

Kachifo

Logline

Bound by a blood oath from a lifetime ago, a reincarnated Igbo couple try to make sense of their affection while grappling with the difficulties a homosexual relationship poses in a society where a love like theirs is taboo.

Synopsis

In a pre-colonial Igbo society, the warrior chief Obidike and the young maiden Ekemma share a relationship that proves impossible because it goes against tradition – Obidike has been betrothed to another since birth. When the pressure mounts and they are left with no choice but to part ways, they vow not to let anything come between them if they ever walked the earth again.

Set against the picturesque landscape of Enugu, the story returns to the present day where Obidike and Ekemma are reincarnated as two men. Obidike's reincarnation is Nnanna, a Nigerian-Italian photographer, while Ekemma is reborn as Achebe, a Catholic priest-in-waiting. Bound by that ancient oath, they navigate their deep connection while Achebe grapples with the conflict between his growing feelings for Nnanna and his commitment to his priestly ambitions. At the same time, their relationship faces the added challenge of being considered taboo in Nigeria, where homosexuality is widely rejected, adding a complex and painful layer to their journey that echoes the struggles of their past lives.



Technical info:

Genre: Fiction / Romance drama

Production country: Nigeria

Language: Igbo, English, Italian

Shooting location: Nigeria

Total budget: CHF 1'300'000

Funds secured: CHF 200'000

(15%)

DIRECTOR: Dika Ofomo

PRODUCER: Blessing Uzzi

Director's Note

Kachifo holds a deeply personal motivation for me, as it draws inspiration from the broader challenges of navigating love and identity in a society where certain forms of affection are not only considered taboo but criminalised.

In Nigeria, same-sex attraction is considered taboo and it's further criminalised under the Nigerian constitution; homosexual couples risk a 14 year jail term. These social conditions impact same-sex relationships in Nigeria, with many considering it futile and dangerous. And so many queer people in Nigeria have had to repress desires that feel truest to them in order to be socially accepted. The film also considers the Igbo belief in reincarnation and how the choices we have made in our past lives affect our present and future lives. But more importantly, **Kachifo** serves as a means for me to express my beliefs about love and hold conversations around it.

If there was an agenda with this film, it would be that love, in whatever form that it comes, should thrive.

Visual Concept

In creating the visual narrative for **Kachifo**, I'm profoundly inspired by Enugu's lush and beautiful landscapes, where both parts of the film will be set and shot. My vision is to utilize a delicate balance of expansive wide-angle shots and intimate medium close-ups, letting the vastness of the landscape contrast with the intricate emotional tapestry of our protagonists. The natural light of Enugu will play a pivotal role, as I intend to let the changing tones of the day dictate the mood and pacing of the film. I'm leaning towards a minimalist approach, favouring observant, unhurried takes that allow each scene to breathe, pulling the audience into the very heart and soul of our story.

Director

Dika Ofoma

Dika Ofoma is a Nigerian writer, curator and filmmaker. He's the director of the short films **God's Wife**, **A Quiet Monday**, and **A Japa Tale**.

His films have screened in festivals such as International Film Festival Rotterdam, Kurzfilmtage Internationale Winterthur, New York African Film Festival, Mostra De Cinemas Africanos, and the S16 Film Festival. His debut feature-length project **Kachifo** was selected for the

2025 Locarno Open Doors, where it took home three awards, including the Open Doors Grant award, Arte Kino award, and the Sørfond award. Dika's films prioritise empathetic reflections of Nigerian life and culture.



Producer Blessing Uzzi

Uzoma Blessing Chibuike, known as “Blessing Uzzi,” is a film writer, producer, and director with a background in international relations, graduating with first-class honors from Eastern University, North Cyprus. After completing her studies, she returned to Nigeria to pursue her passion for filmmaking.



Blessing Uzzi has directed and produced numerous short films and has recently transitioned into feature filmmaking. She wrote, produced, and directed **No Man’s Land**, a poignant feature addressing forced evictions in Nigeria, and wrote and produced **Freedom Way**, a powerful film on police brutality in Nigeria, which had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF).

Blessing is also the founder of Bluhouse Studios, a Lagos-based production company dedicated to impactful storytelling.

This project was selected from Locarno Open Doors in 2025.

Producer’s Note

I first connected with Dika Ofoma on Twitter and was struck by his deep knowledge of Nollywood. A short film he released on YouTube, shot on a phone and tackling child marriage, drew me in with its honesty. When we met and he pitched **Kachifo**, I knew I wanted to be part of it. The story, about a love that transcends time, religion, and culture, felt radical and necessary, especially in Nigeria, where queer love is often rejected. **Kachifo** imagines love in its purest form, offering warmth and visibility to those often erased.

So far, we’ve raised around 15% of the budget to bring the film to life, and one of our key strategies for funding is partnering with international production companies. We’re committed to sharing this story at festivals, in cinemas, and through community screenings, even where it might face censorship, because we believe in its power to start conversations and remind us that real, revolutionary love always finds a way.

Director Dika Ofoma and producer Blessing Uzzi will be presenting the project at the Sørfond Pitching Forum.