

SANDI SCHULTZ

GERT VAN NIEKERK

JONATHAN PIENAAR

DAVID DENNIS

DIRK STOLTZ

ANTHONY OSEYEMI



ASSIGNMENT



THE TRUTH MUST BE TOLD



AFDA AND MIND FOX PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS A LASZLO BENE FILM "ASSIGNMENT" SANDI SCHULTZ GERT VAN NIEKERK
DAVID DENNIS JONATHAN PIENAAR DIRK STOLTZ MUSIC BY GEO HOEHN CASTING BY BELINDA KRUGER COSTUME DESIGNER ELIZEBETH CROESER PRODUCTION DESIGNER BRYCE BOWERS
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY BRAD DEVINE SCRIPT SUPERVISOR LAUREN ADENDORF EDITOR LASZLO BENE PRODUCED BY SANDI SCHULTZ LASZLO BENE
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER GINA BONMARIAGE WRITTEN BY LASZLO BENE SANDI SCHULTZ DIRECTED BY LASZLO BENE
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IN CINEMAS SOON



PRODUCTION NOTES

Mind Fox Productions

in association with Klonkie Made Media and AFDA

present

a film by

Laszlo Bene

ASSIGNMENT

Starring

Sandi Schultz

Gert van Niekerk

David Dennis

Jonathan Pienaar

Produced By

Laszlo Bene

Sandi Schultz

Written by

Laszlo Bene

Sandi Schultz

Edited by

Laszlo Bene

SYNOPSIS

Kathleen Jacobs, a renowned conflict journalist, returns home after a near fatal incident cuts short her assignment in the Congo. Her mission, while incomplete, is still a success; she uncovers what could lead to an incredible scoop.

When Kat pitches the story to her editor, he turns her down – a rather strange decision for a man always on a quest for the next big headline. Kathleen, however, is determined to break the story, a decision that pitches her squarely against major political forces. When she refuses to back off despite numerous “incidents”, Kat suddenly finds herself on the run, aided only by her ex-husband and an ex-military consultant.

What ensues is a cat-and-mouse chase that forces her to risk everything. Not only are Kat's career and reputation on the line, but also her life, as well as that of her family.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

In 2015, 58 people were killed because of their activities as journalists, according to Reporters Without Borders.

Media freedom has been steadily declining and eroding in front of the eyes of the global community for years. Governments and the power brokers behind the political scenes have been waging war on journalists across the world, using varied strategies to keep them in line, or silence them if nothing else works. From new laws and regulations to undercover assassinations, every imaginable method has been used to keep political doctrines unquestioned and politicians safe from damaging reporting.

Those journalists who go against these powers become targets, often paying the most precious price for their efforts to keep people informed and hold governments accountable. This is a universal situation present in every country around the world. The only difference is how far governments will go to silence the voices of opposition. Some countries that call themselves democracies will go to great lengths to hide their efforts to silence the media. Others don't even try to hide their harassment of journalists and they openly prosecute anyone who speaks against the ruling government.

Assignment highlights the dangers of being a journalist, and aims to start a conversation about the targeted killing of journalists around the world.

Although the story takes place in Johannesburg, it is not a South African story, nor is it an African one. *Assignment* is a universal tale to which citizens all over the world can relate. It is a statement film that instigates and provokes the intellect as much as it moves the emotions.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Background and approach to creating the story

My experience in cinema lies mainly in producing and writing. These skills enabled me to create and production that exceeded even the highest expectations within extremely tight parameters, despite the obstacles we faced on set every day.

Having to wear multiple hats, which can be a practical nightmare, made it easier for me to take the creative vision from beginning to end. As a producer, I set up a production that was ambitious but achievable and was able to lead my team through the five weeks with confidence, knowing we had the means to pull it off.

I wrote a script that could be achieved and visualized in a way that fit the logistical and financial requirements. As the director of the film, I also knew the script better than anyone on set because I wrote it. This made creative decisions a breeze. As an editor, I knew every frame I shot while directing the film, making it easy to find the best performances the cast delivered – the ones that most suited the story and characters. This sped up shot selection and made scene assemblies much faster.

In creating the story, I wanted it to be true to life and to be based on real geo-political events that were honest and credible. I set out to create characters who are three-dimensional everyday people, those whose stories are being told daily by the news, people we can relate to, people we can love, hate, understand and root for. I wanted to communicate to the audience an important story that would evoke an emotional response and stimulate their minds.

Visual style

The visual style of the film is natural and conversational. I wanted to create a style that allowed the audience to immerse themselves in the story without focusing on unique visual markers or being taken in by gimmicks and beauty shots. In this film the story is the main driving force, and the characters move the scenes forward in natural progression. The camera and sound simply follows the action and allows the audience to be a witness of the drama unfolding in front of their eyes.

The city of Johannesburg is ever present. Indeed, it's a main character of the story, providing a playground at times nurturing and safe, at others adverse and menacing, and filled with violence and danger. This ever-present duality is meant to be an honest representation of a unique African city with its own still life and characteristics.

BIOGRAPHIES: CREW

LASZLO BENE (*Writer, Director, Editor, Producer*)

Laszlo Bene is an industry veteran who learned his craft in the trenches of Hollywood before he moved to South Africa. With over a dozen feature films under his belt as producer, he is known as a can-do producer and a capable international operator. Since living in Johannesburg, Laszlo has been focusing on writing, producing and directing television programs for various broadcasters in South Africa and other African countries. His shows include the highly successful family program for KykNet, *Dis Rugby!* as well as *Gulder Ultimate Search*, Nigeria's most popular reality television series, which he directed for two seasons. *Assignment* is Laszlo's directorial debut, signalling a return to his film roots. He wore numerous hats to create this project.

SANDI SCHULTZ (*Writer, Producer*)

Sandi Schultz is a well-known actress, having been in the original cast of *Binnelanders* for eight seasons. Talented and versatile, Sandi has also worked in the US where she appeared in such television shows as *NYPD Blues* and movies such as *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective*. She has also appeared in a variety of movies such as *Lion Girl*, a German production, and the highly successful and critically acclaimed *While You Weren't Looking*. *Assignment* is Sandi's passion project, which she not only stars in but also co-wrote and co-produced.

Brad Devine (*Cinematographer*)

Brad Devine is a talented cinematographer, and an AFDA alum with numerous awards to his name. While he mostly works in commercials, his foray into filmmaking was just as successful as his television work. Even before the release of the film, the images he painted for *Assignment* received great recognition from industry experts.

Geo Hoehn (*Composer*)

Geo Hoehn is a classically trained composer who received his musical education in Germany's prestigious music academies. He is a sought-after composer who has been working in the South African film industry for years, writing and arranging music for a number of local films and providing them with memorable scores that evoke emotion and compassion.

BIOGRAPHIES: CAST

Sandi Schultz (Kat)

Sandi Schultz is an industry veteran, who has been acting since her university days in Cape Town.

Her American television and film credits include: *City Of Angels*, *NYPD Blues*, *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective*. Her SA television and film credits include: *Binnelanders*, *Lion Girl*, and *While You Weren't Looking*.

Gert Van Niekerk (Nick)

Nick Van Niekerk is a versatile actor/director who appeared in various television shows. His TV series and feature films credits include: *Egoli*, *Binnelanders*, and *7de Laan*.

David Dennis (Michael)

David is a multi-award winning industry veteran, boasting a lengthy and successful acting career in South Africa's film and television industry. His film and television credits include: *7de Laan*, *Isidingo*, *Soul City*, *Rhythm City*, *Strike Back*, and *Long Walk to Freedom*.

Jonathan Pienaar (Chris)

Jonathan is a talented film and television actor whose film credits are as numerous as his television credits. These titles include: *Generations*, *Binnelanders*, *Task Force*, *Yizo Yizo*, *The Lab*, and *Wild at Heart*.

Dirk Stoltz (Johan)

Dirk is a talented and generous actors, appearing in great many television shows. His credits include: *Erfsonders*, *Binnelanders*, *Jacob's Cross*, *Arsenal*, and *Swartwater*.

Anthony Oseyemi (Kumi)

Anthony is an actor with international experience. His various local television credits include: *Isidingo*, *Jacob's Cross*, *Traffic*, *Room 9*, *Mzansi Love*.

END CREDITS

CAST

Kat	Sandi Schultz
Nick	Gert van Niekerk
Michael	David Dennis
Chris	Jonathan Pienaar
Ryan	Nicholas van der Bijl
Johan	Dirk Stoltz
Kumi	Anthoni Oseyemi
David	Johan Baird
Dr. Pillay	Hanli Rolfes
Jiang	Julian Sun
Sister Davids	Quanita Adams
Rick	Peter Terry
Boris	Nick Boraine
Carl	Justin Strydom
Crank	Lungisa Zonke
Shoti	Martin Hatidani
Acid	Greg Fletcher
Anchor	Rozanne McKenzie
Iceman	Juan le Roux
Vader	Shawn Greyling
Bubarov	Theuns Coetzee

CREW

Writer	Laszlo Bene / Sandi Schultz
Director	Laszlo Bene
Producer	Laszlo Bene / Sandi Schultz

DOP	Brad Devine
Editor	Laszlo Bene
Executive Producer	Gina Bonmariage
Original Score	Geon Hoehn
Casting Director	Belinda Kruger
Production Designer	Bryce Bowers
1st Assistant Director	Andries van der Merwe
Production Manager	Laszlo Bene
Continuity	Lauren Adendorff
Focus Puller	Juan le Roux
Gaffer	Brad Devine
Art Director	Bryce Bowers
Wardrobe Mistress	Elizabeth Croeser
Key Make-Up	Ronwyn Jarrett
Sound Mixer	Greg Fletcher