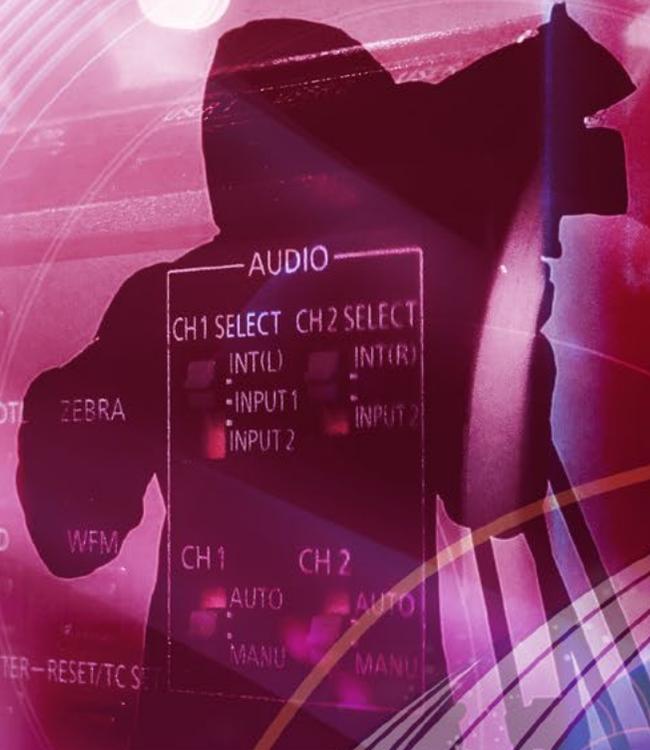




DT 3,5-4,5 / 16-80 AZ



10 short films by 10 Emerging South African women filmmakers under the theme Negotiating Spaces.

2015/2016

Negotiating Spaces

In this series of 10 half hour films, we explore themes that look at the values and expectations of modern African women today.

How do women negotiate their position as mothers, wives, daughters, career women and professionals, girls – in an ever-changing society? The pressures and expectation imposed by society on women requires them to continuously negotiate and navigate their place and position within their own personal desires.

Themes such as Family (responsibility and expectation): Taboos (cross cultural): Love (dating across the colour bar): Life lessons (lived experiences and how they mold us): the heroine inside and outside the family etc. – are just some of the themes explored in this series. These are films that will resonate with audiences today, told from a female perspective and stories that audiences will recognize both themselves and their friends in.



SENA

Sena Lartey is a third year medical student following in her beloved father's footsteps. But she loves writing and secretly dreams of becoming a famous novelist. She stumbles upon a creative writing class and decides to sign up. Here, she meets the enigmatic Bonga, a Zulu journalism student with a barbed tongue and a killer smile. During a spate of Afrophobic attacks, Dr Lartey's (Sena's father) medical practice in the CBD is vandalized and he is severely injured. Angry and humiliated, he seriously considers returning to Ghana with his family. He now strongly believes that South Africans are untrustworthy, barbaric, marauding degenerates. But back in the writing room Bonga and Sena are writing, arguing - and falling in love. When Sena tells her father that she no longer wants to study medicine, but to switch to creative writing, the good doctor wrathfully throws Sena out the family home, and with much righteous indignation, gravely decrees that she dare not return until she learns to submit to his God-ordained authority. Sena then moves in with Bonga, which at first feels like the best move, but later causes major upheaval and confusion for the young lovers. Sena is forced to learn that taking the road less travelled leads to a world of self-discovery, unavoidable truths and a renewed appreciation for life.



Abena Ayivor - Writer/Director

Abena is an actress by profession. Her first professional experience was acting as a stand-in for Angela Basset in Atholl Fugard's Boesman and Lena. She then won a role in the country's most popular soap opera, Generations, as druggie /prostitute Lerato. Since leaving the show in 2003, she has appeared in a myriad of local and international productions. A stand out experience was her portrayal of Claudia in the play Honour. This was Ayivor's first professional taste of theatre where she was expertly guided by two of South Africa's theatre greats, Fiona Ramsay and Graham Hopkins.

She played Dineo Sekete, daughter of villain Barker Haines in Isidingo. She appeared in various BBC Television productions such as The Royal, Blood and Oil and Wild at Heart. Feature films include Gerard Butler's Machine Gun Preacher and the British film, The Dinosaur Project. She participated in the African Metropolis Series in Vincent Moloi's offering Berea. Abena returned to local television in an installment of African favourite, Jacob's Cross as lawyer Abena Peprah and more recently as lawyer Anna Sexwale in Rhythm City. Ayivor also appears in commercials and works extensively as a voice artist.



Karabo Lediga - Writer/Director

Karabo Lediga has had a significant journey in the TV industry . Her passion is Indie films. She started working on documentary films, notably co-directing Black Sunday as part of an Encounters International Documentary Film Festival slate and Project 10's Nabantwa'bam'. Along the way, she has worked as a researcher for The National Film and Video Foundation and then as an assistant commissioning editor for sitcoms at the SABC.

She has worked on various television shows as a researcher, content producer and writer, including Take 5, Big Brother Africa, Big Break Legacy, Precious Africa and Late Night with Kgomotso. Since 2010, Karabo has been working as a content producer as well as writer and performer for Late Nite News With Loyiso Gola (LNN) which is now in its twelfth season with two International Emmy nominations for Best International Comedy. While working on LNN, she has worked as content director and writer for various Diprente Films projects including the mocku-travelogue Dave's Big Break (set at the 2014 Soccer World Cup), the 3-minute sketch comedy series Next of Next Week 1 for eTV and most recently the latest Chicken Licken TV ad campaign. Karabo has recently started directing, initially for episodes of LNN, moving onto a 48 minute Ekasi Story titled "Your Girl D" (2014) and recently 26 x 5 minute sketches for Next of Next Week 2 starring comedians Skhumba Hlophe and Thapelo 'Tips' Seemise, which was aired on eTV in 2015.

LOST AND FOUND

A bitter reclusive repairwoman in a rapidly gentrifying Johannesburg is thrown back into the world she's running away from when a self-centered journalist barges in looking to do a story about her eviction to save her job. Aunty, with a looming eviction, reluctantly decides to do the story for Nthabi in order to save her shop despite her dislike for the new world. She is keen to talk about the history of electronics, the importance of reliable appliances and her contempt for newness. "Those things break, they always break". But the young journalist is more interested in the enchanting lost and found earring board, a dedication to a long lost love. Aunty makes it clear that she wants no mention of it. Unable to get much about the angle she wants, Nthabi gives in and rushes off to file the story that will hopefully save her first job.

When the story comes out in the community paper, it's an incredibly romantic account of the board - the last shining light of the past in a changing city where lost earrings go to die. There is suddenly a lot of foot traffic from hipsters and fashionable market-goers that have no interest in Auntie's appliances. There are more earrings and attention than Aunty knows what to do with, as the eviction notice looms closer. An overwhelmed Aunty loses her temper and kicks everybody out of the shop, leaving her precious lost and found board outside and locking the door.

THE VIRGIN VEGAN

After spending 3 years in England completing her MBA studies, golden girl Thato has returned home to Seshego in Polokwane with a new diet. She's a Vegan! At her welcome home dinner party, all is revealed. ...but not all is understood.

A VEGAAN? VEGEEN? VIRGN?? Misunderstanding and misinterpreting her new lifestyle as a vegan for the word "virgin" her family want to believe she's changed her diet due to her virtue. They applaud her for her chastity but encourage her to eat some "real" food to regain all that weight lost due to her UK student brokenness. They realize her changed attitude towards food but cannot fathom the decision not to eat certain loved foods, especially MEAT.

Bombarded by Malume's monologue lectures, her little brothers negative taunts, her liberal Aunty decides that the only way to release Thato's dietary tension is to get her laid. So her childhood friend chubby Jabu is secretly invited to try and spark a romance and possibly correct the vegan-ness. A helpless Jabu arrives awkwardly, getting caught in the middle of a dire situation with not much resolve for any of the concerned parties. Refusing to date Jabu and eventually frustrated, Thato puts an end to all the hysteria. She's made an individual choice regarding her diet and that's that. She's very sorry but can never work for the family butchery: it goes against her new beliefs. She wants to remain part of the family and needs for her new diet and lifestyle to be respected and supported. She will also support the family where she can and makes a new commitment to help her brother take the lead in the family business.



Reabetswe Moeti - Writer/Director

Reabetswe Moeti is a graduate of the National Film and Television School in the UK. She is a recipient of the MNET EDIT award for best production for her TV pilot 'The Love Train' in 2010 and her short film Vuyiswa and the Magic Fish received a warm reception at the Durban Film Festival in 2009. Rea has made documentary films and is also a television technical director. She aspires to make more films like the Virgin Vegan, which explore the quirky and peculiar side of African cultures, stories that explore and amalgamate ancient Africa and an evolving one. Rea's influenced by the works of French filmmakers such as Yann Samuell (Jeux d'enfants), Jean-Pierre Jeunet (Delicatessen) and South Korean filmmaker Bong Joo-ho (Snowpiercer) amongst others. She believes stories of African people can have magic, aesthetic and power.



Mmabatho Montsho - Writer/Director

Mmabatho is an actress, director and filmmaker. Her career as an actress began in 2004 with a leading role in South Africa's top soap *Generations*. She went on to enjoy more leading roles in successful dramas and films such as *Jacob's Cross*, *Rhythm City* and *Nothing for Mahala*. Her most recent acting projects include an arthouse short film *Nomalanga & the Witch* in 2014 and popular drama series *Tempy Pushas* as femme fatale *Noxy Mathebula* in 2015. Her latest role is in the box office hit, *Happiness is a four Letter Word*. In 2008, after writing and producing her first short film, Mmabatho trained in studio multi-camera directing and went on to complete film making course in Los Angeles in 2011. In 2012 she directed her first tv film titled "Your Move!" Before joining the directing team at etv's *Scandal!* until 2014. Mmabatho is currently completing her first feature documentary titled "Women on Sex" which interrogates the politics of sex and gender.

A GROOM'S PRICE

Meme (30) is mortified that her relationship with her super pragmatist live-in boyfriend Musa has not culminated in marriage yet after 9 long years. She will not be strung along and wants the security that comes with that ring! She confronts Musa, who wants to finish his degree and cannot afford to pay the required bride price for another 2yrs and the couple agree to Meme's suggestion that she pays a 'groom price' instead.

When she fails to win her repulsed, traditional family over with logic, Meme bribes her shrewd Aunt Tutu (50) to represent her at the groom price negotiation. D-day arrives and Meme's delegation, led by Aunt Tutu, is up against a formidable opponent in Musa's money thirsty uncle, Malume Jackson (60). 6 months bank statements, man virginity tests and many battered egos later: the groom's price is set. But Meme and Musa's relationship doesn't go uninjured. With Meme's "lady-respectability" attacked and Musa's masculinity questioned, the couple are not agreeing as Malume Jackson's demands go even bigger. Finally, the couple has to decide between themselves what is best for their relationship and not let outside pressures interfere.

SINA NOMAKHOTSHANA

(DANCE WITH THE MAIDEN)

Nolwandle, a staunch Christian and devotee is about to embark on her traditional initiation. She is the apple of her minister father eye. Her critical older sister, Thobile reminds her to keep the family's honor. Should she misstep and render herself 'impure', she will dishonor her late mother and be kicked out of the church and family. Part of the initiation ritual is that Nolwandle has to stay home, participate in the rituals and be confined to her room with other maidens, but she sneaks out to meet Khwezi, her dance partner at the studio in the city. While they dance, they have electric chemistry beyond dance, and when she gets home, she asks her sister Thobile to help her undergo a sinners cleansing from fornicatory desire. Luckily for Nolwandle, the cleansing will be private while she is "quarantined", and the family will not be shamed. Until Khwezi shows up at the family home, and the two have to confront their desires while also facing a very traditional family to reveal their love for each other.



Thishiwe Ziqubu - Writer/Director

Thishiwe Ziqubu is a scriptwriter, director and award winning actress. She has graced the silver screen with performances in Rhythm City, Tempy Pushas, End Game, Man of Ground and the acclaimed action romance, Hard to Get. She is currently shooting SABC 3 series High Rollers and Fuzebox Media's, It's Complicated.

Thishiwe studied Directing, Scriptwriting and Editing at AFDA, and Journalism at Port Elizabeth Technikon. Thishiwe has written and directed two short films, Subdued for the 48-hour Film Project and Between the Lines which premiered at the Durban International Film Festival 2011. Thishiwe currently writes for Rhythm City and has written and storylined for a number of television shows and multimedia campaigns since 2008 including Mutual Friends and Vuka Mawulele, children's programs Koowee and Zoomie as well as soaps Isidingo and Scandal.

Thishiwe stars in Clement Virgo's Canadian-South African co-production, Book of Negroes, Out In Africa's While You Weren't Looking and political satire Wonderboy for President.

A REASON TO FLY



Tshenolo Mabalane – Writer

From a young age, Tshenolo has had an inclination towards the arts and cultural activities and has courageously followed the creative path ever since. In 2002, Tshenolo enrolled for a Dramatic Arts degree at the University of Witwatersrand. She spent three years in formal training within the arts and although she did not complete the qualification, the education received was sufficient to catapult her into the working field. Tshenolo's introduction to the industry was in television production. She also worked on numerous projects in the North West Province in different arts disciplines. In the theatre as a publicist and stage manager: in film she produced a short doccic with Kgafela Oa Magogodi called 'Rebelations'. Organised arts events such 'Art Resolves' and the popular 'Storytelling Sessions' where film screenings were held of documentaries called Fede Fokol: 25 Years of South African Hip Hop and In Search of Black Heroes: The Siege of Mahikeng. From 2011, Tshenolo wrote several stories for eKasi Stories on eTV. She then went on to work as a sub-titler on Scandal! and quickly became a storyliner on the show. Tshenolo was a script translator on 90 Plein Street in 2013 and currently storylines and writes scripts for a soon-to-be aired telenovella show on Mzansi Magic.

Nthabiseng Mokoena – Director

Nthabiseng Mokoena is a Wits University graduate in Drama and film. Her experience in television is both as producer and director, and there are no shortcuts – she has earned her stripes. Nthabi started her career in Television as production assistant. Over the past 16 years, she has worked her way up progressing to production co-ordinator, line producer, and finally as producer and a director.

Production credits as producer and director include Indebt1, Relate 1 and 2, Tshwaraganang 2, as Content Director on Big Brother 3 and 4, director on ever popular Forgive and Forget on eTV, and has produced the popular Zola 7 series, the sitcom Single Guys and Single Galz, and is currently producing the top rating reality show My Perfect Wedding for Mzansi Magic.



Brenda Mukwevho – Writer/Director

Brenda Lutendo Mukwevho went to High school at The National School Of Arts in Johannesburg and studied drama. From there on she did her diploma at the arts campus at Tshwane University of technology studying musical theater and went on to do musical shows internationally including African Foot Print. She went on to work on Muvhango the SABC2 TV day drama for about 5 years while learning to become a Television director. She then became a TV director for Muvhango SABC2, M-Net's Inkaba, and Moferefere lenyalong –SABC2, Skwezas-SABC2, and Rhythm City- E-TV. She has acquired a skill of directing on the SABC flagship programs and she knows what it takes to engage viewership (the target market) and she had the opportunity to train in a predominantly male environment. She is strong on making strategic decisions and is able to work well in a team. Able to multi-task and work under pressure in a deadline driven environment and is very good with project and budget management. She has a bit of a fear for writing but realizes the importance of understanding structure in the narrative realm. She is excited about receiving the right kind of training and collaborating with other women, in what she calls "a safe environment" to grow and be the best that she can be.

MOSETO

Forced to flee her village at a young age of eight after seeing her mother burnt alive for suspected witchcraft, Fhulufhelo returns many years later seeking revenge. She returns to her village as a teacher and meets the man who was responsible for her mother's death. Aluwani is now the principal at the school and was only 15 when he participated in the killing. Not knowing who she is, at their first encounter, Aluwani is quickly taken by her, falling in love hard and asks her to move in with him. The "forbidden love" has the village elder on edge as it threatens to re-open a collective shame they had to live with once they realize who she is. On her quests for vengeance, Fhulufhelo, places hints around their home to see if his lover remembers who she is and as she tries to get him to confess. Her marital bedroom becomes the revenge altar when Aluwani finds himself tied to the bed, finally confronted by Fhulufhelo who's plan to deliver the final death blow seems unstoppable.

GUNS AND PETALS

Sethunya, the daughter of the late struggle hero and Minister in the Health Department Florence Masuta, seeks justice for her mother's murder. Through this process, she has to go against the forces of a large pharmaceutical, whilst having to grapple with her own sanity and cannot even trust those close to her. When her lover Romeo has her committed, she is treated by the under-handed Dr. D, who prosecuted her mother during apartheid. Sethunya has to find the inner-strength to convince Dr. D that she is not after her mother's killers so that she can be released. Once released, she avenges her mother by shooting her killer.



Mbali Kgosidintsi - Writer/Director

Mbali Kgosidintsi has been in the Theatre and Literary arts for more than a decade. She graduated from the University of Cape Town with a B.A Honours Equivalent and a distinction in Drama in 2004.

She's recently returned back to SA after spending time abroad and working in the theater space and a tour which included reading my poetry alongside Ben Okri in Germany and Beijing. She is currently storylining and scriptwriting for popular telenovella - Isibaya since November 2014 and was part of the team that got a SAFTA for best writing team in 2015. Mbali is passionate about stories, especially the female narrative which she feels is often overshadowed in the pursuit of commercially viable stories. She is excited to be part of the female Only Film project which she hopes will help her grow as a writer and director.



Shamilla Faatar - Writer/Director

Shamilla has a broad range of experience in the media industry with a career spanning eighteen years through broadcast media, cinema exhibition and distribution as well as television and film production. She now wants to grown into long form and narrative and wants to showcase SA to the world.

Her career spans 18 years in the media industry which starts at Multichoice working as a Video Librarian and as a Product Manager for Ster-Kinekor. She's produced youth lifestyle shows through her production company, Elemental, for Go Zone.TV, KTV and GO. From 2007 to 2010, she produced a range of football programs for Africa's largest sports broadcaster, Supersport, including market leader Love PSL which retained a 35% audience market share on premier broadcasts. During the same time period she wrote and produced a series of micro-budget commercials for Broadway Sweets and served as a classifier on the Film and Publications Board, for which she is currently serving a new term with the board. In 2010, she headed up a creative incubator project, the Magic Factory format development initiative and later that year, was awarded the contract to produce a reality dating show, Rivals in Romance, for broadcast on M-Net Series. From 2010 to 2013 she has served as a judge with the South African Film and Television Awards and other NFVF film panels. Between 2011 and 2014, she worked in a freelance capacity as series producer at Endemol East Africa, Line Producer for Vusion Media and Senior Producer as well as project manager for MTV Base.

THE SISTERS

Mary Reynolds is relieved that Hayden, the cousin who has been molesting her for years, has lost interest in her. With a false sense of freedom, Mary gets help from her sugary sweet friend, Candice to arrange a boozy party for her friends. As the girls prepare the party, Raelene, Mary's younger sister gets in the garden, and Hayden who shares a house with the sisters, rushes to her aid. And it soon becomes clear to Mary that Hayden's sexual interest has shifted to her little sister.

After a wild pool party, Hayden and Mary have an argument outside Raelene's room. He wants to sexually molest Raelene, but Mary tries to seduce him away and fails miserably. Then in a last ditch attempt to protect Raelene, she betrays Candice who is asleep in her bedroom. Mary encourages Hayden to rather have sex with her friend – and lets him in to the room where he rapes Candice. The next day, after a traumatic experience, the girls' relationship is strained and smug Hayden taunts them as he tries to push buttons. But the girls seem helpless to expose him. When Raelene comes to the pool dressed in a bikini that Hayden gave to her as a gift, it becomes clear that Hayden's grooming of Raelene will continue. Mary plots to kill Hayden. She lures the inebriated Hayden to a swimming pool where she tries to drown him, but Hayden gains the upper hand and starts drowning Mary instead. When Candice, who's returned to the house to tell Mary about the rape incident, sees Hayden struggling in the pool, she jumps in to help Mary kill Hayden.

NKAMOGELENG

Nkamogeleng has never seen her own beauty because everything around her tells her she is not beautiful. She doesn't even know why her mother gave her such an ugly name. How desperate can a mother be to ask the world to just "accept" their child? Nkamogeleng has spent the last 10 of her 18 year-old life perfecting the skill of fitting in. Heat Magazine has taught her just what gossip to bring up in conversation, Beyonce's music videos have taught her just what body parts to gyrate and when: Generations has shown her just how easy it is to wear the perfect weave even under the dry African sky. In a completely unexpected turn, Thabo the most popular boy in school asks Nkamogeleng to be his date for the matric farewell. Nkamogeleng goes into complete overdrive to please the boy she's had the biggest crush on since grade 5. Things go a bit too far when the two agree to more than just a dance.



Mmabatho Kau - Writer/Director

Mmabatho Kau has worked in the South African television industry for over 15 years. Working her way up from being a production assistant at KykNet to being a broadcast executive at Top TV. In the years she's worked in the industry, she's worked as content producer on television shows such as, Big Brother (reality), Take 5 (educational magazine show), Tsha-Tsha (drama series) and the ground breaking documentary series: Precious Africa. Having a passion for both the creative and business side of media, she chose to further her studies in 2005 graduating with a Master of Science in Media Management from the University of Stirling in Scotland. On her return to South Africa, she worked as a commissioning editor at the South African National Broadcasting Corporation (SABC). While there she oversaw the delivery of projects such as the highly acclaimed mini-series Death of a Queen, the sit-com Family Bonds and the drama series Hard Copy 3. After the SABC, she moved on to head up the local content department at Telkom Media.

Her love for story and film has also helped her work as a script editor and lecturer for the National Film and Video Foundation (NFVF). She script edited scripts such as My Zulu Wedding, Whale Caller (Zakes Mda) and Kalushi- the Story of Solomon Mahlangu. She's taught both the short film writing course as well as the Spark Script writing course (Eastern Cape and Johannesburg) and was also development producer on the NFVF's Female Only Filmmaker Slate in 2015.

The Team



Mmabatho Kau
Development Producer



Thandi Brewer
Script Editor/Mentor



Myrto Makrides
Director Mentor



Sinini Mati
Line Producer

Producer Profile



Bongiwe Selane – Enabler of Dreams

BONGIWE SELANE (PTY) LTD t/a Blingola Media is a Johannesburg based Film and Television Production company headed up by award winning producer Bongiwe Selane.

Bongiwe has executive produced over 30 short films both in South Africa and across the continent of Africa through M-Net's **New Directions Project**, a skills developmental initiative that she headed up for 6 years whilst broadcast executive at M-Net (2001- 2009).

Blingola Media is currently producing the NFVF's **Female Only Filmmaker Slate Project** – a skills development initiative made possible by the National Film and Video Foundation of South Africa, a statutory body of the government tasked to developing the film industry in South Africa. The Female Only Filmmaker Project seeks to up-skill and unearth female filmmakers, particularly writers and directors from previously disadvantaged background, and mentor them through their first short films. 16 films have been produced since 2014 under the theme – **Negotiating Spaces**, with some having screened at International Film Festival. UNomalanga and the Witch was the winner of the Best Short Film Award in 2015 at the Durban International Film Festival and Panic Button and A Cup of Sugar nominated for Best Short Film at the Africa Magic Viewers Choice Awards 2016.

Bongiwe's first feature film, **Happiness is a Four-letter-Word**, released in February 2016 made it to no 3 on opening weekend, making it the best performing film of all new releases. Based on the novel **Happiness is a Four-letter Word** by Cynthia Jele, she produced the film with Helena Spring and Junaid Ahmed.

Producer Profile

Bongiwe has produced a documentary series called **Great Africans** – a series of seven, hour-long documentaries produced across the continent, featuring seven great African icons. The documentaries profiled such well-known icons that included Nelson Mandela, Emperor Haile Selassie, Julius Nyerere, Wole Soyinka and Wangari Maathai. The series premiered on M-Net Africa in May 2010 and continues to be screen on M-Net's services both locally and in Africa on M-Net's services.

In 2013, Blingola Media won a SAFTA award for a reality series called **Culture Shock**, a reality series exploring South African cultural differences across all races, which won best reality series in 2013. Blingola has produced a promo series for Africa Magic Entertainment called "**I Am African**" profiling African personalities such as Alek Wek, Wole Soyinka, Naeto C, James Mwangi – to name but a few.

Blingola's mission is to create inspiring, innovative and "sparkling" solutions to content development and production. Our passion is "enabling dreams", including our own, by bringing passion, heartfelt creative solutions, and meticulous quality control on all projects we undertake. We have a hands-on approach, and endeavor to breathe passion in all projects we undertake, and have a great desire to make any projects rise to its potential.

Blingola has a refreshingly unique approach to productions assigned to the company and offer the following commitment all our productions and clients:

Quality work done with a **Cutting edge** and **Innovate** mindset, consisting of **Ethical** processes that inspire Growth and development, and with **Nurturing, Respectful, Honest attributes** that ultimately make me a **Pioneering** and **Visionary** Producer.

We recognise that in holding these values close and by working openly with our clients and filmmakers we collaborate with – really true and lasting qualities are built into all the productions undertaken – and critically all the relationships that we foster along the way. Like no other, we believe that this is an industry of and about people.

