

# CHARACTER, MEMORY & LANDSCAPE IN A SELECTION OF RECENT SOUTH AFRICAN DOCUMENTARY FILMS

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## INTRODUCTION

- ▶ Contemporary documentary film provides a space for South Africans to express experiences, views and arguments related to the 1990/1994 transition to democracy in South Africa; to process their own and others trauma; and to advocate for social justice in the face of a socio-economic situation that's changed little for most in 22 years.

## METHODOLOGY

- ▶ selection of films
- ▶ structural analysis
- ▶ comparison

## IMPORTANCE OF STUDYING DOCUMENTARY FILM

- ▶ “the visual media are a legitimate way of doing history - of representing, interpreting, thinking about and making meaning from the traces of the past ...”
- ▶ especially films “that seriously deal with the relationship of past to present” (Rosenstone, 1995: 3)



1994

THE BLOODY MIRACLE



SABIDO Productions present a feature documentary  
about the dramatic last year of apartheid

WITH PAUL EGAN WITH MEG RICKARDS & BERT HAITSMA WITH JOHN KANI  
WITH CATHERINE MEYBURGH WITH BERT HAITSMA  
WITH ARON TURIST SWARTZ & EBRAHIM MALLUM WITH CHRIS NICKLIN



# 1994: THE BLOODY MIRACLE

**Meg Rickards, 2014**

SOUTH AFRICA WILL NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN

# MINERS

## SHOT DOWN

A film by Rehad Desai



[www.minersshotdown.co.za](http://www.minersshotdown.co.za)

DIRECTOR: REHAD DESAI | PHOTOGRAPHER: NIC HOFMEYR, SHADLEY LOMBARDO, JONATHAN KOVEL | SOUND RECORDIST: PRESIDENT KAPA  
EDITORS: MERRIO BOEREMA, RUBEN VAN DER HAMMEN, KERRYN ASSAZKY, MEGAN GILL, STEEN JOHANNESSEN  
ORIGINAL MUSIC: PHILIP MILLER | CONSULTING PRODUCERS: BRIAN TILLEY, BIHEKI PETERSON, WELLE FRIBER | PRODUCERS AND SCRIPT: ANITA KHANNA & REHAD DESAI  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: MARIO VAN DER MERWE, GAVIN WATSON, CHERRY LA CRUZ, WILKIE NEALE | EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: TILIANA LUTHELI and Tony Tshabalala | EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: MARIO VAN DER MERWE, MARIO VAN DER MERWE, MARIO VAN DER MERWE  
PRODUCED BY: MARIO VAN DER MERWE, GAVIN WATSON, CHERRY LA CRUZ, WILKIE NEALE | EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: TILIANA LUTHELI and Tony Tshabalala | EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: MARIO VAN DER MERWE, MARIO VAN DER MERWE, MARIO VAN DER MERWE  
DISTRIBUTION PARTNERS: MTR World Software, MTR World Software, MTR World Software, MTR World Software, MTR World Software, MTR World Software, MTR World Software, MTR World Software, MTR World Software, MTR World Software



# MINERS SHOT DOWN

## Rehad Desai, 2014



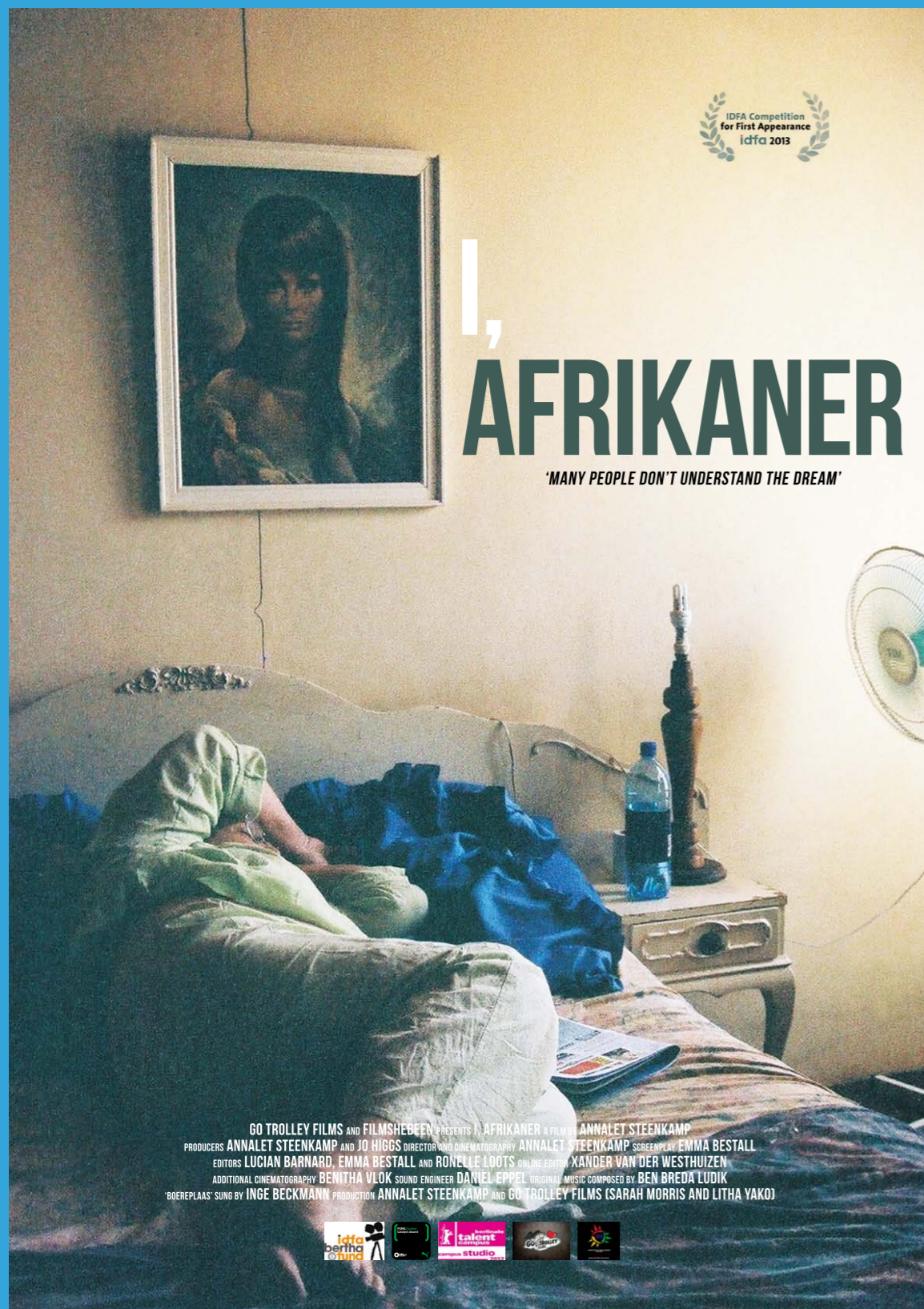


# NELSON MANDELA: THE MYTH AND ME

**Khalo Matabane, 2013**

Born Free Media and Gebrueder Beetz Filmproduktion presents "NELSON MANDELA, THE MYTH & ME" by KHALO MATABANE  
 PRODUCED BY CAROLYN CAREW CO-PRODUCED BY CHRISTIAN BEETZ AND KERSTIN MEYER-BEETZ  
 WRITTEN BY KHALO MATABANE CO-EDITED BY CATHERINE MEYBURGH DIRECTED BY GUILIO BICCARI, MIKE DOWNIE AND NICOLAAS HOFMEYR  
 EDITED BY GUSTAV STUTTERHEIM AND GITA CERVEIRA COMPOSED BY JHONED MUYANGA  
 PRODUCTION FINANCED BY TSHOLO MASHILE AND GUY STEER BORNFREEMEDIA.CO.ZA TWITTER.COM/MANDELA.DOC





IDFA Competition  
for First Appearance  
idfa 2013

# I, AFRIKANER

'MANY PEOPLE DON'T UNDERSTAND THE DREAM'

GO TROLLEY FILMS AND FILMSHEBEN PRESENTS I, AFRIKANER A FILM BY ANNALET STEENKAMP  
PRODUCERS ANNALET STEENKAMP AND JO HIGGS DIRECTOR AND CINEMATOGRAPHY ANNALET STEENKAMP SCREENPLAY EMMA BESTALL  
EDITORS LUCIAN BARNARD, EMMA BESTALL AND RONELLE LOTS ONLINE EDITOR XANDER VAN DER WESTHUIZEN  
ADDITIONAL CINEMATOGRAPHY BENITHA VLOK SOUND ENGINEER DANIEL EPPEL ORIGINAL MUSIC COMPOSED BY BEN BREDA LUDIK  
'BOEREPLAAS' SUNG BY INGE BECKMANN PRODUCTION ANNALET STEENKAMP AND GO TROLLEY FILMS (SARAH MORRIS AND LITHA YAKO)



# I, AFRIKANER

## Analette Steenkamp, 2013

## CHARACTER & LANDSCAPE

- ▶ Identity (race + culture > personal/national id)
- ▶ Land (ownership & labour)

# CHARACTER

- ▶ Voice of filmmaker
  - ▶ uninvolved researcher
  - ▶ activist
  - ▶ providing personal reflection
  - ▶ personal family history

## LANDSCAPE

- ▶ geographical placement
- ▶ context
- ▶ juxtaposition of past & present through space
- ▶ trigger viewer imagination through re-visiting of contested space
- ▶ emphasis / 'thinking space'

**MINERS SHOT DOWN**







# I, AFRIKANER

# NELSON MANDELA, THE MYTH AND ME









