

Kenyan filmmaker awarded fund for film development

The lettera27 foundation, in collaboration with the [African Film Festival of Cordoba-FCAT](#), on Thursday, 18 October 2012, granted a €25 000 fund to a project titled *Djin* (The wind of destiny) from Kenyan filmmaker Hawa Essuman.



Hawa Essuman

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The Kenyan director, originally from Ghana, has already received an award this year in the International Film Festival of Durban (DIFF) for her script *Logs of War*. This same work has also been selected to screen in the International Documentary Festival of Amsterdam (IDFA).

The winning project has been agreed upon as the best of the seven feature length narrative scripts regarding Africa participating in the 4th Forum for African Coproduction, Africa Produces.

The fund, known as The Director's Eye, is confirmed as being allocated to the realisation of *Djin*, a film narrating the history of a Kenyan coastal village reigned over by mythology and tradition as it experiences the arrival of modernity.

The jury which has commissioned this selection is formed by Nigerian filmmaker Newton I. Aduaka and South African producer Steven Markowitz, who have noted "the high quality of the participating projects, with which we corroborate a bright future for African cinema". Furthermore, the members of the jury have also given special mention, one without economic endowment, to the third feature length script from Kenyan filmmaker Mira Tanna-Händel, titled *Salme's Freedom*.

The director of the festival, Mane Cisneros, has highlighted that the Directors Eye fund "is not only an economic endowment, but also a means by which the director will have access to support and advice at all times from both the lettera27 foundation as well as the festival. Together, these organisations will accompany Hawa Essuman from start to finish.

In addition to the economic endowment of €25 000, the project will have support through the duration of the production process by means of advice, search and dissemination of sponsors, the initiation of crowdfunding campaigns and social networking. Following its production; the film *Djin*, a result of this international coproduction, will be projected at the African Film Festival of Cordoba-FCAT as an international launch platform.

In this way, the FCAT Cordoba which is celebrated from the 13-20 October is configured not only as a space for the presentation and projection of films, but also as a point of interaction and dialogue between filmmakers, Spanish audiences, international producers, distributors, and fund managers with the objective

or promoting coproduction.

The Forum of African Coproduction, Africa produces, which forms a part of the FCAT program's Espacio Profesional celebrates this year its fourth edition. The objective of this space is to facilitate connections between African filmmakers and European producers interested in working together.

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