Yao B. Nunoo**



2011, Ghana / USA, 89 minutes

[www.destinyoflesseranimals.com](http://www.destinyoflesseranimals.com)

BRIGHT NOON PICTURES in association with the  
GHANA ACADEMY OF FILM & TELEVISION ARTS



**THE DESTINY  
OF LESSER  
ANIMALS**  
SIB3 NE KRA, DAB3 NE KRA

a film by **DERON ALBRIGHT**

starring **YAO B. NUNOO**

with **FRED AMUGI, ABENA TAYKI, SANDY ARKHURST and XOLASIE MAWUENYEGA**

produced by  
**DERON ALBRIGHT, FRANCIS GBORMITTAH, DEDE MAITRE, YAO B. NUNOO**

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# About the Film

**A dream deferred... a future never dreamed of.** The *Destiny of Lesser Animals* follows Boniface Koomsin, a Ghanaian police inspector, as he embarks upon a dangerous crime-laden journey to recover the one thing that can help him realize his ultimate dream— to escape the ghosts of his past and return to America.

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**Synopsis**

Nearly a decade after deportation from the United States, Inspector Boniface Koomsin (Yao B. Nunoo) makes the last payment on a “perfect” counterfeit passport, only to have it immediately stolen. Desperate to recover it, Boniface enlists the resources of the police on the pretense of a stolen pistol, and follows a tip to the capital city of Accra and the counterfeiter who crafted the fake document.

In Accra, Chief Inspector Oscar Darko (Fred Amugi), who is investigating an armed robbery, intercepts Boniface. Both believe their cases are connected. Together, they follow a lead to casino hostess Serwah Bimpong (Abena Takyi), who refuses to cooperate. Later, while taking time to visit his father’s grave, Boniface encounters a mysterious Zongo Beggar Girl (Xolasie Mawuenyega) who disappears before he can learn her name. That evening, Boniface returns to the casino where a violent confrontation with the suspect takes place. Amidst the chaos, the suspects escapes.

The next day, Boniface and Oscar investigate the overnight murder of an American ex-pat. Connecting the crime with the earlier robbery, they return to Serwah’s house to press her for answers. Finally relenting, Serwah identifies their suspect: a drifter named Yaro (Kennedy Ofori). Boniface later confesses to Oscar the truth of his own investigation: it is the passport – not his pistol – he has been after all along.

Oscar immediately throws Boniface off the case. Seeking redemption, Boniface decides to track the murderous Yaro himself – only to discover that his effort is much too late.



# Director's Statement

## Sibo ne kra, Dabo ne kra

*"The destiny of the leopard is different than that of lesser animals."*  
– Ghanaian proverb

At its core, *The Destiny of Lesser Animals* is about discovering home and the very human (and often difficult) struggle of reconciling one's dreams with the reality of the world into which we are born. It is also a film about journey and return, about understanding the value of culture and history, and about the difficulty of accepting a home that was once left behind.

When Boniface's Uncle (Sandy Arkhurst) advises him to remember the proverb his message is twofold. Boniface (Yao B. Nunoo) can accept his lot in life – that he is not the leopard, and his grand dreams best be forgotten. On the other hand, his uncle might very well mean for Boniface to realize the true importance of who he is – to embrace his home and to become the leopard, no matter how small his life might seem to be.

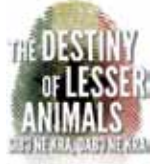
*The Destiny of Lesser Animals* is also about breathing new life into the Ghanaian film tradition, and being an important part of a renaissance of West African film. As a Ghanaian / American collaboration, it also aims to demonstrate the best of what cooperative transnational cinema can be, as well as how both stories and lives may be shaped by those who are willing to believe that the things that bring them together are far greater than the what tears them apart.

### Programming Descriptors

FORMS: Narrative Fiction, Feature  
GENRES: Crime, Drama

### Technical Information

RUNTIME 89 minutes  
LANGUAGE Fante, English, Pidgin, Twi, Ga with English subtitles  
DELIVERY FORMAT HDCAM  
ASPECT RATIO 16x9 (1920x1080, 25p)  
AUDIO Stereo, Lt/Rt  
COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION Ghana and USA



## Press

“Looking at Film Independent’s 2011 Los Angeles Film Festival Awards,” by Eric Shlapack, Examiner.com (June 29, 2011) <http://www.examiner.com/film-festivals-in-national/looking-at-film-independent-s-2011-los-angeles-film-festival-awards>

“The Destiny of Lesser Animals: Film Review,” by Justin Lowe, The Hollywood Reporter (June 24, 2011) <http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/review/destiny-of-lesser-animals-film-review-205532>

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“2011 Los Angeles Film Festival reviews: The Destiny of Lesser Animals,” by Eric Shlapack, Examiner.com (June 20, 2011) <http://www.examiner.com/film-festivals-in-national/2011-los-angeles-film-festival-reviews-the-destiny-of-lesser-animals-review>

“The Destiny of Lesser Animals,” by Elliot V. Kotek, MovingPicturesNetwork.com (June 18, 2011) <http://www.movingpicturesnetwork.com/29160/destiny-lesser-animals-review/>

“The Destiny of Lesser Animals (Ghana),” review, A Random Walk Through Film (June 10, 2011) <http://www.randomwalkthroughfilm.com/2011/06/destiny-of-lesser-animals-ghana.html>

“The Future of African Cinema,” by Charles Mudede, The Stranger (June 7, 2011) <http://www.thestranger.com/seattle/Content?oid=8526088>

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“SIFF Notes 2011,” capsule review by Jen Graves, The Stranger (May 18, 2011) <http://www.thestranger.com/seattle/Search?search=movietimes&film=8026258>

“The Destiny of Lesser Animals,” review by Howard Feinstein, Screen Daily (March 29, 2011) <http://www.screendaily.com/reviews/latest-reviews/-the-destiny-of-lesser-animals/5025462.article>

“Meet the 2011 ND/NF Filmmakers: The Destiny of Lesser Animals,” Director Deron Albright by indieWIRE (March 28, 2011) [http://www.indiewire.com/article/meet\\_the\\_2011\\_nd\\_nf\\_filmmakers\\_the\\_destiny\\_of\\_lesser\\_animals\\_director\\_deron/#](http://www.indiewire.com/article/meet_the_2011_nd_nf_filmmakers_the_destiny_of_lesser_animals_director_deron/#)





## Press

“Separating the Wheat from the Chaff: New Directors/New Films,” by Howard Feinstein, *Filmmaker Magazine* (March 20, 2011) <http://www.filmmakermagazine.com/news/2011/03/separating-the-wheat-from-the-chaff-new-directorsnew-films/>

“New Directors, better films: Annual New York festival showcases emerging talent,” by Doris Toumarkne, *Film Journal International* (March 28, 2011) [http://www.filmjournal.com/filmjournal/content\\_display/news-and-features/features/movies/e3i7e6b9083cc2bc88bf07200c295485c72](http://www.filmjournal.com/filmjournal/content_display/news-and-features/features/movies/e3i7e6b9083cc2bc88bf07200c295485c72)

“40 Years of Everything New on Screen: Six Film Makers Featured in the New Directors/New Films Festival Discuss How They Were Influenced by Earlier Entries,” by Bruce Bennett, *The Wall Street Journal* (March 22, 2011) <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703858404576214631862144602.html>

“The Destiny of Lesser Animals; Meek’s Cutoff” review by Louis Proyect, (March 30, 2011) <http://louisproyect.wordpress.com/2011/03/30/the-destiny-of-lesser-animals-meeks-cutoff/>

“The Destiny of Lesser Animals at New Directors/New Films,” review by We Heart New York (April 3, 2011) <http://whrtny.blogspot.com/2011/04/destiny-of-lesser-animals-at-new.html>

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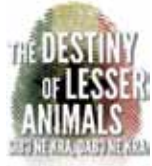
“ND/NF 2011 – Profile Of Ghanaian Police Drama ‘The Destiny Of Lesser Animals’” by Tambay, *Shadow and Act: On Cinema of the African Diaspora* (February 16, 2011) <http://www.shadowandact.com/?p=39402>

“New Directors/New Films 2011,” review by Kent Turner, Nora Lee Mandel, and Yana Litovsky, *Film-Forward.com* (March 25, 2011) <http://film-forward.com/ndnf11.htm>

“Greek Turn,” by V.A. Musetto, *New York Post* (March 19, 2011) [http://www.nypost.com/p/entertainment/movies/greek\\_turn\\_VCXaucjHINxnntu9fRXu6L](http://www.nypost.com/p/entertainment/movies/greek_turn_VCXaucjHINxnntu9fRXu6L)

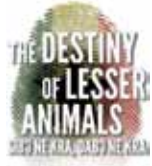
“ND/NF 2011 – Profile Of Ghanaian Police Drama ‘The Destiny Of Lesser Animals’” by Tambay, *Shadow and Act: On Cinema of the African Diaspora* (February 16, 2011) <http://www.shadowandact.com/?p=39402>

“Gotham Fest Lauds Arty Fare: New Directors / New Films brings emerging talent to New York” by Mark Rabinowitz, *Variety* (February 19, 2011) <http://www.variety.com/article/VR1118032573?refCatId=13>



## Cast

Inspector Boniface Koomsin	YAO B. NUNOO
Chief Inspector Oscar Darko	FRED AMUGI
Serwah Bimpong	ABENA TAKYI
The Old Fisherman	SANDY ARKHURST
The Zongo Girl	XOLASIE MAWUENYEGA
Donkoh, the Visa Fence	AMANORBEA OPOKU-BOAKYE
Chief Inspector Quarm	FRANCIS GBORMITTAH
Records Inspector Kuffour	SHAIBU ABU
Abiola	VERONICA WATHOME
Tetteh, the Counterfeiter	EMMANUEL "SLO" ARMAH
Hotel Concierge	KOFI WALBECK AMPADU
Oburoni James Gallagher	GARTH VAN'T HUL
Maa Darko	GRACE BUDU-ARTHUR
Mrs. Bimpong	EDINAM ATATSI
Beach Prostitute	VERA BONNEY
Yaro	KENNEDY OFORI
Embassy Official	LORIANN SCHNEIDER
Forensics Detective	RICHMOND ANAMAN
The Fence's Small Boy	EMMANUEL AMOAKU



## Crew

Director	DERON ALBRIGHT
Screenwriter	YAO B. NUNOO
Producers	DERON ALBRIGHT, FRANCIS GBORMITTAH, DEDE MAITRE, YAO B. NUNOO
Co-Producer	LORIANN SCHNEIDER
Associate Producers	CHRIS COY, MAORI KARMAEL HOLMES, RHEA ROSE NUNOO, KOFFI NARTEY ZOKKO
Director of Photography	AARON T. BOWEN
Editors	JACOB BRICCA, LISA MOLOMOT
Original Score	JOHN AVARESE
Production Design	FRANCIS GBORMITTAH
Costumes & Make-up	DZIFA AMENUVOR
AC, Key Grip, Still Photography	CHRIS COY
AC, Gaffer	FRANCIS "TAMPICO" KWAPONG
Production Sound	STANLEY ARTHUR
Post Production Supervisor	DEDE MAITRE
Sound Design & Mix	JOHN AVARESE
Ghanaian Music Supervisors	SETH PARIS, KOO NIMO
Songs Written & Performed by	KOO NIMO, E. T. MENSAH, SPRATZ & GUDIS, THE ROCK OF AGES BRASS BAND, KWAME OSEI, AARON BEBE SEKURA, SETH PARIS, EPHRAIM AMU & THE WINNEBA YOUTH CHORUS
Title Designer	WILLIAM LEBEDA
Digital Color Artist	MARK MELCHIORRE, JR.





# Crew Biographies

**Deron Albright**  
Director & Producer



Deron Albright has been making films since 1994. His short film *The Legend of Black Tom* (2005) played as part of over 25 film festivals, and screened in venues from New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, and the Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum to Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, Mumbai, India and Amsterdam. It garnered thirteen awards of excellence, including a Director's Choice Award from the Black Maria Film and Video Festival, a Best of the Fest Award (Grand Prize) from the Humboldt Film Festival, and an "Honorable Mention" (second prize) from the prestigious Robeson Awards of the Newark Black Film Festival. The film was also anthologized in the *Journal of Short Film, Volume 5*.

Albright's feature script, based on the same material, is currently in development. Prior to *Black Tom*, he gained recognition as co-producer and director of photography on Francisco Menendez's featurette *Medio Tiempo* (Part Time, Showtime Network, 2001).

A Midwesterner at heart, Albright has called Philadelphia home for the last 10 years. He earned his MFA from Temple University's program in Film & Media Arts. Currently, he is a tenured faculty at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, where he lives with his wife, Lori, and their two sons, Jaspar (10) and Dashiel (6). Albright was the recipient of a prestigious Fulbright Senior Scholar Fellowship to Ghana for 2008-2009, where he taught advanced directing courses at the National Film and Television Institute (NAFTI) of Ghana and worked to realize his dream of bringing his feature directorial debut *The Destiny of Lesser Animals* (*Sibo ne kra, Dabo ne kra*) to fruition.



**Yao B. Nunoo**  
Writer & Producer  
"Boniface Koomsin"



Yao B. Nunoo was born on Christmas Day, 1975 in Kumasi, Ghana. He refers to himself as an average kid that grew up in urban Ghana. His first love was soccer up until he moved into the US in 1997 to enroll at as a double-major in economics and sculpture at Knox College, Galesburg, IL. In 1999, he auditioned for a production of Wole Soyinka's Nobel Prize winning *Death and a King's Horseman* and was cast in the role of Amusa. He performed on opening night, with Soyinka in attendance, and describes it as one of the most gratifying moments of his life. Shortly afterwards, Nunoo dropped out of school due to financial constraints and began to audition while working odd jobs to make ends meet.

He moved to Philadelphia and enrolled at the University of Pennsylvania for Cinema Studies, as a way to understand not just acting, but "how this whole thing works." He began writing, shooting, editing and acting in films in the Philadelphia region and was cast in the lead role of Tom Molineaux in Albright's *The Legend of Black Tom*. Afterwards, Albright and Nunoo would collaborate on writing *Invisible Son* and producing *The Destiny Of Lesser Animals*. Nunoo is currently working on his third feature-length screenplay, set also in Ghana in collaboration with renowned Ghanaian poet Nii Ayikwei- Parkes.

Trivia: Yao is fluent in five languages : Ga, Twi, Fante, Pidgin and English.

**Francis Gbormittah**  
Production Designer  
& Producer



Appointed in 2009 by the President of Ghana as one of five Industry and Educational leaders to oversee the revitalization of the Ghanaian National Film & Television Institute (NAFTI), Gbormittah is a Ghanaian production designer and producer, and a lecturer in film studies and production in the Department of Performing Arts at the University of Ghana, Legon. He holds a graduate degree in Film Studies from the University of Glasgow (Scotland), where he studied the impact of language on dramatic performance.

**Dede Maitre**  
Producer & Post-  
Production Supervisor



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Maitre is a graduate of the MFA program in Film & Media Arts at Temple University. A filmmaker who has produced nearly 20 independent and commercial projects, and a media professional who has extensive experience in post-production workflow as both an editor and filmmaker, Maitre's independent film work focuses on international collaborative efforts for the working poor in Haiti. Her documentary *Fishing for the Future* features Dr. Valentin Abe (aquaculturist and Fulbright scholar from Cote d'Ivoire working in Haiti). In 2010, Dr Abe was named by *Time Magazine* as one of the world's most influential people. Maitre is intimately aware of the nuances and challenges of international co-production and cultural sensitivity.

Maitre is an Assistant Professor in the Cinema & Digital Arts Department in the Conservatory of Performing Arts at Point Park University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

**Aaron T. Bowen**  
Dir. of Photography



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Aaron's career as a cameraman has covered every position from a Loader to DP, with credits ranging from *Reno 911!* to *Parenthood*, as well as many movies and commercials. After studying cinematography at AFI, he has been fortunate enough to work with some of the best cameramen in the business. Despite the challenging work environment in Ghana, Aaron found shooting *The Destiny of Lesser Animals* to be both eye opening and extremely rewarding.

**Jacob Bricca**  
Editor



A graduate of the American Film Institute, Bricca spent six years in Los Angeles developing his career as an editor, cutting such films as the PBS Independent Lens Audience Award winner *Jimmy Scott: If You Only Knew* (2002), the independent narrative feature *Max, 13* (1999) and the international theatrical hit *Lost In La Mancha* (2002). Since 2002, he has taught documentary and narrative film production to undergraduates at Wesleyan University, and continues to edit feature films, including the Rhino Home Video release *Tell Me Do You Miss Me* (2006) and *Con Artist* (2009), which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival.

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**Lisa Molomot**  
Editor



An accomplished editor of 13 features and numerous shorts, Molomot graduated from the American Film Institute with an MFA in Film Editing. Editing credits include films that have premiered on prime-time national television (PBS, Discovery Channel, A&E) and at the nation's premiere film festivals (Sundance, SXSW, Mill Valley). Since 2003, she has taught film production and documentary film history at Yale University and Wesleyan University.

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**John Avarese**  
Composer &  
Sound Designer



With over 3000 commissions to his name and feature credits that include the critical favorite *My Dog Tulip* (2010) and Sundance pic *I Melt With You* (2011), Avarese is emerging as an important figure in cinematic music scoring. A life-long musician, he began studying classical piano at the age of four and by the age of seven he was performing recitals with classical music ensembles. His goal on *Destiny* is not only to deliver an emotionally compelling score, but to create a hybrid of cinematic and indigenous sounds that may serve as an example for future international co-productions. Currently, he is an Assistant Professor at Westphal College of Media Arts & Design at Drexel University, teaching film sound in the Cinema & Television department.

**Koo Nimo**  
Music Supervisor,  
Original Songs



Koo Nimo is a leading folk musician of Palm wine music or Highlife music from Ghana. In 1979, in recognition of his services to Ghanaian music as performer, teacher and administrator, Koo Nimo was elected President of MUSIGA (the Musicians' Union of Ghana). In March 1997, the Ghana government celebrated the fortieth anniversary of independence by awarding gold medals to forty of its distinguished citizens, one of whom was Koo Nimo. In the next month he received the Konkoma Award for his contribution to Ghanaian Highlife Music. From 1998 - 2000, Nimo taught at the University of Washington in Seattle as a Professor of Ethnomusicology. Next, he was appointed a similar position at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. As of 2006, Koo Nimo has moved back to Ghana and is currently living in Kumasi.

**Seth Paris**  
Music Supervisor,  
Original Songs



Seth Paris is an accomplished musician, educator, producer, audio engineer, and audiovisual archivist with a passion for sound and moving images. In 2007, Seth's dedication to the preservation of recorded music led him to Accra, Ghana. With the support of a Fulbright Grant, the NYU Office of Global Education, and the NYU Africana Studies Program, he worked with the music archive of Kofi Ghanaba ("The Divine Drummer"), the Bokoora African Popular Music Archive Foundation (BAPMAF), and the Cape Coast Gramophone Museum.

**Maori Karmael Holmes**  
Associate Producer



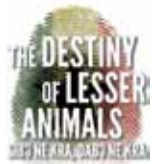
Maori is an interdisciplinary artist, curator and producer. Her award-winning film/video work has been screened internationally at festivals, museums, and universities, as well as broadcast throughout the US. She has taught filmmaking at Scribe Video Center, Temple University, and Villanova University. She is the recipient of grants from Leeway Foundation, Independence Media, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and Women's Way. Maori was the founding artistic director of the Black Lily Film & Music Festival and in 2009 was named a Creative Ambassador by the City of Philadelphia. She has worked in the music industry for over 15 years and is currently an associate at Coolhunter Management, which represents The Roots and a select group of critically acclaimed indie musicians. She received her MFA in film from Temple University and is currently studying production design at CalArts.

**Chris Coy**  
Associate Producer



Chris and Deron have been working together since they met at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 1999. In 2001, Albright shot Coy's short "Back by Popular Demand," and Coy returned the favor, lensing Albright's "Legend of Black Tom" in 2005. A longtime Elvis aficionado, Coy is presently at work on a feature-length documentary on Vegas fixture and long-time impersonator and performer, Pete "Big Elvis" Vallee. On *The Destiny of Lesser Animals* Chris supplied support at every turn, playing the part that every independent feature needs - a true "Mr. Everything" who filled any role from Assistant Camera and Sound Recording to Transport Captain, Set Photographer, Key Grip and Videographer.





## Cast Biographies

**Fred Amugi**  
 “Chief Inspector  
 Oscar Darko”



An instantly recognizable figure of the Ghanaian screen, Fred is a veteran actor once known for playing the “bad guy” or villain (nipa boni), having appeared in over forty films and numerous International productions including the BBC series *Holby City*. An accomplished gospel singer as well, “Uncle Fred” is known for his generous donation of time and skill to countless projects by Ghana’s student filmmakers. In addition, he served in the civil service for thirty-three years and rose to the rank of Acting Director of Supply in Ghana’s Ministry of Finance. Fred also lectures in Supply Materials Management at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA), and in the Ghana’s Police Service, Fire Service, and Military. He won numerous awards including: Ghana National Award for Acting (Order of the Volta, Civil Division) in 2008; Arts Critics and Reviewers Association of Ghana (ACRAG) Award for Consistency in 1996; and Best Actor Award, Accra Film Festival in 1994. Stepping into the role of Chief Inspector Darko a week into production, Fred brought a calm professionalism to the production and set a new standard of performance for the many first-time actors who appear in the film.

**Abena Takyi**  
 “Serwah Bimpong”



Known as “AB,” Takyi is a musician, actress, and theatre director. She’s played a number of roles in Ghanaian television series such as *Home Sweet Home*, *Hotel St. James*, *Sun City*, and *Bloody Mary*, as well as leading and supporting roles in stage productions such as *The Diary of Adam and Eve*, *Langbodo*, *Anowa*, and an adapted version of *The Vagina Monologues*. Abena holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from the School of Performing Arts, University of Ghana.

**Sandy Arkhurst**  
 “Old Fisherman”



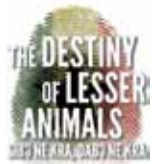
A long-standing veteran of the Ghanaian stage, Sandy Arkhurst is also recognized as one of the leading figures in theatre education in Ghana. He is a faculty member in both the School of Performing Arts at the University of Ghana and the University of Education, Winneba, and has appeared in over twenty productions of stage and screen. Initially tabbed for the role of Chief Inspector Darko, Sandy requested a smaller role and graciously filled the part of Boniface’s Uncle, The Old Fisherman. Seeing his performance, it is now hard to believe it could have happened any other way.

**Xolasie Mawuenyega**  
"Zongo Girl"



A pupil of the Ghana International School, Xolasie was introduced to acting when she auditioned for the part of the Zongo Girl in *The Destiny of Lesser Animals*. As soon as the director saw her, he knew she was right for the part. Xolasie is now 10 years and she loves singing and dancing and now acting. She aspires to be a lawyer like her mother and also a famous actress.





## Production Notes

### In the beginning...

Albright and Nunoo first met in late 2004, when Albright was casting his short, "The Legend of Black Tom." The two found themselves enjoying their work together enough to begin looking for opportunities to collaborate in the future. Two years later, Nunoo was developing a 'policier' script set in Philadelphia. But when Albright returned from screening "Black Tom" at FESPACO, and pitched to Nunoo the idea of shooting in West Africa, the script and the project sprang to life. Soon after, the two formed Bright Noon Pictures, and set forth to realize their dream of making the film in Ghana. But not just any film. First, it had to be a film for people who loved films. Nunoo's inspiration for the script was Kurosawa's Stray Dog (Nora inu), and for Albright, the vision was to wrap the genre pleasures of the policier with the humanity of Neorealism and the best of the West African cinematic tradition. Second, the film – while targeting a global audience – could be neither condescending to its characters, nor exploitive or pitying of its location. Ghana (and by implication Africa) had to be seen as a place where everyday people lead everyday lives. And finally, the film had to be part of a movement to breathe new life into a disappearing Ghanaian film tradition. In short, Albright and Nunoo wanted to show that on a similar budget to that of a large local production, Bright Noon could make a film that not only stood as popular entertainment, but also as a memorable work of cinema.

### Along the way....

After a brutal first week in Accra, the production moved to Cape Coast and started filming in the relative calm of the Elmina fishing village. After blocking the scene, actors Yao B. Nunoo (Boniface) and Sandy Arkhurst (The Old Fisherman, who was originally slated to play to role of Oscar) began to work through the Fante translation. In doing so, Arkhurst suggested adding a Ghanaian aphorism he thought was particularly apt advice for Boniface to remember: *Sibo ne kra, dabo ne kra* -- the destiny of the leopard is different than the destiny of lesser animals. Not only was it right for the scene; it became central to understanding the entire film.

### Bringing it home....

At the end of Day 1 of production – a day that began with the confrontation of Bokum locals and ended 16 hours later with a failed generator – Chris Coy, who paid his own way to come work for a month as Destiny's "Mr. Everything" remarked, "Well, look at it this way – it can't go any worse than today." Unfortunately, that wasn't exactly the case. And probably everyone involved with this film has said, at one point or another, "We're never going to be make it." But here it is. The film got made.

And it is with pride that it can be said *we did it right*. In June 2010, we returned to Ghana to shoot pickups and record music for the film. We visited many of the same places and people we used in principal photography and were welcomed back as friends. But perhaps the high point of the trip was meeting with the Directors' Guild of Ghana, representing the Ghana Academy of Film & Television Arts. As we spoke with them about an official endorsement of the film as an international co-production as well as the possibly controversial title of the film, their president said simply – "I know how this film was made...you did it right. You did well."

**Did you know.....**

- \* Nunoo studied screenwriting with Hollywood veteran Mark Rosenthal, who also advised Nunoo to re-set his Philadelphia policier in Ghana.
- \* The original script was set entirely in Cape Coast, where Nunoo attended secondary school at St. Augustine's.
- \* Principal Photography took place in February and March of 2009 and included a sequence filmed at Accra's Kotoka International Airport.
- \* There were over 30 shooting locations in Ghana alone.
- \* Fred Amugi was the third actor cast in the role of Oscar Darko and graciously stepped in, a week into production.
- \* Grace Budu-Arthur (Mrs. Darko) is not only Nunoo's mother, but catered much of the shoot.
- \* "Slo" Armah (Tetteh, the Counterfeiter) owns the Next Door Bar in Accra, an unofficial "residence" of Ghanaian filmmaking legend King Ampaw.
- \* Destiny was produced while Albright was on a Fulbright Senior Fellowship, teaching film directing at Ghana's National Film & Television Institute (NAFTI).
- \* Zongo Girl Xolasie Mawuenyega was a Class 3 schoolmate of Albright's son at Ghana International School.

## Bright Noon Pictures



Bright Noon Pictures is committed to creating a fresh cinema experience for a broad audience through the stories and experience of under-seen and under-served populations.

While the business model has shifted over the last quarter-century, there have never been more outlets or more demand for the distribution of quality, independent film. Simply put, films of high-quality, with a budget in line with reasonable distribution expectations, will not only be seen, but return their investment dollar. The expectation of Bright Noon is to create a sustainable business model, providing the highest quality product with sound investment strategy. We see ourselves as stewards not only of creative cinema, but of fiscal responsibility.

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