

# PRESS KIT

THE SCARS OF CHILDHOOD TRAUMA PUT LOVE TO THE TEST

HIS  
NAME  
IS  
EKU



JUVAN ELISMA, KHAI TYLER, MATTHEW IMARA. A THITU PRODUCTION.  
SCREENPLAY BY THITU MUIRURI. CAMERA BY SABINE BOU JAOUDE & INGO SHOOT. MUSIC BY TAMMY ARI.  
COLOR BY ROB BESSETTE. DIRECTED BY THITU MUIRURI. PRODUCED BY MAJA GIGUERE & MATRID NYGAH.

## Director's Statement



His name is Eku is a story born out of the necessity of taking action. The words sexual abuse would automatically get me visualizing a female victim and a male perpetrator. Why? Because that's just how it always has been.

Several years of researching, interviewing men from all backgrounds, across all age groups, and talking with doctors, psychologists, teachers and mothers, have proven to me that male trauma is one of the most overlooked issues in our society.

Stigma, shame and lack of belief of those who choose to open up about their trauma brings judgment, and ridicule by fellow friends, family members, and the society in general .

This film is an invitation to get us to look at our cultural norms. To really listen, and to break this silence

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# Synopsis

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The story begins with an encounter that slowly turns into an experience of self-reflection.

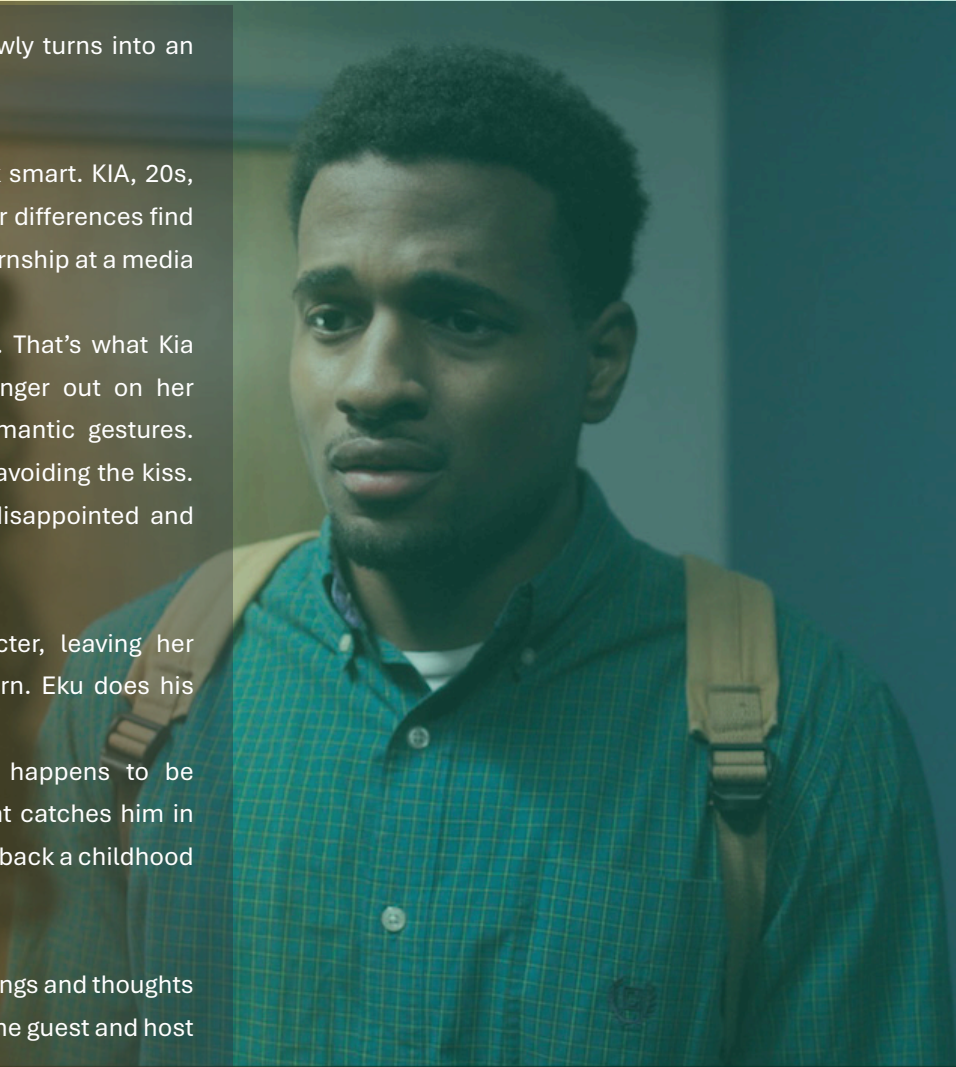
EKU, 20s, our insecure hero, is a quiet, book smart. KIA, 20s, his girlfriend is outgoing, and inquisitive. Their differences find a place in each other's heart, during their internship at a media house.

Eku's smooth talk mask his secret struggle. That's what Kia decides to address. She finally let's her anger out on her boyfriend's lack of reciprocation to her romantic gestures. Kia tries give him a kiss, but Eku steps back avoiding the kiss. Kia gives up and walks away, leaving Eku disappointed and embarrassed.

Kia's frustration engulfs her bubbly character, leaving her supervisor Alison to deal with an angry intern. Eku does his best to avoid everyone while doing his job.

The show they are preparing to produce happens to be addressing Eku's secret struggle. A topic that catches him in surprise and sends him to a dark place brings back a childhood trauma.

His attempt to contain the overwhelming feelings and thoughts fail, leading him to burst into tears in front of the guest and host



# Cast/Crew Bios

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## Juvan Elisma



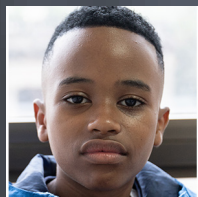
A SAG-AFTRA actor and model based out of Boston and local to Los Angeles and New York, Juvan specializes in TV, Films and Commercials. He's trained with many successful industry professionals such as Anthony Meindl, Michael Connors at Zak Barnett Studios and frequently taking lessons at OneonOne Studios in New York.

## Khai Tyler



Khai Tyler is a SAG-AFTRA actor of Caribbean and African American descent. Her most recent principal credits are the Whitney Houston biopic, *I Wanna Dance With Somebody* (Netflix) and the drama-thriller film, *Boston Strangler* (Hulu) where she plays the roommate of one of the murder victims of the notorious serial killer. She stars as the lead in the coming of age independent film, *Memoirs of a Black Girl* (Amazon Prime, Vudu, Apple TV).

## Matthew Imara



Matthew Imara is a child actor based in Nairobi Kenya. With 10 years experience in TV & print commercials. Matthew made his debut in film for the first time in 2024 as young Eku. Matthew continues to venture into greater heights as he garners excellent experience in front of the camera.

## Maja Giguere



Maja is a Rhode Island native who has been honing her craft for a long time. She graduated from Rhode Island College with her BA in Communications: Mass Media Studies. She produced a documentary for PBS shortly after graduation and has gone on to create videos for radio stations, local artists and small businesses as well as working on historical documentaries within Rhode Island and Massachusetts. She is currently in the Emerson Film and Media Arts MFA program.

## Matrid Nyagah



Matrid is a narrative film and documentary producer based in Nairobi, Kenya. She is the co-founder & executive director of Fearless Films Limited, and founder of Dada Trust. A non-profit organization that supports and celebrates women in the arts. Matrid runs the Udada International Women's Film Festival. Matrid was one of the production managers of the documentary 'SOFTIE', premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, and service Producer for the Hamburg Media School (HMS) production 'Watu Wote', Best Narrative Short at the Student Academy Awards, 2017, and was Oscar-nominated for Best Live Action Short Film in 2018.



# Behind the scenes





