



TONGO SAA – RISING UP AT NIGHT

by Nelson Makengo



SYNOPSIS

Kinshasa, the capital of 17 million people, is plunged into darkness and insecurity, and its inhabitants are struggling to gain access to light. In a relentless quest, Kudi mobilizes the people of his neighborhood to buy a stolen cable in order to restore electricity in time for the end-of-year festivities. The committee gathers a group of mostly women and goes door-to-door to pay for the cable in the Kisenso neighborhood. At Christmas, Kudi turns into Santa Claus. Flashes of light and hope animate the streets of Kinshasa. At the same time, at Mount Mangengenge, a holy place that overlooks the city, Pastor Gédéon preaches the light of Christ as the path to life and truth. For his part, David seeks shelter because his house has been flooded by the Congo River. While observing the city, he sings, between discouragement and resilience. With a community of young men, he kills time by working out, dreaming of a better future. Tongo Saa is a subtle portrait of a population that,...

FESTIVALS

2024

74 BERLINALE Panorama

Jury Award offered by Région de Nyon – 55 Visions du Réel

21 Africa FF Cologne [Afrika Film Festival Köln]

37 IDFA – Best of Fests

41 Kassel Dokfest

CAST AND CREW

DIRECTOR Nelson Makengo · **PRODUCER** Rosa Spaliviero (Twenty Nine Studio, Belgium), Dada Kahindo Siku (Mutotu Productions, Democratic Republic of the Congo), Florian Schewe (Film Five GmbH, Germany), Michel K. Zongo (Diam Production), Marie Logie and Catherine Plenevaux (Auguste Orts), Samuel Feller (Magellan Films) · **SCORE** Bao Sissoko, Wouter Vandenabeele, Lode Vercamp · **SOUND** Moimi Wezam

Democratic Republic of the Congo, Belgien, Germany 2024
95 min

ORIGINAL TITLE
TONGO SAA

FORMAL CATEGORIES
Current Affairs, Human Rights

ORIGINAL LANGUAGES
Lingala

PREMIERE
Berlin, Germany (2024)

WORLD SALES
[Square Eyes Film](http://squareeyesfilm.com)
Habichergasse 39/3
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COPRODUCTION COMPANY
[Film Five GmbH](http://www.filmfive.net)
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[https://www.filmfive.net](http://www.filmfive.net)

FILM LOCATION
Republic of the Congo

LINKS / REFERENCE

PRODUCTION
Twenty Nine Studio & Production
<http://twentyninestudio.net>