

HOLLYWOOD IN MY HUIS

PRODUCTION NOTES

Stage 5 Films and Red Letter Day Pictures

in association with

Advantage Entertainment

and

kykNET

present

HOLLYWOOD IN MY HUIS

Directed by
CORNE VAN ROOYEN

Written by
CORNE VAN ROOYEN

Produced by
DYLAN VOOGT
SASKIA SCHIEL

Executive Producers
VLOKKIE GORDON
JAN DU PLESSIS
KAREN MEIRING

Co-Writer & Associate Producer
RENE VAN ROOYEN

The Story

Hollywood in my Huis is 'n coming-of-age romantic comedy set against the backdrop of a 2004 matric dance in South Africa.

The story focuses on an ordinary teenage girl – Jana van Tonder – who lives in an impoverished railway neighbourhood with her dysfunctional parents. When she witnesses Charlize Theron's iconic Oscar win, Jana is inspired to transform her upcoming matric dance into her very own Hollywood Red Carpet moment.

Meanwhile, Jana's secret crush, Brandon, the school's tennis champ, breaks off his relationship with Angelique, the school's most popular girl. Just as Jana is mustering the courage to ask Brandon to the dance, her best friend and boy-next-door, Frikkie, reveals his true feelings for her.

With the matric dance less than a month away, with some guidance from her parents and fairy godmother, Suzy, Jana has to make the difficult choice between her closest friend and her dream date.

Hollywood in my Huis - Behind the Scenes

It took nine years for writer and director Corne van Rooyen to adapt his AFDA short film, *Hollywood in my Huis*, into a feature film. He had to pinch himself on his way to set in the mornings as he couldn't believe his dream had finally come true.

Van Rooyen's own childhood in Silverton, Pretoria, was the inspiration for this film about a young teenage girl with big dreams, who has to find the courage to be herself and shape her own destiny. In writing *Hollywood in My Huis*, van Rooyen drew on his own experiences as well as aspects of his own family and friendships. "I might not look much like Jana, but this is actually a very personal story," he laughs.

He was also deeply affected and inspired by *Lenie*, a short story from cabaret artist Nathaniel. *Lenie* is about a destitute mother who takes her own wedding dress, dyes it with beetroot juice, and gives it to her daughter to wear to her matric dance. At the dance, the colour starts to run. "Like my film, this shows the lengths to which parents will go to ensure that their child's matric farewell is memorable and special. However, sometimes, even their most valiant efforts backfire."

Jana (Christia Visser), her parents (Nicola Hanekom and Louw Venter), and her best friend Frikkie (Edwin van der Walt) all live on the wrong side of the tracks. Jana's father is unemployed and her mother runs a beauty salon from a caravan in the front yard. Although her parents have seen their dreams crushed, Jana is still able to dream of a life way beyond her modest circumstances.

Hollywood in my Huis explores two markedly different realities - that of the people eking out a living on the wrong side of the tracks and their privileged counterparts – and the fantasy world in which Jana lives. The challenge was to strike a balance between the lighter and darker elements of the story, to make *Hollywood in my Huis* the light-hearted and fun family film that it is.

Jana, a real wallflower, continues dreaming of her matric dance. She believes having Brandon (Viljé Maritz), the school's tennis champion, at her side will ensure all eyes are on her and her Charlize-inspired dress on the big night. However, she is up against the school's most popular girl, Angelique, played by Leandie du Randt.

The script underwent several drafts, from the original, more naïve story to the current, more mature, feature length version. "I always knew my first film would be a personal story. I have always been inspired by my daydreams, love and family," says van Rooyen. "No matter how far you go in life, or how great your achievements, your family will always serve to keep you grounded."

Producers Dylan Voogt and Saskia Schiel were immediately taken with the script and the fact that it offered a magical quality that has been lacking in local films for some time. With their enthusiasm and support, the project quickly gained momentum.

Van Rooyen knew from the start that the story's success relied heavily on finding the right cast. Christia Visser who was cast as Jana was one of the first actresses that van Rooyen auditioned. "I knew that I would not easily find a better Jana," says van Rooyen. "Christia works from her subconscious she doesn't pretend. There is an honesty and freshness to her."

It took van Rooyen two-and-a-half years to finally cast the very down to earth Frikkie character. His search for the actor took him to universities, schools, agencies and even Facebook. Fortuitously, he saw Edwin van der Walt in a short film and invited him to audition. "He was perfect in every way and seemed to slip into the character with such ease."

Van Rooyen has high praise for veterans Nicola Hanekom and Louw Venter. Hanekom plays Beatrice, Jana's mother, with a poignant fragility, while Venter plays her father Tos with unexpected tenderness. "Despite the predicament in which he finds himself, Tos has to believe that things will improve for him and his family," says Van Rooyen, adding that Venter was one of the most magical personalities on set.

As a child, Van Rooyen regularly watched the youth television programme *Jip* and dreamed of the opportunity to work with the show's host Elana Afrika-Bredenkamp. Elana plays Suzy, Jana's fairy godmother, who owns the store where Jana buys the material for her Charlize Theron-inspired dress. "The way in which Elana played Suzy was so warm and insightful that, for the first time, the character made sense," says van Rooyen.

The director is still in awe of the fact that renowned actors Lida Botha and Marga van Rooy agreed to work on his film. "As a teenager I thought if Lida Botha would one day want to be in one of my movies, then I'd be doing well! Now I have had the opportunity to work with both Lida and Marga van Rooy."

For Visser, having to return to school was an interesting experience. "To step into a school uniform again and transport myself back to that time in my life and reconnect with that era was a big challenge, but it really helped me in forming the character."

Van der Walt describes playing opposite Lida Botha as the highlight of his film career, so far. "She has an incredible presence and I was learning from her the entire time."

The film was mostly shot on location in Vasco and Brackenfell High School. Certain scenes were also filmed at Fisantekraal, Observatory and Cape Town surrounds.

Characters & Cast

Lead: Jana

Jana van Tonder, a wallflower, only knows life in an upside-down home in a poor neighbourhood. When Charlize Theron wins her Oscar at the 2004 Academy Awards, Jana is inspired to convert her high school matric dance into her own Hollywood gala. An aspiring fashion designer, Jana has only 30 days to make her dress and find the perfect date to make her red-carpet dream, come true.

Christia Visser

Christia is a vibrant and passionate artist who was born in Cape Town and grew up in the small town of Swellendam. As a versatile performer, her passion is to entertain people, whether it is through acting, dancing, singing, voice or writing.

Her acting training started while attending Stellenbosch High School, where she was named best actress in the Klein Libertas Theatre's schools competition for her portrayal of Annemie in *Poppespel*. She also played the lead in the musical *Moulin Rouge*, performed at Artscape and Spier wine estate.

Christia has completed her studies at ACT drama school in Cape Town. She spent three years training in classical voice with Koba Wicomb. She has been dancing since she was eight, and is proficient in various dance styles, such as modern, hip-hop, and Latin.

She has since performed in various theatre productions, namely Shakespeare's *Cardenio* at Maynardville as well as Nicola Hanekom's *Land van Skedels*, which won four Fiesta Awards in 2014.

Christia also plays the role of Lena Aucamp Jnr. In Leon van Nierop's famed *Ballade vir n Enkeling* realising in 2015.

She was also honoured as the Best Actress Audience Choice at the Silwerskerm Film Festival in 2014 for her portrayal of Jana in *Hollywood in my Huis*.

Lead: Frikkie

Frikkie is a rebel who drives a vintage scooter. He is also an old soul, who lives on the wrong side of the railway and cares for his mentally-ill grandmother. He is secretly in love with Jana, his best friend. He struggles to show his true feelings for her and thinks the matric dance is a senseless tradition, but he will have to put his pride in his pocket if he wants to win Jana's heart.

Edwin van der Walt

Edwin van der Walt is an energetic, focused and ambitious actor who recently graduated with a Bachelor of Drama Degree from the University of Stellenbosch. He has a positive attitude and a lust for life.

Prior to filming *Hollywood in my Huis*, 2013 was the highlight of his career. He was in two drama productions directed by the celebrated Marthinus Basson; he had the challenging

lead role in *Bos* and played numerous characters in the acclaimed *macbeth.slape loos* at the Aardklop Festival, opposite the cream of South African acting talents, such as Dawid Minnaar, Anna-Mart van der Merwe, Jana Cilliers, Antoinette Kellermann and Stian Bam. Recently, Edwin played the lead role in *Braai* at the KKNK festival and was nominated for a Kanna Award for best upcoming actor. In addition, he played the lead role in the AFDA short film *'n Stukkie Winter* and starred in Francois Louw's music video, *Here We Stay*. He has appeared in several of Louw's music videos and also plays the guitar.

He has already started making a name for himself not only in the theatre realm but also as a leading man in films such as *'Hollywood in my Huis'* for which he was nominated for Best Actor at the 2014 Silwerskerm Festival.

His current part in *'Ballade vir 'n Enkeling'* is sure to cement him in the minds and hearts of South African film audiences.

Edwin is a keen rugby player who played for two years in the Paarl Boys High first team. He was approached to be part of the Sharks Academy in Durban but decided to pursue a career as an actor instead.

Character: Beatrice

Beatrice is a former beauty queen who runs her own beauty salon from a caravan in her front yard. She tries to fulfil her own dreams through her teenage daughter, Jana.

Beatrice hates her husband, Tos. She sees him as a nuisance and blames him for her pregnancy after their matric dance. However, she finds the courage to accept the past and her family, and discovers a renewed appreciation for them.

Nicola Hanekom

Nicola Hanekom is a well-known actress, playwright and director. She studied drama at the University of Cape Town and has been a freelance actress, director and writer for the past 18 years.

Highlights in her career include her acclaimed portrayal of the poet Ingrid Jonker in the drama *Altyd Jonker* as well as a leading role in the film version of *Faan se Trein*. Acting awards include a *Standard Bank Golden Ovation* and *Fleur du Cap* award for her self-penned one woman play *'Hol' / 'Running on Empty'*.

As a writer and director, her work includes a series of site-specific productions *Betésda*, *Lot*, *Babbel*, *Trippie*, and most recently *Land van Skedels*. These have garnered eleven *Kanna* awards, eight *Fiësta* awards, two *ATKV* writing awards and one *Aartvark* award. Her television work includes lead roles in popular series such as *Boland Moorde*, *Vloeksteen* and *Erfsondes*. Her recent work on the silver screen include *Husk*, for which she won the Stone Award, *Taste of Rain*, *Long Walk to Freedom* and the award-winning film version of the play *Faan se Train*.

Nominated as one of the women of the year in *Glamour* magazine's poll in 2012, Hanekom is married to fellow thespian and acting coach, Grant Swanby and is one of the driving forces in the local entertainment industry.

Character: Tos

Tos is going through a midlife crisis after being retrenched from his job as a train driver. His wife sees him only as a nuisance and still blames him for making her pregnant after their matric dance. His teenage daughter ignores him. Nothing has meaning in Tos's life, and he finds refuge only in his garden. He is growing a special flower, The Stargazer, which he plans to enter into the local flower show as soon as it blooms.

Louw Venter

Louw Venter is a well-known and beloved actor thanks to the hit comedy series *Corne and Twakkie's Most Amazing Show*, which he performed in as Corne and co-wrote. Venter has in recent years focused on his writing and film work with major roles in *Semi-Soet*, *Die Laaste Tango*, *Jimmy in Pienk* and the television series *Rugby Motors* which he co-created and wrote. In 2014 he appeared as Lukas Basson in the feature *Konfetti* which he wrote. Later this year he will appear in *Kite* opposite Samuel L. Jackson, in Jenna Bass' *Love the One You Love* which premieres at DIFF and in *Alles Wat Mal Is* directed by Oscar nominated director Darrell James Roodt. He has also received nominations for a SAFTA Award for best supporting actor in *Semi-Soet* in 2013 and best actor for *Die Laaste Tango* in 2014. As well as being nominated as Actor of the Year 2014 at the Huisgenoot Tempo's, he won Best Actor at the 2014 Silwerskerm Festival for his work in *Konfetti*.

Character: Brandon

Brandon is the school heartthrob, a tennis star who dreams of one day playing at Wimbledon. He is Jana's dream date, the guy she wants to appear beside her at the upcoming dance, who will complement her Hollywood-style dress the most. But Brandon does not give a hoot about the upcoming dance; his only concern is to perfect his backhand.

Vilje Maritz

Viljé Maritz's breakthrough role came as a teenager, playing Gys Elo in popular M-Net soapie *Binneland*. Since then, his career has grown from strength to strength, with starring roles in the Anglo-Boer War drama *Verraaiers*, in the youth series *Liewe Kayla* on kykNET, in *High Rollers* on SABC3, *Donkerland* on kykNET and more recently in the television series *Swartwater*, opposite Louw Venter on SABC2. In 2014 Viljé was featured in the motion picture *Moorivier*, *Die Gat in die Muur* as well as the series *Bloed Broers*. For the upcoming year Viljé Maritz will be seen in the Afrikaans Feature Film *ñ Man Soos My Pa*.

Character: Angelique

Angelique is the most popular girl in school and also heads the school matric dance committee. She comes from one of the wealthier families in the neighbourhood. She knows everything, including how to make people around her bend to her will. If she does not get her way, she can be very cunning.

Leandie du Randt

Leandie du Randt is an energetic, passionate and vivacious actress, who also works as a presenter, model, voice artist and master of ceremonies. She is at her happiest when she can entertain people. Leandie recently published a book aimed at teenage girls, entitled *Comfortable in Your Own Body*.

Her experience includes four seasons of the renowned Afrikaans series on kykNET, *Getroud Met Rugby*. Other television credits include the Afrikaans series *Vlug na Egipte*, the sitcom *Moeggeploeg* and the well-loved soaps, *Isidingo* and *Binnelanders*. Her film credits include *Egoli-The Movie*, *Susanna van Biljon*, *Semi-Soet*, *Flesh*, *Klein Karoo* and *Die Windpomp*. She also competed in BBC's world renowned reality show, *Strictly Come Dancing 2014* on SABC 3, and ended up being first runners – up with her partner Brandon Eilers le Riché. Leandie will also be seen in leading roles in *Moorivier* and *Strikdas* to be released in 2015

In 2010 Leandie du Randt received her Honours degree in Industrial Psychology and also completed her degree in Psychometrics with HPSA at the University of Johannesburg.

Character: Suzy

Suzy is Jana's fairy godmother. The proud manager of a successful fabric store, she is an independent, mysterious and seductive femme fatale. She loves fashion and the latest trends. Suzy thinks men are overrated and does not believe a woman needs a man to achieve anything, although she may need to seduce a man to impregnate her. She advises Jana to use a man as a handbag for the matric dance – he must match her shoes.

Elana Afrika-Bredenkamp

Elana Afrika-Bredenkamp is one of the most recognisable faces in South Africa. She is known for her past radio shows on 5fm, Jacaranda 94.2 and 94.5 KFM, and television presenter on M-Net, kykNET, SuperSport and recently hosted the show *The Road to Miss SA 2014*. Afrika-

Bredenkamp also recently joined the breakfast show *Expresso* on SABC 3. Her film roles include *Footskating 101*, *Spaarwiel* and *Jimmy in Pienk Stone Cold Jane Austen*, due for release in 2015. Elana was as Assistant Film Lecturer with Leon Van Nierop at the Tshwane University of Technology

She is one of the most followed celebrities on Twitter. Elana is also an ambassador for CANSA and represents the charity work of the Cape Town Carnival.

Fashion has always been of keen interest to Elana. She's a *GQ Style Award Winner* and launched the well-known *ShoesDay* concept to radio. She created the celebrated #ShoesDay which sees her giving her own shoes to fans for free.

She's an astute businesswoman, university graduate and runs her own media consultancy. Her business interests include a boutique wine label, a social media agency and other online start-ups.

Scriptwriter & Director

Corne van Rooyen - Red Letter Day pictures

Corne has directed more than 60 hours of content for SABC, BBC, National Geographic, kykNET and M-Net, as well as award-winning short films and commercials. He holds a BA Honours degree in Directing and Screenwriting from AFDA. Through Stage 5 Films, Advantage Entertainment and his own production company, Red Letter Day Pictures, Corne will release his first feature film as director, *Hollywood in my Huis*, in 2015.

He is currently in script development on the feature film, *Mantis Man*, through the NFVF's SEDIBA programme as well as the screen adaptation of the well known book, *Vaselientjie*.

His filmography includes directing and writing several short films, including *Hollywood in my Huis* (Award winner: In die Bos, Right Eye Film Festival, and 13 AFDA awards. Screened: MNET, kykNET) and *Stille Waters* (Screened: SABC 2).

He has also directed on *Seasons at Terroir* for BBC; *Exploring the Vine* for M-Net, National Geographic and Discovery; *Kokkedoor* and *David's Family* for kykNET; *The Ride of Sir Harry Smith*, *The Ride Mongol Derby*, and *The Ride of the Peacemaker* for SABC3; *Fresh Living TV* for e.tv; and *Voyage of Discovery*, a short film for Los Angeles Airport.

Prior to this, Corne headed the Directing department at AFDA film school. He currently resides in Cape Town, from where he undertakes his work as director and screenwriter on his film and television projects.

Co-writer & Associate Producer

Rene van Rooyen - Red Letter Day Pictures

Rene van Rooyen is a director, screenwriter and co-owner of the motion picture company Red Letter Day Pictures. She holds a BCom Marketing Management degree from Stellenbosch University and a BA Media in Directing and Screenwriting from AFDA. She has more than seven years' experience directing and writing content for various drama, lifestyle and documentary series for Mzansi, SABC, kykNET and M-Net. She has also directed several short films, including the Silwerskermfilmfees winner *Nantes*. She is also the director and screenwriter on *Moorivier*, which releases in early 2015.

Red Letter Day Pictures

Red Letter Day Pictures is a Cape Town-based motion picture company founded by husband-and-wife filmmakers Corne and Rene van Rooyen. They specialise in the development, writing and directing of original content – mainly for film and television projects. With more than 10 years' experience, they've directed 120 hours of content for the likes of kykNET, SABC, BBC, National Geographic and M-Net, as well as several award-winning short films, including the kykNET Silwerskermfees winner *Nantes*. In the upcoming year, they will release two feature films on the big screen: *Moorivier* and *Hollywood in my Huis*.

Production Company

Stage 5 Films

Stage 5 Films is a creative, hardworking and dedicated Cape Town film production company with a team that has the passion and skill to extract the best possible work and the magic to make artistic, enduring, quality and profitable films.

Stage 5 Films was established in April 2012 and is helmed by Dylan Voogt.

Stage 5 Films' first feature length documentary project, *Unearthed*, investigates the pros and cons of fracking from a global perspective, as well as what it means for the Karoo area in South Africa. *Unearthed* had its world premiere at the 2014 Sheffield Documentary Festival, where it won the Green Award. As well as the Audience Choice Award Encounters South African International Documentary Festival and the Audience Choice Tri Continental Film Festival.

On the 26th June 2015 Stage 5 Films will be releasing nationwide the Afrikaans Feature Film *Hollywood in my Huis* which won @silwerskermfees 2014 both the Best Film Audience Choice Award & Best Film Critics Choice. As well as Best Female in a Leading Role @ChristiaVisser.

Stage 5 Films creates and shoots EPK's, Music Videos, Stills, Short Films, Features Docs, Online Content, Commercials and feature films as well as providing production services for international productions travelling to the continent.

Producers

Producer: Dylan Voogt – Stage 5 Films

Dylan Voogt is one of South Africa's most sought-after award winning multi disciplinary independent producers. After 10 years at Moonlighting Films, South Africa's premiere production facilitation company, and on the back of the success of *Skoonheid*, Dylan is applying his experience to a number of international and South African film projects. Committed to local film

Dylan's most recent producing credits include *Retribution*, *Skoonheid*, *Unearthed*, *Hollywood in my Huis*, *Valma Veronica* and *Lazy Suzan*. *Skoonheid* directed by Oliver Hermanus became the fourth film in South African history to be nominated for the prestigious Un Certain

Regard category at The Cannes Film Festival. The film won the Queer Palm award at Cannes and went on to receive numerous other international accolades. Locally, *Skoonheid* was the official selection for South Africa's Best Foreign film submission to the Academy Awards in 2012.

Prior to this, Dylan was the producer for the African segment of *Samsara*, the follow up to the multi-award-winning *Baraka*. Dylan also line produced *The Beautiful Game (Africa 10)*, a documentary chronicling the history of African football ahead of the FIFA world cup. These two projects saw Dylan working in 11 African countries across the continent.

Producer: Saskia Schiel – Stage 5 Films

Saskia graduated from AFDA on a Mandela Rhodes Foundation scholarship. The short films she produced during her studies have been included in festival programs around the world. These include the animated short film, *Mune*, which received acclaim at international film festivals and was awarded with the SAFTA for Best Animation in 2011.

Saskia started her career as an intern and quickly moved on to gain further experience on features, documentaries, TV series and commercials, working for some of the biggest production companies in Cape Town and on some of the biggest productions the country has hosted, like *Mad Max Fury Road*. She was also part of the production team who created *Skoonheid*, which won the Queer Palm at Cannes.

She has since successfully produced two award-winning feature films: *Unearthed*, a highly-anticipated documentary about fracking, and *Hollywood in my Huis*, a narrative picture targeted to a young South African audience.

A Cape Town resident, Saskia continues developing her own slate of feature films and creative projects.

Executive Producer: Vlokkie Gordon – Advantage Entertainment

Vlokkie Gordon is a film producer based in Cape Town, South Africa.

She studied at the film school in Pretoria in the early 80's and there followed a period of internship at Independent Film Centre in Lone Hill where she worked as an assistant picture and sound editor, finally moving into the discipline of on-set sound recording and working on numerous local television dramas and feature films.

Vlokkie moved to Cape Town with her young family and opened a crew agency at a time when Cape Town was becoming an important centre for filmmaking in the country.

She joined David Wicht and Film Afrika in 1995 and together they produced numerous international features and commercials. She also worked in the film industry in LA and travelled extensively through the US.

Vlokkie continued to produce a number of international feature films under the Film Afrika banner, and has played a leading role in marketing in the U.S.A. and Europe and fulfilling an active role as COO and Head of Production within the company.

In 2013 she started a new venture, Advantage Entertainment, which focuses on producing and raising finance for local and International feature films and TV Series.

Creative Team

Director of Photography: Zenn van Zyl

Zenn Van Zyl graduated with an honours degree in 2009 from AFDA Cape Town, majoring in cinematography. In his final year at AFDA, he shot the acclaimed short film *Agter die Berge*. The film not only won the SAFTA the following year for Best Short Film but also earned Van Zyl a Special Mention SAFTA for his cinematography.

Since then, van Zyl has shot several other award-winning short films, including *Nantes*, which won Best Short Film at the first kykNET Silwerskermfees in 2012, and *The Briefcase*, winner of the SHNIT 72 Hour Challenge 2013.

One of the most talented young DOPs in South Africa, Van Zyl has also shot numerous music videos, commercials, television series and documentaries and upcoming feature films, *Hollywood in my Huis*, *Uitvlucht* and *Noem my Skollie*.

Production Designer: Michelle Randall

Michelle Randall (née Venter) graduated from AFDA with Honours in 2002, winning the AFDA award for Best Production Designer for her work on the 13-part kykNET TV series *Ietermago*. She worked in the industry as a production designer, art director, set designer and props master on various television series, feature films, commercials and music videos.

Most notably, she headed up the art department at e.tv to launch daily drama *Scandal!*, and worked on *Bakgat!*, South Africa's first Afrikaans teen comedy. After a short sabbatical, Michelle returned to the film industry and joined the creative team behind *Hollywood in my Huis* as production designer.

Editor: Roshni Haraldsen

Roshni has worked as an editor for more than 10 years. With over 150 hours of programming experience across various genres, such as reality TV, adventure, wildlife documentaries, cooking shows, travel shows, commercials, corporate video and short films, her work has been broadcast on acclaimed television stations such as the BBC International, Sky Network, National Geographic, Discovery, Food Network, and Travel Channel, as well as local South African broadcasters M-Net, e.tv and SABC.

Roshni was also the offline, online editor and post producer on *Around Iceland on Inspiration*, the 2014 SAFTA winner for best Reality TV Series. In 2014, she partnered in the new post production facility End. Post.