



# LOLLYWOOD

a TODD LOOBY film

*Obrigado*  
Productions



## LOGLINE:

Edwin G. Kollie – a 15 year old Liberian War Orphan – always wanted to make a Nollywood movie, so one day he wrote a script, built an entire African village, cast the 30 characters needed, shot it all the next day and discovered some amazing talent along the way.

## SYNOPSIS:

Edwin G. Kollie – a 15 year-old Liberian war orphan - always dreamed of making a Nollywood movie...and he had only two days to finish a script, build a colonial-period African village, and cast the 30 actors needed – none of whom had any prior experience. And budget? This was Liberia, West Africa – a country that still lacks an electrical grid. The kids were forced to use only those things in their immediate disposal at the boarding school: palm trees, grass, dirt, colored-rocks, water, bed sheets, chickens, and, of course, imagination. They had six hours of daylight after school to put the whole production together and shoot it.

Edwin and his classmates lived through one of Africa's most brutal civil wars and their experiences informed everything they did. They had a message of healing to convey. And although the odds were stacked against, they were determined to prove that they were every bit as capable as the Nigerians. Todd Looby, director of the Liberian Slamdance-winning short, "Son of None", follows Edwin's effort and makes a big discovery along the way.

## CAST



**Edwin G. Kollie: Writer/Producer/Director/”Eigway”**

Edwin came to Liberia Mission in 2007 to receive the education his family could not afford. According to Edwin, his father was murdered during the civil war by his co-workers. When the family’s village was burnt down, they spent the remainder of the war at an internally displaced camp. Edwin is now in high school and is planning to go to the University of Liberia next year. He hasn’t decided yet if he’ll pursue a career in agriculture or, his new passion, filmmaking.



**Mulbah Kollie: “A Warrior”**

Mulbah is from Lofa County, Liberia. Both of his parents were killed by stray bullets during the civil war. In 2008, he was brought to Liberia Mission by his Grandparents who could not afford his schooling. He wants to become a musician and actor when he grows up. Mulbah also played a key role in Todd Looby’s other Liberian short, “Son of None”



**Jerome C. Cabeen: “Self”**

Jerome Cabeen was a high school art teacher in Houston, TX for 12 years prior to doing four years of mission work in Honduras. Jerome came to Liberia in 2008 to teach at Liberia Mission with his wife Clarisa Chavarria-Lara. He was the Mission Director for two years prior to moving back the USA. He and Clarisa now resides in Beaumont. Jerome also acted in “Son of None” and helped produce both films. The mission kids always provided entertainment and surprise, but Jerome still can’t get over this industrious production.





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## CREW



### **Todd Looby: Producer / Writer / Director / Camera / Editor**

Todd Looby is a mostly self-taught, award-winning filmmaker based in Chicago. *LEFTY* (2009), Todd's second narrative feature, was named one of the "Top 10 Movies of 2009..." by the Chicago Tribune's metromix and is currently being distributed by IndieFlix, Inc. His next film, "Son of None" (2010), is a narrative short shot in Liberia, West Africa. The film won the Special Jury Award at Slamdance 2011 and took home "Best Short Film" at the Boston Film Festival. *Solo Madres: Stories of the Families Left Behind* (2013) is a feature documentary Todd and his wife shot in Honduras. This project is in post-production.

Currently, Todd is adapting the non-fiction book, *A Saint on Death Row* - written by New York Times Bestselling author, Thomas Cahill - into a narrative feature film. Todd also recently completed a narrative feature, *Be Good*, which stars Amy Seimet (Upstream Color, Off Hours) and Thomas Madden (*LEFTY*). This film had an 8-show preview screening at Chicago's Gene Siskel Film Center and will be hitting the festival circuit in Spring 2013.



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## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT:

"Lollywood" is one of three projects I shot while on a two-week trip to Liberia in the fall of 2009. I was hired by Liberia Mission to shoot a promotional documentary about the kids who helped found the Mission in 2003 - at the end of the civil war. That project became a six-part webseries, "Children of Hope". I also planned on shooting a narrative short while I was there. That project became "Son of None" which went on to win Best Short at the Boston Film Fest and took home the Special Jury prize at Slamdance 2011.

"Lollywood" took me completely by surprise. On the first week of the trip, I screen-tested actors for "Son of None" and cut together a little film. Shortly after showing it to the kids, Edwin approached me and said he wanted to make a "show" with the older kids. I told him to meet me the next night to go over the script. In those 24 hours he completed the story and had the entire cast lined up – all of whom knew their lines. I cleared three hours from my schedule the next day to shoot his "show" afterschool.

I met them at the location and stopped dead in my tracks when I found an African village where there was only farmland the day before. "This," I said to myself, "is probably the closest I'll ever come to shooting on a Hollywood back-lot". I was soon met by 30 kids dressed in makeshift colonial-period tribal costumes and face-paint made from crushed rocks and water. The craziest thing about this experience was the realization that these kids were all alive simply by chance. Killing was so arbitrary during the war that a stray (or intended) bullet could have easily ended any of their lives - as was the fate of many in their families. I couldn't help but think of all the beautiful ideas and imaginations that died in that war. But the greatest thing I learned from Edwin and his collaborators is that there is so much potential in every kid. It might be cliché, but it just became very clear to me that any effort to give a poor kid the slightest of opportunities – regardless of how small – is never wasted. We'll be surprised and delighted every time. And who knows, the next Nollywood star could be sitting deep in the bush just waiting for some schmuck like me to walk through his village with a camera?

- Todd Looby, Writer / Director: "Lollywood"



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## MUSIC

Seth Bogges is a Berklee-trained composer, writer and director who lives in Illinois. Seth also lent his sound-mixing skill to “Lollywood” and Looby’s last feature, *Be Good*.

## OFFICIAL SCREENINGS & AWARDS

18th Annual Slamdance Film Festival – January 20 & 23, 2013

## PRESS

Coming soon...

## FILM SPECIFICATIONS

TRT 00:09:52

ASPECT RATIO: 16:9

LANGUAGE: English and Liberian English with English subtitles

ORIGINAL MEDIUM: Mini DV

SCREENING FORMATS: HDCAM; Blu-Ray; Mini DV; DVD;

FINAL CUT: November 15, 2013

## CAST & CREW

CAST: Edwin G. Kollie, Mulbah J. Kollie, Aaron JayJay, David Barkollah, Jerome C. Cabeen,

WRITER / DIRECTOR: Todd Looby

PRODUCER: Todd Looby & Jerome C. Cabeen

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: Todd Looby, John Dewan, Bob O’Dwyer

EDITOR: Todd Looby

ASSISTANT EDITOR: Kristen Yakutis

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Todd Looby

MUSIC: Seth Bogges, Liberia Mission Boys Chorus

RE-RECORDING MIXER: Seth Bogges

## LINKS

<http://www.obrigadoproductions.com>

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2380194/>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/ObrigadoP>

## CONTACT

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