

PRESS KIT

BULLETPROOF CUPID PRESENTS

# BINTI

A FILM BY FREDERIKE MIGOM

*LevelK*

# CONTENTS

<b>SYNOPSIS</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>DIRECTORS STATEMENT</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>CAST</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>MAIN CHARACTERS</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>MAIN CAST BIO</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>CREW</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>DIRECTOR FREDRIKE MIGOM</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>BIO PRODUCTION COMPANIES</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>PRODUCERS &amp; PARTNERS</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>CONTACT</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>TECHNICAL INFO</b>	<b>19</b>





# SYNOPSIS

## SHORT SYNOPSIS

Twelve-year-old Binti dreams of becoming a famous vlogger like her idol Tatyana. But when the police raid her home, and try to deport her and her dad, they are forced to flee. Binti meets Elias and the two become friends. While Binti helps Elias to vlog about his 'save-the-okapi-club', she hatches the perfect plan: her dad has to marry Elias's mom, so they can stay in Belgium.

## SYNOPSIS

Binti (12) was born in Congo but has lived with her father Jovial (40) in Belgium since she was a baby. Despite not having any legal documents, Binti wants to live a normal life, and dreams of becoming a famous vlogger like her idol Tatyana. Elias (11) runs his 'save-the-okapi-club' without the help of his father, who's moved to Brazil following his divorce with Elias's mother Christine (42). When their annoying neighbor invites Christine on a romantic trip to Paris, Elias, upset and angry, runs away to his treehouse. At the same time, police raid Binti and Jovial's home, sending the two on the run, and Binti into the path of Elias in his treehouse. When their parents meet shortly after, Binti quickly sees the perfect solution to all her problems. If she can match her dad to Elias' mom, they can get married and stay in Belgium. Binti joins Elias' okapi club, and while they organize a big fundraiser together, she secretly starts her plan to make Christine fall in love with Jovial. Until Elias finds out what Binti is really up to.





# DIRECTORS STATEMENT

FREDERIKE MIGOM



I'm fascinated by courageous characters, in this case children who are fighting for what they know they deserve. Who have a voice worth listening to, if only someone would pass them the mic. I was young when I thought I knew what I wanted to do in life, and I lived in an environment that allowed me to do exactly that. Every single day, I'm grateful for this. Because imagine: You are a teenager, dreaming of a future with all you friends. But whilst they have the freedom to develop their talents, you don't even have the freedom to show your ID, because you don't have one. 12-year-old Binti dreams of being famous (which 12-year-old does not? I know I did) but on paper, she doesn't exist. Online though, she has more than a thousand followers. Something's just not right about that.

Binti meets Elias, a lonely Belgian animal lover who wants to save the okapi and is still dealing with his parent's divorce. She wants to match her dad to Elias' mom because she believes that in doing so, she will be able to stay in Belgium. Elias dreams of organizing a benefit to save the okapis, but he can't do so on his own. Although at first, they have separate agendas, both children will eventually understand that together they stand stronger, that they need each other, and that together is better than alone. **Binti** is a film in which two children learn that they need each other to accomplish their dreams.

Despite the seriousness of the subject, Binti is an entertaining and approachable film, full of color, humour, friendship and love. It believes in a successful multi-cultural society and in following your dreams. The social drama gets a positive twist in combining it with the energy and humour of a romantic comedy.

"That all children may have dreams.

To create consciousness about immigration. To promote diversity on our screens. For hope of a successful multi-cultural society. For the okapis, for love, for Binti and Elias."



# CAST



BINTI	BEBEL TSHIANI BALOJI
ELIAS	MO BAKKER
CHRISTINE	JOKE DEVYNCK
JOVIAL	BALOJI
FLORIS	FRANK DIERENS
MAAIKA	ALIX KONADU
ZOË	VERONICA VAN BELLE
FARID	ABOUBAKR BENSAIHI
PAPA ELIAS	KUNO BAKKER
TATYANA	TATYANA BELOY



# MAIN CHARACTERS



BEBEL TSHIANI BALOJI is **BINTI**

Binti (12) is an energetic, cheerful and intelligent Congolese girl who's been living in Belgium her entire life. With her cellphone Binti films short videos for her vlog which she edits on one of the public computers in the store or library. She posts weekly videos of her doing all kinds of fun things, like fitting clothes, testing nail polishes, etc. Binti's idol is Tatyana (Belo) a very popular vlogger. Binti knows that the road ahead of her is very difficult as she lives in hard conditions, but she's prepared to fight for it as she believes that with determination and will power anything is possible. Binti and her dad Jovial never got their official papers in Belgium, request after request they're refused. Binti finds a lot of support in Maaika, a squatter and social worker with whom she has been living in a squat house this past year.

MO BAKKER is **ELIAS**

Elias (11) a bright Belgium boy is a bit of a loner. He prefers to spend his days in the forest to study the leaves and insects and where he watches the birds from his tree house. Together with his mother Christine Elias lives in the suburbs of Brussels, in an old family home on the edge of a forest. Elias' dad works for an environmental organization and lives in Brazil with his new wife.

Together with his dad Elias founded the 'save-the-okapi-club', website, bank account and beautiful tree club house included. Elias wants his dad to return and hopes that he will attend the 'save-the-okapi' benefit yet deep in his heart he knows that will not happen. With Binti' sudden presence in his life Elias will finally learn to stand up for himself and others. He will also learn that you're stronger together than alone and he'll start understanding the needs of his mom Christine.





## JOKE DEVYNCK is **CHRISTINE**

Christine (42) is the mother of Elias (11) and Zoe (19). She designs kids clothing which she sells on the internet. When Elias' dad permanently moved to Brazil, Christine was devastated. Suddenly she was the sole care taker of Elias, a quiet boy who idolized his father and who she barely understands let alone is able to connect with. Though she always had the same interest in nature as her men, she always felt left out. It hurts her tremendously that she isn't allowed in Elias' tree house.

Floris, the neighbor since forever, knows this very well and exploits the situation. Deep in her heart Christine knows that Floris isn't a good match for her certainly when she meets Jovial. Christine immediately feels an attraction to Jovial even though she's concerned about his difficult situation, so she has her reservations. On top of that Jovial seems rather aloof.



## BALOJI is **JOVIAL**

Jovial (40), Binti's dad, is a quiet, gentle man. He's born in the instable region of Eastern Congo. Throughout his entire life he's been confronted with violence and war, he even faced death on multiple occasions. For the future of his daughter he decided to go to Europe and start a new life there. Unfortunately, things didn't go as he had hoped. They're denied the status of refugee as Jovial can't prove the truth of his life in Congo. When the day of their deportation is fast approaching, he decides to flee with his daughter. They now live in hiding without papers. When they meet Elias and Christine, he is initially very reserved. He doesn't want to be a burden to them or cause them any trouble. This feeling makes him uneasy. Jovial's priority is to hide from the police and make his daughter happy yet what he really needs is to learn to open his heart for love and fun, despite their dire situation, and learn to listen to his daughter again.





## MAIN CAST BIO



**BEBEL TSHIANI BALOJI** not only plays an energetic, cheerful and intelligent girl she is very much alike in real life. Bebel makes her debut in *Binti* as a young actress.



**MO BAKKER** debuted in the 2014 short movie *August*. He also played in *Zie Mij Graag* and *Belle en Sebastiaan III* (2017), *Niet Schieten* (2018) and now *Binti*.



**JOKE DEVYNCK** a studio Herman Teirlinck alumni started her career on stage. She played in prominent Flemish and international TV productions such as *Flikken*, *Vermist*, *Stockholm Requiem* and *Mortem*. On the big screen she featured in several productions such as *Zot van A*, *Veugels*, *het Vonnis*, *Booster*, *Suspect* and *All of Us*.



**BALOJI** a musician, poet, actor and director, was born in Lubumbashi (DR Congo) and grew up in Belgium. In 2008 he released his album *Hotel Impala*. His first short film *Kaniama Show* premiered in March 2018. Baloji is currently working on his first feature film as a director.



FRANK DIERENS



ALIX KONADU



VERONICA VAN BELLE



ABOUBAKR BENSAIHI



KUNO BAKKER



TATYANA BELOY



# CREW



WRITER & DIRECTOR:	FREDRIKE MIGOM
PRODUCER:	KATLEEN GOOSSENS
CO-PRODUCERS:	ANNABELLA NEZRI FLOOR ONRUST
LINE-PRODUCER:	WIM AH GOOSSENS
PRODUCTION MANAGER:	DORIEN ONSEA
FIRST AD:	JOHAN IVENS
LOCATION MANAGER:	JANA MANNAERTS
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY:	JOACHIM PHILIPPE
GAFFER:	MATTIJS NACKAERTS
EDITOR:	CLEMENCE SAMSON
PRODUCTION DESIGNER:	TALINA CASIER
COSTUME DESIGNER:	SOFIE CALLAERTS
HAIR & MAKE-UP DESIGNER:	INGEBORG VAN EETVELDE
COMPOSER:	LE MOTEL
SOUND ENGINEER:	COEN GRAVENDAAL
SUPERVISING SOUND EDITOR:	JAN SCHERMER



# FREDERIKE MIGOM

WRITER & DIRECTOR



Frederike Migom is a director, writer and actor. After studying drama and working in New York she moved to Paris to study filmmaking, working on various projects in Paris and abroad.

In 2011 she landed in Brussels, her current base, where she worked as an assistant producer, before setting out to direct her first short film, Malakim, in 2013. Malakim was followed by Adam & Everything (2014) and Nkosi Coiffure (2015). The latter has screened at Tribeca, BFI and many other film festivals, winning awards in Valladolid, Washington and Brussels, among others.

Frederike went on to direct a short documentary, Si-G, which screened at festivals all over the world. Binti is Frederike's feature debut.

## FILMOGRAPHY

### **BINTI (2019):**

Feature film. Written & directed.

### **VALIES VOL DROMEN (2017):**

Short documentary for 4x7, CANVAS.

### **Si-G (2017):** Short Documentary. Written & directed.

Press award, Brussels Short Film Festival, 2018; Official Selection, Internationaal Kortfilmfestival Leuven, 2018.

### **OUTFIT VAN ME DADDY (2017):**

Music Video for Zwangere Guy.

### **MIJN SUPERHELD (2017):**

2 episodes of Ketnet series Mijn Superheld.

### **NKOSI COIFFURE (2015):**

Short film. writer/director. Tribeca Film Festival, BFI London FF, Flickerfest, Montreal World film Festival,...Winner Canal+ award Brussels Film Festival. Winner best short meeting point Valladolid International Film Festival. Winner best short film Washington DC International film festival. Winner New Renaissance Film Festival Amsterdam. Winner Sao Tomé International Film Festival.

### **ADAM & EVERYTHING (2014):**

Short film. writer/director. Winner Pitch competition Shorts TV at the International short film festival Leuven 2013.

### **MALAKIM (2013):**

Short film. writer/director. Winner best short at the Shanghai International Film Festival.





# BIO PRODUCTION COMPANIES

**BULLETPROOF CUPID** was founded in 2008 by producer Katleen Goossens (EAVE 2012) and service producer Wim AH Goossens as a result of them being freelancers in numerous film projects for more than a decade. The company started as a service provider but soon moved on towards producing its own projects. One of the first produced shorts was *Swimsuit46* that won the *Jury Prize* in the official competition of Cannes. They produced the feature film *Cloudboy* (international premiered at TIFF, official selection) & *Binti* and are currently in development with the feature films *Slopie* (by Vincent Bal), *Life after Zoro* (by Raf Reyntjens) and the short *Hearts of Stone* by Oscar nominated director Tom Van Avermaet. International co-productions include the features *Storm* (Phanta Vision, NL and Iris Productions, LU), *Redbad* (Farmhouse, NL) and *Bloody Marie* (Family Affair Films, NL).

**KWASSA FILMS** Kwassa Films is a young, Brussels production company specializing in fiction and documentaries. Its mission is to bring out innovative, creative and accessible projects to large audiences. It also wishes to contribute to the emergence of young, Belgian talent on the international stage. Kwassa Films has co-produced projects including Leila Albayaty's *Face B*, Zoé Witttock's *Jumbo* and Frederike Migom's *Binti* (coming out in 2019). It is developing the upcoming feature films of Eve Duchemin, Olivier Pairoux and Eusebio Larrea, Edith De Paule and Philippe Blasband... The documentaries produced by Kwassa Films set themselves apart with their off-the-wall, educational angle ('J'adore les Belges [I Love Belgians], ...) and with their ambition ('Les routes de l'esclavage [Slavery Routes], ...). The documentary 'En Bataille, portrait d'une directrice de prison' [In Battle: Portrait of a Director in Prison] by Eve Duchemin won the Magritte award for Best Documentary in 2017.

**FAMILY AFFAIR FILMS** Family Affair Films is an Amsterdam based film production company specialized in contemporary fiction of high artistic quality with strong author driven visions. Their credits include *Light as Feathers* (Toronto 2018), *Beyond Words* (Toronto 2017), *History's Future* (IFFR 2016), *Life According to Nino* (Cinekid 2014) and *Code Blue* (Cannes' Director's Fortnight 2011). *Bloody Marie* is released early 2019.







# PRODUCERS & PARTNERS



**BINTI** is a production of **BULLETPROOF CUPID** in co-production with **KWASSA FILMS, KETNET** and **FAMILY AFFAIR FILMS**. The film is supported by the Flemish Audiovisual Fund (VAF), Telenet, the Centre du Cinema et de l'audiovisuel de la federation Wallonie-Bruxelles and The Netherlands Film Production Incentive. BNP Paribas Fortis Film Finance invested as the Belgian Tax Shelter-partner.

## ABOUT LEVELK

LevelK is handling international sales and distribution. They are specialized in rights optimization that are reflected through innovative approach to cross-platform/cross-country distribution combining theatrical and traditional means - alongside digital distribution and marketing. Their goal is to bring their films to the market with an individual strategy, so the film finds its own path to its audience.

Based in Copenhagen they are a passionate team focusing on long-term relationships and transparent professional cooperation.

LevelK is a worldwide preferred aggregator.



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## ONLINE CHANNELS

www.bintithefilm.com  
facebook.com/bintithefilm  
instagram.com/bintithefilm  
#bintithefilm



## TECHNICAL INFO

TITLE: BINTI  
SCREENING: DCP 2K  
DURATION: 90 min  
ASPECT RATIO: 2.39:1  
LANGUAGES: DUTCH & FRENCH  
SUBTITLES: DUTCH, FRENCH & ENGLISH  
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: BELGIUM / NETHERLANDS



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FILM PRODUCTION

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*Films*



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FILM

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