

THANK YOU FOR THE RAIN

Worlds collide on the frontline of climate change

"Mastery in the art of filmmaking"

One World Media



A film by Julia Dahr & Kisilu Musya

Duration: 90min

Completion: March 2017

WEBSITE

www.thankyoufortherain.com

TRAILER

<https://vimeo.com/143747529>

PRESS PICS

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/gs7ywwz6tjhf6h1w/AACgG7CqPb2jXDEfAM9Qx7Aja?dl=0>

Logline

Five years ago Kisilu, a Kenyan farmer, started to use his camera to capture the life of his family, his village and the damages of climate change. When a violent storm throws him and a Norwegian filmmaker together we see him transform from a father, to a community leader and activist on the global stage.

**SYNOPSIS**

Over the last five years Kisilu, a smallholder farmer in Kenya has used his camera to capture the life of his family, his village and the impacts of climate change. He has filmed floods, droughts and storms but also the more human costs - his kids are sent home from school when he can't pay the fees; men are moving to towns in search for jobs; and family tensions rise. Following a storm that destroys his house Kisilu starts building a community movement of farmers fighting the impacts of extreme weather and he takes this message of hope all the way to the UN Climate Talks, in Paris, COP21. Here, amid the murky cut and thrust of politics at the biggest environmental show on earth, Kisilu and Norwegian filmmaker Julia Dahr's relationship takes on a remarkable twist, shedding a powerful light on the climate justice movement and the vastly different worlds they represent.

CONTEXT

Global weather patterns are changing at a rapid rate and leading to increased storms, droughts and floods. This is hitting those that depend on farming as a livelihood hardest. With more than 40% of the world's population working with agriculture the challenge is huge and many farming families such as Kisilu's are forced to leave their homes in search of a new beginning. UN refugee agency states that they view 'climate refugees' as a growing concern.

UNHCR predicts that climate change will force people into increasing poverty and displacement, exacerbating the factors that lead to conflict, rendering both the humanitarian needs and responses in such situations even more complex. Climatologists even say that the Syrian war is a grim preview of what increased drought caused by climate change can lead to. They claim that the civil war was triggered by destroyed crops, killed livestock and the fact that as many as 1.5 million Syrian farmers were displaced. The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre 2015 report shows that already more than 19 million people from 100 countries were forced to flee their homes in 2014 because of natural disasters.

Agroforestry that Kisilu is practicing is proven to have the potential to change the life of farmers through their own local action as it can improve the soil, stop soil erosion, and add an extra income through the sale of fast-growing trees for firewood and indigenous fruit trees. Tree planting also has the potential of microclimatic improvement as trees can buffer climatic extremes, their roots stabilise soil, their leaves reduce evaporation and cool air - increasing the chance of rain.

This highlights the potential of agroforestry to alleviate drought in Africa. However agroforestry needs strong and knowledgeable role models and leaders as the systems comprise a long list of land management skills, including crop diversification, long rotation systems for soil conservation, boundary plantings, perennial crops, hedgerow intercropping, and live fences to name a few techniques.

"It is the greatest injustice of our time and age that those who did nothing to cause climate change are first and hardest hit, whilst we who have done most to cause the greenhouse effect are hit last and least. In Thank You For The Rain we see the frontlines in the battle against climate change. Thank You For The Rain should be a wakeup call for all."

Jan Egeland

UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, 2003-06.

Co-chair of the UN High Level Panel for Global Climate Services, 2009-10.

CONFIRMED RELEASE

Theatrical Release

- Afridocs - Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa
- Norway 2017
- UK 2017

Festival

- CPH:DOX – in competition (NORDIC:DOX AWARD)
- HotDocs – in competition (International Spectrum)
- Sheffield DocFest – in competition (The Sheffield Environmental Award)

TV Broadcasts

- ZDF/ARTE France & Germany - Co-Production
- VPRO - Netherlands
- RVT - Slovenia
- LVT - Latvia
- UR - Sweden
- Afridocs - Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa

CONFIRMED FESTIVALS

CREDIT LIST

Directed by Julia Dahr
Produced by Hugh Hartford
Director of Photography Julie Lunde Lillesæter
Editor Adam Thomas
Composer Chris White
Video Diarist Kisilu Musya & Christina Wayua Kisilu
Executive Producer Sabine Bubeck-Paaz

THE WORK DONE SO FAR - KWOOLA MATHINA SELF HELP GROUPS



Photo from one of Kisilu's self-help groups named Kwoola Mathina "Poverty Eradication"

Kisilu's local community has started forming **table banking** groups which helps them save money to use when crops fail or rains are delayed. Kisilu has also started self-help groups in his area and is **teaching** climate resilient farming techniques. Two years ago three of the self-help groups wrote a proposal to the government to get an **irrigation system** to improve the harvest of the group-farming-field. Now they can harvest three times a year from the plot they share and they have nutritious food for their families and sometimes enough to sell excess food. Their dream is to expand and form a co-operative together so that they can earn some more income together. The self-help group does also keep **goats** together as a way of adapting when it gets extremely dry, then they can sell the goats. When they sell the goats they put the money into the table banking loan account.

Building on this work, the producers are now working with Kisilu, **Ford Foundation**, **Heinrich Böell Foundation**, and **Bertha BRITDOC Connect Fund** to expand Kisilu's self help group model to farming communities across East Africa.

In **East Africa**, Kisilu continues to build **climate resilient communities**, by launching a series of **farming community screenings** with workshops, seminars and discussions about adapting agricultural practices to climate change.

In **Europe** and **North America**, the producers are partnering with civil society organizations to organize **community screenings**, to give climate change a human face and put climate justice on the public agenda. Through screenings, advocacy work and social media dialogue, they aim to use the film as a tool to strengthen the climate justice movement and push for fair policies.



BIOS

Director **Julia Dahr** believes filmmakers can be changemakers. She is a Norwegian director and producer who is passionate about character driven stories that can raise attention about social and environmental issues in a new way, challenge stereotypes and create an impact. In 2015 she won the One World Media award, was nominated for the Grierson award and was listed by Forbes as one of the top 30 under 30 year olds that is 'driving and defining the world media'. *Thank You For The Rain* is julia's first feature.

Producer **Hugh Hartford** is a producer/director whose credits include the feature films *Thank You For The Rain* co-produced with ZDF in association with ARTE and *Ping Pong* co-produced by BRITDOC for Film4. He's had films released theatrically worldwide and screened documentaries at the UN, The Hague, and the UK Parliament. Hugh has won awards and secured finance from Wellcome Trust, BRITDOC, Norwegian Arts Council, Norwegian Film Institute, Creative Europe, Fritt Ord, BBC, ARTE, NRK, Al Jazeera, TVO, NHK, Channel 4, BFI and Goodpitch (2012, 2016 & 2017).

Executive Producer **Sabine Bubeck-Paaz** is a commissioning editor at ZDF (German public broadcaster) for various documentary slots on ARTE, the European Culture Channel. The ZDF department "Thema", where she is deputy head of, is dealing with One Offs, Season programming, Theme Evenings, the documentary series "ARTE Discovery" and Cross Media Projects. The investigative and creative documentary projects, she is involved in are mostly international co-productions. The topics range from Culture, Science and History to Current Affairs, Human Interest and sociopolitical issues – always wishing to discover strong and surprising stories. Lately, she has been involved in the Oscar nominated coproductions "The Act of Killing", "The Look of Silence", "Claude Lanzmann – Spectres of the Shoah" and other award winning documentaries and crossmedia productions like "Drone", "Netwars", "I am Ingrid Bergman", "The Queen of Silence", "Sugar Coated"... As a tutor, she has been participating in international pitching and training workshops. Since 2015, Sabine Bubeck-Paaz is, next to her job as commissioning editor for ZDF/ARTE, also Head of Studies of ESoDoc - European Social Documentary.

CONTACT

Hugh Hartford

e: hugh@banyak.co.uk

t: +44 (0)7730 803801

a: Banyak Films, Temple Works, Brett Passage, London, UK, E8 1JR

