



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, and shot it all the next day. And for his lead he cast a natural talent who was out to prove he was Nollywood material.

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 an entire African village set, and cast the 30 villagers 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: 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.



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CAST



Edwin G. Kollie: Writer/Producer/Director/"Eigway"

Edwin came to Liberia Mission, Inc. in 2007 to receive the education and boarding his family could not afford. According to Edwin, his father was killed during the civil war by people he farmed with. 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 on going 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 also from the Kpelle tribe and his family 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, Inc. with his wife Clarisa Chavarria-Lara. He was the Mission Director for two years prior to moving back the USA. He now resides in Beaumont, TX with his wife, Clarissa. Jerome also played himself in "Son of None"



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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), was 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.

In addition to "Lollywood", Todd is screening his latest narrative feature, *Be Good*, on the 2013 festival circuit. *Be Good* stars Amy Seimetz – who will be returning to Sundance this year, starring in two films, *Upstream Color* and *Pit Stop* – and Chicago actor, Thomas J. Madden, Joe Swanberg and Looby's own baby daughter, Tessa. Todd is also adapting the non-fiction book, *A Saint on Death Row*, written by *New York Times* Bestselling author, Thomas Cahill - into a narrative feature film. Finally, Todd is in post-production on *Solo Madres: Stories of the Families Left Behind* (2013) - a feature documentary he and his wife shot in Honduras.



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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 an organization, Liberia Mission, to shoot a promotional documentary about the kids who helped found the Mission in 2003 - at the end of the civil war. This project turned into a six-part web-series, "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. I was screen-testing actors for "Son of None" and cut together a little film the first week I was there. Shortly after showing it to the kids, an older student, Edwin G. Kollie, 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 had it completely cast and the kids all 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 in a place that was only fallow farmland the day before. "This," I said to myself, "is probably the closest I'll ever come to shooting on a Hollywood backlot". I was soon met by 30 kids dressed in makeshift tribal costumes and face-paint made from crushed rocks and water. The craziest thing about this experience was the realization that these kids were alive simply because of 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 creativity that died in that war. But the greatest thing I learned from Edwin is that there is so much potential in every kid. If they are given even the smallest of opportunities they can do amazing things. It might be cliché, but it just came very clear to me that any effort to give a poor kid some opportunity - regardless of how big - is never wasted. We'll be surprised at every turn.

- Todd Looby, Writer / Director: "Lollywood"



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MUSIC

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

SCREENINGS & AWARDS

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

PRESS

Coming soon...

FILM SPECIFICATIONS

TRT 00:09:52

ASPECT RATIO: 16:9

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 Boggess

RE-RECORDING MIXER: Seth Boggess

LINKS

<http://www.obrigadoproductions.com>

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1604210/>

<http://www.myspace.com/obrigadoproductions>

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

CONTACT

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