

SAMKESSIE

BIOGRAPHY

Sam Kessie is an Atlanta-based British/Ghanaian, writer/director who has contributed to an impressive number of film shorts, documentaries, corporate videos and features in her career. Her cultural experiences in Western Europe and the United States have influenced her greatly, just as her African heritage has inspired her to capture wonderfully unique stories on film. After studying psychology in college, she later went on to pursue formal training in film and media, graduating with honors from Atlanta, Georgia's American InterContinental University and even receiving the first place award at VidFest 2005.

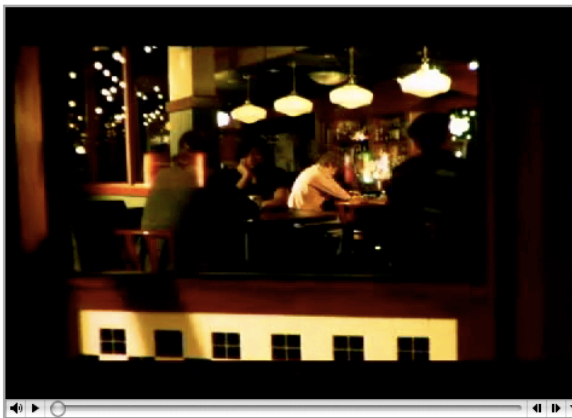
Sam's directorial eye can be seen in Maverick Entertainment Groups, Life 101: Angel's Secret, which was released on DVD in June 2009. Other projects, such as Vivica A. Fox's 3 Can Play that Game and 2007's Dance of the Dead, show her ability to craft visual stories away from the camera, most notably through production. While Sam has grown as strong director and a skillful storyteller, she is also a gifted screenplay writer. At the end of 2009, Sam wrote and directed a 10minute corporate video for the West African Drilling company, Geodrill in Ghana. She is currently working on a documentary on a very prestigious African boxer from her motherland, Ghana.

Sam intends to establish her creative footprint in the film industry through her independent production company, Sankofa Pictures, which focuses on exceptional storytelling and visual artistry.

PROJECTS & PRODUCTIONS

A reluctant employee struggles to keep his job

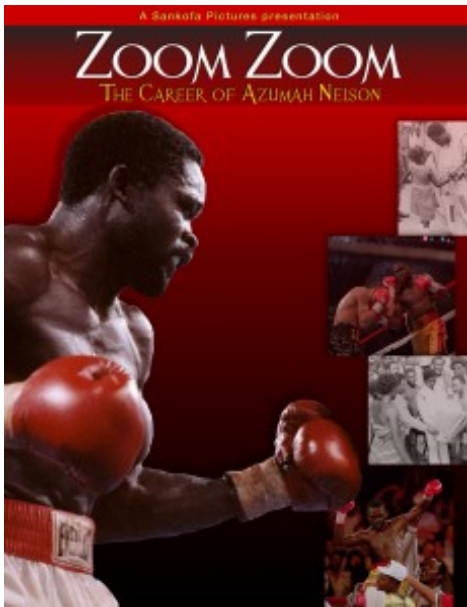
DIRECTOR COMPILATION SHOWREEL



A demo reel of Kessie's latest work



Sales Day



Zoom Zoom 'The Career of Azumah Nelson'

From the slums of Bukom comes the inspirational story of a young man who believed his destiny was to become a King amongst Kings. Azumah, 'ZOOM ZOOM – The Professor' Nelson was the WBC World Champion for over a decade, putting the little West African coastal nation of Ghana on the map.

We follow the humble story of a man who believed in himself and became the Terrible Warrior, and arguably the greatest boxer to come out of Africa. With highlights of rare footage and interviews from Azumah and many others, this is the true testament of the legend's career

Written and Produced by Sam A Kessie.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

A traveler returning home after reaching a far off land is sure to feel different about his quest than he did on the day he first set off. Likewise, a director who emerges from an intense filmmaking experience will be a different person than he/she was going into it. Though it is a collaborative effort, the filmmaking process can be a deeply personal journey for the director.

During the various stages of production, I found myself gradually becoming more and more invested in the film. 'Sales Day', was not only my senior thesis, but also a careful yet strong attempt to leave the world of psychology and enter my new home in the world of filmmaking. For many, the film world is glamorous; a life of cliques, parties and being put up on a pedestal. Well, for me after only four 12 hour grueling days, equipment running late, encountering sound problems, and mind you this is just the tip of the iceberg, I came to realize filmmaking is anything but simple and easy!



Filmmaking is tough. It's not for the weak at heart. It does not always go as planned and Murphy's Law always seems to feel like the one law that always proves its self to exist. This was the lesson I learned.

In discussing Sales Day, many people have asked. 'Sam, why do you choose such a simple script for your senior thesis? Why not something experimental or bizarre? After all it is a senior project. Why not something out of this world?' My answer has always been, for me this WAS experimental. It was a new experience for me. I combined what I learned in psychology about human nature and their needs to move ahead in life. Some people work hard and some try to take the easy way out. In the end, it's about survival of the fittest. This is a simple story about two men trying to get ahead and doing so by any means necessary. Either way there are always repercussions. Some get away with it, others don't. As John Wheats s ' Its funny how karma plays out in real life'.

This is all very personal. Of course, every frame of film that makes it on screen is personal. I am extremely grateful to all the actors, crew and supporters that saw this film through to the end.

SANKOFA PICTURES



Sankofa Pictures is a domestically and internationally aimed production company that focuses on producing quality content for commercial clientele and feature film distribution. At Sankofa Pictures we are committed to building a sustainable and profitable motion picture company by creating quality projects to travel the globe and produce films to rival the best. Our goal is to introduce our style which depends on creating exceptional stories that combine aesthetics, wit, intelligence and imagination all wrapped up in a unique international style.

The word Sankofa is derived from the Akan words; SAN (return), KO (go), FA (look, seek and take). This symbolizes one's quest for knowledge with the implication that the quest is based on critical examination, intelligence and patient investigation. We treat every project, small or big with this philosophy as our backbone.

PRESS

