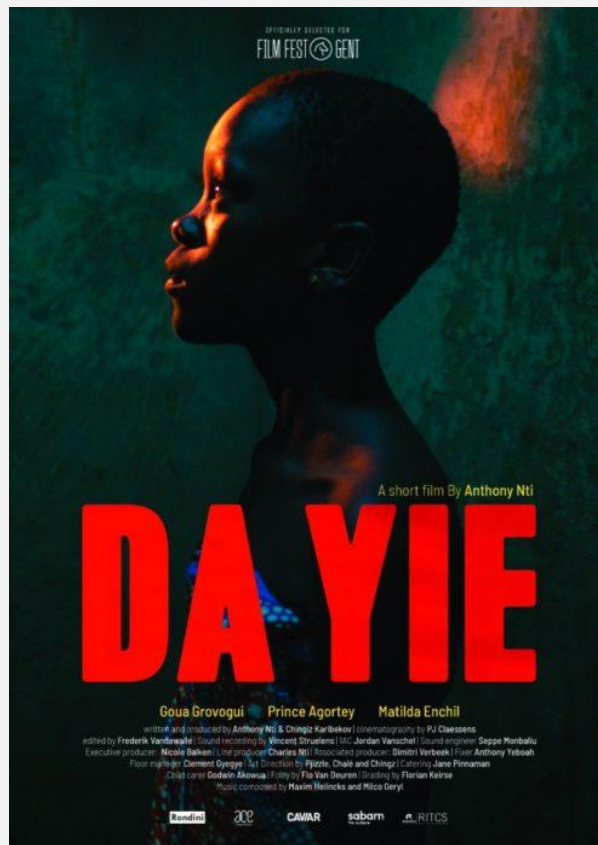




ANTHONY NTI

'DA YIE'



October 2019 – Kortfilm.be & Kutfilm.be – Jan Sulmont

Nti's latest is quite a must-see. The photography of cameraman Pieter-Jan Claessens is at times phenomenal. The starting images in frog perspective of fluttering chickens, for example, or the bird's-eye view of magnificent singing locals.

October 2019 – Leuven Actueel – Young talent takes all the prizes at the 25th edition of Short Film Festival Leuven

The jury praised the short film for its strong female protagonist and tantalizing opening scene.

Anthony Nti already won the Debut Award at the Leuven Short Film Festival in 2016 with his bachelor film and proves his talent with this jury award for his master film.



December 2019 – Filmmagie – Young Film Makers win in Leuven



Atmosphere and dynamic portrayed impressions reign above a tight narrative in an ultimately hopeful story that has been created by the close-knit team that Nti has managed to gather around him in just a few years.

January 2020 – Tim Redford, Director General of the Clermont Ferrand Film Festival, coordinator of the international selection – RFI.fr

Anthony Nti has made an absolutely beautiful film, Da Yie. We think he's a director who's going to break through very quickly on the international scene.

February 2020 – myDyalarama.org.uk

Shot on a very low budget, Anthony Nti's Da Yie (good night)'s style is uncannily reminiscent of City of God and indeed the Brazilian film is one of his main inspirations. He masterfully uses the short format to develop fully fleshed out characters and a thrilling, well-paced story that allows us to really come to care about their fates, no mean feat for a short.



February 2020 – Cineuropa.org – Da Yie wins the Grand Prix at the 42nd Clermont-Ferrand International Film Festival

With a social-realist aesthetic, all handheld camera and nervous energy, and some fine performances from a young cast, the film should go on to greater visibility after its Clermont win, having previously screened at Belgian festivals such as Leuven and Gent.

February 2020 – Africultures – Clermont 2020

Anthony Nti's Da Yie stands out with brilliance, which earned him the Grand Prize in the International Competition.

The spectator is solicited from the outset, more aware than the children of the dangers they can run into, but without really knowing which ones. The gangster is sympathetic and friendly, so much so that as the story progresses, the tension rises, his solicitude being more and more suspicious, without anyone knowing why. The spectator is mobilized, all senses open so as not to miss anything in the sequel. This is the difference between suspense and surprise, as Hitchcock said: the spectator fears more what may happen rather than the thing happening all of a sudden, causing a shock. Perfectly credible thanks to its controlled aesthetics and acting, this journey makes an impression, especially as the end of the film is not at all pathetic and is of great beauty. Da Yie's subtlety is to warn of the dangers faced by children without falling into drama or gloom.

February 2020 – Wiriko - Da Yie: the short film that conquered Clermont-Ferrand

There is a common denominator in the 20 minutes of the film Da Yie: the images are constantly moving, a particular hallmark of Anthony Nti, the 27-year-old Ghanaian director based in Belgium who won over the international jury a few days ago. Nti's nervous camera reminds us of the curious look of a child who explores his immediate context at every moment. The camera is a character who is not physical, but who is perceived in every movement.

The plot of Da Yie (2019) is about group pressure and begins with a scene that is both cruel and beautiful: two tied up chickens trying to fly to the sky. It is the story of a foreigner in Ghana who has to recruit two children to take them to his gang for a dangerous mission. But when he gets to know the protagonists well, he is overcome by guilt and doubt. How do we respond to our family, our group of friends? What are the expectations that other people have of us and how do we deal with them?

February 2020 – Little White Lies – Inside the world's most important (and accessible) short film festival

Out of the hundreds of films shown at the festival, I managed to catch the winner of the International Competition: the absorbing and kinetic Da Yie, from Ghanaian director Anthony Nti. It was the best of the recent productions I saw, and in its combination of broad humour with cutting social commentary, it beautifully echoes my favourite of the older films I watched at the festival, Le Franc, a 1994 offering from celebrated Senegalese director Djibril Diop Mambéty (uncle of Mati Diop).



March 2020 – Ubiquarian – Film Review: Good Night (2019), by Anthony Nti

The winner of the International Grand Prix at this year's edition of the Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival ploughs already well furrowed earth in its tale of two young Ghanaian children who find themselves under the thrall of a mysterious stranger. Yet, while familiarity sometimes breeds contempt, director Anthony Nti brings enough earnestness and exuberance to the table to make **Good Night (Da Yie)** a worthwhile and affecting piece of work.

[...]

With Nti utilising a myriad of influences here, from classic coming of age films to hard bitten crime films, in some ways comes across as a love letter to the history of cinema. But, with the film's closing credits taking place over images of singing school children, the film is also a plea to remember those forgotten children who can slip through the cracks of any society and a warning against the people who would exploit them.

May 2020 – Ward Verrijcken

Anthony Nti, you should definitely remember that name. This is an up-and-coming top talent, a young man who was born in Ghana but is now making films here in Belgium. *Da Yie* is very beautiful about children in Ghana who threaten to fall prey to a human smuggler, but in the end, a lot of humanity and empathy is expressed in that film. Very specially made and edited and the actor direction of those 2 young children, that's quite a feat. So I would definitely keep an eye on him.

July 2020 – Richard Propes, The Independent Critic – "Da Yie" Screens at 2020 Indy Shorts Film Festival

Anthony Nti's *Da Yie* is a gripping, tension-filled dramatic short about two young children in Ghana, Prince (Prince Agortey) and Matilda (Matilda Enchil), whose sunny day of play gets interrupted by the appearance of a "Bogah," a foreigner (Goua Robert Grovogui), who invites them on an unexpected trip. The three of them get along so well that the Bogah begins to question his original intentions.

While it's clear fairly quickly in *Da Yie* that something isn't quite right, the script by Chingiz Karibekov and Nti keeps things under wraps for a good majority of the film as we're never quite sure just how dastardly this Bogah's intentions really are. Far before any of the action unfolds, the tension builds in *Da Yie* and is magnified by the strong performances by our leading trio. Wisely, Nti also keeps us from taking too much comfort with the Bogah's seeming change of heart as the environment around them isn't exactly friendly to anything resembling a change of heart.

[...]

Lensing by Pieter-Jan Claessens is effective at maximizing the unspoken tensions, while Claessens' lens also helps us accept the semblance of affection that rises from the Bogah

for these young children. Frederik Vandewalle's editing also lingers in all the right places and leaves us constantly wondering precisely when what feels like an inevitable conflict is going to happen.

Da Yie is screening as a finalist during the 2020 Indy Shorts International Film Festival, the latest accolade for the film but it's doubtful that it will be the film's last. With strong performances by young actors Prince Agortey and Matilda Enchil and Goua Robert Grovogui's convincing winding arc, *Da Yie* is most certainly one of Indy Shorts's more anxiety-inducing and compelling cinematic endeavors.

August 20206 – MIFF Shorts Awards | MIFF 2020

The jury was unanimous in awarding the City of Melbourne Grand Prix to *Da Yie*, directed by Anthony Nti. The film really struck a chord with us for its accomplished cinematic realisation and extraordinarily empathetic storytelling, as it explores the fragile innocence of children in communities vulnerable to exploitation. The film walks an emotional tightrope: in refusing to dehumanise its apparent antagonist, it asks us instead to face broader questions around our culpability in systems of inequality. It also emphatically affirms the unique privilege available to humans to choose the righteous path of collective responsibility. – **Rachel Griffiths**

The jury were so moved by *Da Yie* that we chose to confer a Special Jury Award to one of its incredible leads, the young Matilda Enchil, whose standout performance carried much of the film. It is extremely difficult to draw a rich and dynamic performance from a



short-form work, but Matilda's turn was outstanding and intrinsic to the strength of this powerful film. You just can't take your eyes off her. She inhabits her role so completely that the audience are with her every breath – on the edge of our seats, hoping desperately that misfortune and dark forces do not prevail. She is both wildly expressive on screen and stunningly contained, effortlessly making lightning turns from joy to unease to fear.

Matilda's performance is movie-star-specific – both in gesture and in confident, fast-paced dialogue delivery – yet, somehow, she comes to embody the potential and vulnerabilities of all girls born into structural disadvantage across the globe. This ability to authentically portray the experiences of a single person as well as those of a collective is something an actor can spend a lifetime trying to master. We hope this award brings her to the attention of other filmmakers, should she wish to continue to pursue acting. – **Rachel Griffiths**

August 2020 – Perceides Awards

Best International Short Film Award: Da Yie by Anthony Nti

For the exceptional interpretation of the three protagonists, the extraordinary fluidity of the camera, the uncompromising treatment of a serious subject of worldwide interest.

Performance Award to the two young actors of Da Yie: Prince Agortey and Matilda Enchil

2020.09.01 - Grégory Cavinato, Cinergie.be - Da Yie from Anthony Nti

On the roads of a country where crime seems to be a fatality and where child kidnappings are legion, Anthony Nti films horror with lightness.

[...]

Da Yie is a beautiful ode to childhood coupled with a political denunciation of the unspeakable acts of which they are still too often the victims.

2020.09.17 - Figaro Film Fest – Jury Evaluation

The portrait of a merciless world, supported by impeccable interpretations and a direction of unsettling delicacy.

Jury: Pippo Mezzapesa, Jacopo Cullin, Carlo Sironi.

2020.09.30 - Director's Notes.com - 10 Picks From the 26th Encounters Short Film Festival

Director Anthony Nti's difficult moral drama features two really strong performances from his younger actors. It's hard to believe they had a camera near them, let alone one which was so visceral and frenetic.

RONDINI

Zwaluwenlaan 27

2610 Wilrijk

BELGIUM

rondini@scarlet.be