

An aerial photograph of a dirt road winding through a dense, lush green forest. The road is a reddish-brown color and curves from the bottom left towards the top right. The trees are various shades of green, and the ground between them is dark brown soil.

A COMING OF AGE STORY...

**ABOUT A ZAMBIAN BOY
CAUGHT BETWEEN TWO WORLDS**



**DIVIDED BY FAMILY SECRETS BUT BONDED BY SHARED BLOOD,
KABWE MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN LOYALTY AND WHAT IS RIGHT
WHEN CONFRONTED WITH THE TRUTH.**



HUMMINGBIRD MOTION PICTURES PRESENTS

BLOOD & IVORY

(WORKING TITLE)



SYNOPSIS

As Kabwe comes of age, his Uncle Mapalo invokes what appears to be a long-held tribal tradition: he must slay an elephant to validate his manhood.

In reality, this is a pretext for something nefarious in which his Uncle Mapalo is deeply involved. Kabwe, an orphan always seeking acceptance, dutifully complies without questioning his uncle.

After a mother elephant is killed, leaving behind a baby, park authorities detain Kabwe, demanding to know the names of his associates. He manages to escape, but soon learns that his Uncle Mapalo's maize business is a front for trafficking -- and that he is in fact being groomed by his Uncle Mapalo to take over the family business.

Detained a second time, Kabwe bonds with an orphaned elephant named Chiware and begins to fall in love with the park and the elephants. The park manager, Basil, and his chief ranger glimpse a kind side to his tough exterior and believe he is worth saving.

Kabwe soon learns from the chief ranger that his parents did not die of malaria, as he was raised by his uncle to believe. Rather, his parents were conservationists who were killed by a syndicate of which his Uncle Mapalo is also a part.

Kabwe must now decide whether to seek justice for his parents and the orphaned elephants, or to betray his Uncle Mapalo, the man who raised him like a son.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

For more than twenty years, I immersed myself as a photojournalist in the lives of other people, documenting their greatest tragedies and achievements during unprecedented historical events. While traversing the planet across foreign cultures and complex geopolitical landscapes, I was exposed to every human emotion, as well as the circumstances and the psychology behind their expression. I now bring that to directing. Recognized as a staunch conservationist, I directed and produced a documentary called *The Last Animals* on wildlife trafficking and then campaigned with the film for ivory bans around the world and Executive Produced another. I love that *Blood & Ivory* is conservation driven, but what drew me most to the script was the nuanced complexity of its characters and the emotional terrain of the film.



The loneliness that comes with secrets, the guilt of betrayal - how repressing the truth manifests in interpersonal relationships, and family dynamics. Our friends are the family we choose and yet we are inextricably connected to people through shared blood that we would never choose as friends. The irrational loyalty to family - sometimes conflicted - but often like gravitational pull.

Epic landscapes and the peace and beauty of nature are not only metaphors for love, but also an expression of it, backdropped against the turmoil of a self-eroding inner world of a hidden family truth. The transformative power of mentorship; the ability for a person or chance encounter to change the course of one's life.

First love. The power or truth and justice. The terrifying discomfort and vulnerability of love. The search for redemption and the depths of love's ability to find a well of forgiveness. The universal internal dilemmas portrayed in *Blood & Ivory* will be subconsciously extenuated with an emphasis on Chiaroscuro in the cinematic approach, touching the hearts and internal worlds of viewers while also connecting them to the issues that threaten the existence of one of the most intelligent non human sentient beings on the planet. *Lion* is an inspiration for both the emotional and cinematic tone of the film.









MEET THE TEAM



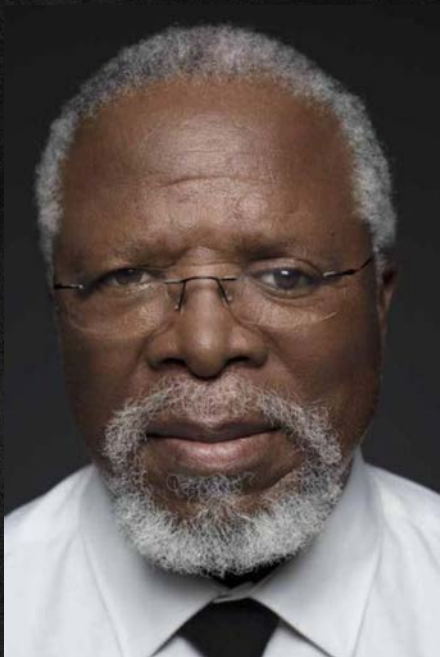
DIRECTOR

KATE BROOKS |

In 2010 Brooks' love for filmmaking was sparked while working as a cinematographer on the documentary "The Boxing Girls of Kabul". Brooks' first book, *In the Light of Darkness: A Photographer's Journey After 9/11*, was released in 2011 and selected by PDN as one of the best photography books of the year. In 2012-13, she was a Knight Wallace Fellow at the University of Michigan. There she researched the global wildlife Trafficking crisis before embarking on directing her first film. Kate Brooks career as a visual storyteller began as a photojournalist working. Her photographs were extensively published in *TIME*, *Newsweek*, *Smithsonian* and *The New Yorker* and exhibited in galleries and museums around the world. After chronicling conflict and human rights issues around the globe she turned her lens to cinema.

The *Last Animals* premiered at Tribeca Film Festival on Earth Day 2017 was awarded a Disruptor Award. The film was widely recognized for its ability to disrupt the status quo on policy and change hearts and minds, later winning Panda Award in consideration with *Blue Planet II*. The film was distributed through National Geographic, Hulu, Netflix and Discovery Plus. Based on the experiences Brooks had while making the film, she co-founded the nonprofit The Last Animals Foundation Brooks currently has two film projects in development: *Blood & Ivory* and *Stalin's Children*.





SEKAI

JOHN KANI |

A native of South Africa, Dr. John Kani began his acting career with accolades on Broadway – a Best Actor Tony Award – and has continued that high quality work on the big and small screens with award winning performances in “Nothing But the Truth” which also won him a scriptwriting SAFTA and, most notably, in “Black Panther” wherein he reprised his role of T’Chaka from “Captain America: Civil War.”

John’s voice is also easily recognizable as Rafiki in “The Lion King.” He continues to write and act for both stage and screen, with awards for all.



OLLIE

Atandwa Kani |

Born into a family of well-known artists of stage and screen in South Africa, Atandwa Kani has spent his entire life submersed in the world of superb talent. His first foray into the world of international theatre was as Ariel in "The Tempest" with his father, John Kani. He easily moved to television with roles in several US based series, but finally made the move to film with his role as a young Nelson Mandela in the film, "Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom." This led to several films, including playing the younger version of his father, John Kani's role, T'Chaka, in "Black Panther".

PRODUCER

LESLIE BATES

Leslie brings broad global experience in entertainment, having lived and worked, among other places, in Italy and Turkey. She received her MFA as an American Film Institute Screenwriting fellow after obtaining her JD from Lincoln Law School, and then formed her own production company, UnicVisions, which has produced the feature films, "Broken Angel" (which she also wrote), "Acts of Desperation," and "Brothers Broken," a multiple award-winning documentary.

Leslie is an active member of Film Independent, Women in Film, Greenlight Women, and Women in Media while also teaching producing, writing, and entertainment law at both Los Angeles Film School and New York Film Academy.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

MICHAEL RYAN

Michael started his career working in the TV industry for Sir Lew Grade's UK company, ITC. In 1978 he formed J&M Entertainment, a distribution sales agent for independent films, with Julia Palau. As J&M grew it also provided production finance.

He then founded GFM Films in 2011 alongside Guy Collins and Fred Hedman and was elected Chairman of the Independent Film & Television Alliance five times, in 2003, 2005 and then in 2015, 2017 and 2019.

Feature Film credits include *Fifty Dead Men Walking* (2008) starring Ben Kingsley, WW2 drama *The Last Witness* (2018) with Michael Gambon, *The English Patient* (1996), *Highlander* and *What's Eating Gilbert Grape* (1993).

PRODUCER

STEVE EGGLESTON

Steve is a law school Valedictorian, former law professor and colourful trial lawyer, acclaimed author, publisher and filmmaker. He has produced feature films and theatre, helmed a rock n roll magazine, booked 1000+ live shows worldwide, personally manages 7x Grammy-winning music producer Steve Thompson, and also repped 2010 winner of 'America's Got Talent', Michael Grimm. He currently lives in Pilton, England (home of the Glastonbury Festival), with his wife and children.

PRODUCER

DANA AMMA DAY

Also an integral part of The Eggman Global Universe, and a modern-day multi-hyphenate as well, Dana Amma Day (also credited as Caroline Whittle) is a PR, media and marketing expert (working on behalf of international motion picture releases with Picture Production Company and Premier PR), community networking consultant, TV host and producer, and filmmaker.

She specialises on positive messaging in the environmental, social enterprise, And business sectors, having produced/hosted over 650 informative news and documentary-style episodes on global online TV channel, PositiveTVWorld.com (for which she is CEO), having reported on Prince Charles' (now HRH King Charles) environment ambitions, co-produced documentaries with WWF, been intimately involved with Polly Higgin's "Stop Ecocide" campaign, and worked for Wildlife Line. She has/is producing multiple films, including "Earth 2.0" (short), "Chemical Wedding," with iconic rock star Bruce Dickinson, "Jim's Private War," "Beyond Innocent," and "Blood & Ivory."

WRITER

ROBERT PORTER |

Robert Porter was a Consultant and Head of the Charities Group at Harbottle & Lewis LLP, the renowned London media and entertainment law firm. In this capacity, he acted for several conservation and environmental NGOs and was a negotiator at the 1998 CITES Animals Committee Convention in Caracas, representing The Born Free Foundation.

For many years Porter was a trustee of The Kasanka Trust, a UK-based charity that part-funds the Kasanka National Park in Northeastern Zambia. He visited the Park many times, and in that capacity, observed not only the Park's conservation efforts but also the human stories behind ex-poachers turned gamekeepers.

This involvement gave Robert a unique perspective which inspired him to write the *Blood & Ivory* screenplay. He entered it into the ScreenCraft Jamaica Residency program in 2017 and was awarded coveted place on the residency and the opportunity to work with Steven de Souza.

MUSIC DIRECTOR

STEVE THOMPSON |

Mentored by legendary Clive Davis, 7x Grammy-winner Steve Thompson is a contemporary writer, music producer, arranger, mixer, re-mixer, and brand creator. His touch has sold over 350 million units and countless streams and downloads. A recognized multi-genre musical chameleon, Thompson adapts to every genre of music, from rock, pop and hip hop, to EDM, reggae and country, from GNR's "Appetite for Destruction" to Metallica "And Justice for All," to Blues Travelers "Run-Around" and Butthole Surfers "Electriclarryland". He has also produced hit songs from many iconic motion pictures, including "Return of the Jedi," "War of the Worlds," "Dracula 2000," "End of Days," "Escape from L.A.," and "Karate Kid."

CASTING DIRECTOR

KIRSTY KINNEAR |

Kirsty Kinnear is a London-based Casting Director specialising in film and television. She is a member of the Casting Director's Guild and BAFTA. Kirsty Kinnear Casting has developed a reputation for discovering new talent (particularly kids), attaching A-list actors to projects and providing creative casting support for a diverse range of productions.

Feature Film credits include: *Bohemian Rhapsody* starring Rami Malek, *Dumbo* (2019) with Michael Keaton and Colin Farrell, *Tomb Raider* (2018) starring Alicia Vikander, and *Fast X* (2023) starring Vin Diesel.

EMMANUEL JAI |



From his start in life as a child soldier in the war torn region of Southern Sudan in the early 1980s, Emmanuel Jai has overcome many obstacles to become a successful and acclaimed recording artist, peace ambassador and actor.

In 2008 a feature length documentary on his life was released. The film, *Warchild*, won 12 prestigious awards worldwide. The same year, his autobiography, *Warchild*, was published by Little Brown.



Emmanuel has released five award nominated studio albums: *The Key*, *Gua*, *Ceasefire*, *Warchild* and *See Me Mama*. He has collaborated and performed alongside artists such as Peter Gabriel, Nelly Furtado, Darryl “DMC” McDaniels, Joss Stone, Nile Rodgers and Alicia Keys.

His live performances included Live 8, Nelson Mandela’s 90th Birthday Concert and the One Concert for his Holiness the Dalai Lama.



Emmanuel co-starred with Reese Witherspoon in the Warner Brothers motion picture, *The Good Lie* which tells the story of four young Sudanese refugees who win a lottery for relocation to the United States. The film debuted at Toronto International Film Festival before being released in 2014. Emmanuel starred as the adult lead in the major motion picture *Africa United*; a Pathé, UK Film Council and BBC Films presentation in association with Warner Bros, released in October 2010.

CONSULTANT

SEAN WILLMORE |

Sean Willmore founded Thin Green Line Foundation in 2007 after seeing first-hand the desperate need of his ranger colleagues around the world. A former Australian park ranger and president of the International Ranger Federation, Sean has worked with rangers in over 80 countries on six continents, experiencing the best and worst of what rangers deal with, and encountering many hair-raising situations with them along the way. His efforts to help his ranger colleagues and support their conservation work has helped to shine a light on the sacrifice these rangers and their families make to protect our natural world. Sean continues to be inspired by rangers who work on the frontlines of conservation every day and he uses their inspiration for his work at Thin Green Line.



THIN GREEN LINE

Rangers protecting nature

"I've worked with rangers all over the world and have seen first-hand the dangers and challenges these frontline conservation workers face. I've also felt the utter devastation left behind for the families of those brave men and women who lose their lives in the line of duty. Investment in critical equipment, training and professional development is of utmost importance, and that's what Thin Green Line is here to do. By supporting rangers, we support the entire community and, with that, we protect nature."

Sean Willmore, Founder of Thin Green Line

A British / South African Production

MOONLIGHTING |

The film production company has a formidable track record of servicing international film and TV projects, with credits that include “**Mad Max: Fury Road**”, “**Escape Room**”, “**Tomb Raider**”, “**Warrior**”, “**Homeland Season 4**”, “**Black Mirror**”, “**The Dark Tower**”, “**The Mummy**”, “**Bloodshot**”, “**Safe House**”, “**Blood Diamond**”, “**Ali**” and “**Invictus**”.

Over 20 years of producing more than 100 film and TV projects, the company has worked with renowned filmmakers such as **Clint Eastwood** (“**Invictus**”), **Michael Mann** (“**Ali**”), **Sean Penn** (“**The Last Face**”), **George Miller** (“**Fury Road**”), **Philip Noyce** (“**The Giver**”), **Roland Emmerich** (“**10,000BC**”), **Mira Nair** (“**Queen of Katwe**”), **Joss Whedon** (“**Avengers: Age of Ultron**”), **Stephen Daldry** (“**The Crown**”), **Paolo Sorrentino** (“**The Young Pope**”), **Paul W.S. Anderson** (“**Monster Hunter**”), **Andy Serkis** (“**Breathe**”), **Mark Foster** (“**Machinegun Preacher**”) and **Gavin Hood** (“**Eye In The Sky**”). Treaty co-productions and indigenous films produced by the Moonlighting film production company include “**Skin**” (the first UK / SA production), and “**Beauty**” (the first SA / France co-production which was in competition in Cannes), “**Four Corners**” and “**The Endless River**”. As a DTI Rebate specialist, Moonlighting has processed over sixty rebates over the last sixteen years, representing more than 1 billion of film incentives.



KEY FACTS |

- IN THE 1960'S THERE WERE 250,000 ELEPHANTS IN ZAMBIA. TODAY THERE ARE LESS THAN 25,000

IMPACT PARTNERS |

• Protect •
• Educate •
**The Last
Animals
Foundation**
• Advocate •



THIN GREEN LINE
Rangers protecting nature

HUMMINGBIRD MOTION PICTURES

