

 OEA/OAS FILM LAB

Pelau Pictures

Ah Trini Cookup

PixelPlayMedia
Stories well told



AFTER 12

A FILM BY CECILE GEORGE



... **is** ***NOT*** **lunch**...

LOGLINE

Aided by an African protector deity, a traumatized teen must find the courage to challenge her incestuous uncle before he grooms her naive little sister for prostitution.

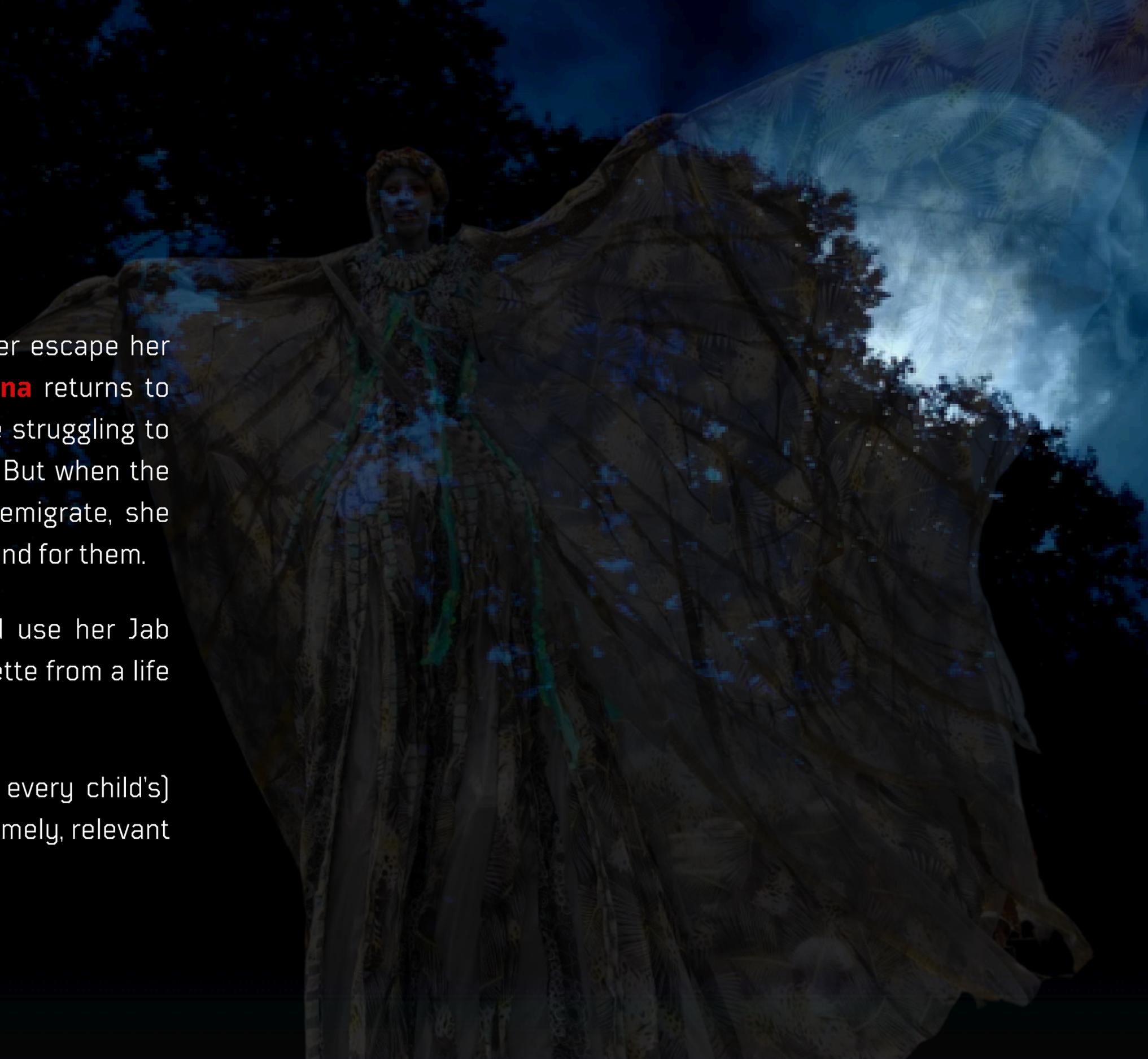


SYNOPSIS

After a **mythical African retribution deity** helps her escape her incestuous **Uncle Blues** clutches, 14-year-old **Aylana** returns to practicing the local martial whip art of Jab-Jab while struggling to steer her naive little sister **Lizette** away from him. But when the girls' mother gets a long-awaited opportunity to emigrate, she entrusts them to Blues' care until she can afford to send for them.

Now Aylana must again seek the Moko's help and use her Jab training to save both herself and the 12-year-old Lizette from a life of sexual exploitation.

Packing a forceful message about the female (and every child's) right to safety and self-determination, **After 12** is a timely, relevant Trinidadian tale with international resonance.



Returning to Trinidad and Tobago after several decades abroad, I rediscovered the incredible local history, folklore, arts, and traditions that I had never fully appreciated while growing up here. I also found a film industry that, although blessed with an amazing amount of talent and ingenuity, is struggling to find its footing. I realized that I LOVE being on the ground floor of building an industry—an ecosystem that can create steady, gainful employment for creatives for many decades to come.

In the last five years, my country has witnessed a horrendous increase in **child sexual abuse and domestic human trafficking**. While researching the effects that sexual assault can have on a child's psyche, I also discovered how **Traditional Cultural Knowledge and Characters** are being used as bulwarks against society's greatest ills. When properly purposed, these entities can give our youth a sense of place, protection, and self-worth that might otherwise be found in the gang or drug cultures. And that's how **After 12** came about.

The title comes from a local pedophile double-entendre that "**after 12 is lunch**", meaning that upon reaching age 12 a female becomes fair game for male sexual advances. This coming-of-age, female-driven drama with magic realism is a contemporary feature about a teenage girl who, aided by an African protector deity, escapes the incestuous uncle who's been molesting her since her 12th birthday, only to discover that the uncle has now set his sights on her younger sister who's about to turn 12. The story attempts to serve as a warning about the terrible things that can happen when young people are both hypersexualized AND denied agency over their own bodies,

My screenplays are part of the ecosystem that I mentioned, presenting new and different images of Caribbean peoples. No longer merely colorful, exotic backdrops to northern-oriented narratives, we are important stories in our own right, showcasing worlds that are even more incredible than the ones we often serve as backgrounds for.

— Cecile George

DIRECTOR/SCREENWRITER BIO

Hailing from Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean, Cecile George has professional experience in TV news and film production, media relations, and restaurant management. Entranced by movies at an early age through her father's 16mm screenings of American westerns, she pursued an education in visual media in Washington, DC, before launching her film production career in New York.

Her passion is telling stories rooted in her country's folklore and heritage, and her dream is to write and direct stories that prominently feature Trinidad and Tobago culture not just as a backdrop, but an integral part of the narrative, using her company, **Pelau Pictures**, to bring fascinating new dimensions to any genre.

Her greatest success to date is qualifying for the **2023 Academy Nicholl Fellowships in Screenwriting quarterfinals** with this script, *After 12*.

Her current project is *Prism*, a 20-minute narrative short now on the festival circuit. It's an experimental piece that uses visuals, ambient and created sound, and local cultural musical elements to convey an intense story about a broken man battling suicidal ideation.



CECILE GEORGE

PRODUCER **BIO**

Dion is the owner of **PixelPlay Media Limited**, a full-service production company in Trinidad and Tobago. He is the creator, co-founder, and director of the Filmmakers Collaborative of Trinidad and Tobago (FILMCO), and a 4-term appointed member on the Trinidad and Tobago Board of Film Censors. He is also a former consultant for the Trinidad and Tobago Film Company (TTFC) a former part-time lecturer in the BA Film Programme at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine campus, and the former Chair of the Independent Media Producers Association of Trinidad and Tobago (IMPATT).

Dion's broad range of experience began in television stations and production companies in both Trinidad and Tobago and St. Kitts and Nevis. From project conceptualisation and management to post-production editing and everything else in between, his portfolio dates to the 1990's and includes news features, entertainment programmes, live broadcasts, magazine format shows, corporate and personality profile videos, dramatic shorts, documentaries, and feature-length films.

His film work has received accolades and awards at local, regional, and international film festivals, notably for ***Siege, Sampson's Heart, Julia and Joyce, and Tickle Me Rich***. He is a passionate advocate for the professional development of the film industry in Trinidad and Tobago.



DION BOUCAUD

MOOD BOARD



MOOD BOARD



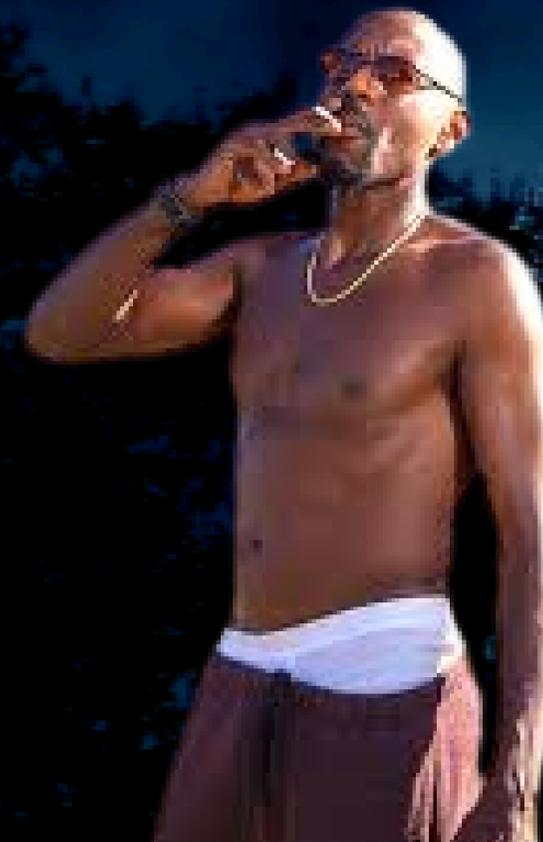
KEY CHARACTERS



Aylana Reese (14)

Traumatized and embarrassed by her Uncle Blue's continuous sexual molestation, Aylana is initially fearful of the Moko Jumbie, believing it's a sign that she's going crazy. But when she learns to recognize its appearances as warnings of imminent danger, she becomes determined to protect her younger sister from a similar experience with their uncle and resumes her training in the martial art of Rope-Jab.

But her intentions are frustrated when their oblivious mother entrusts them to Blue's care so she can migrate. And all Aylana's plans fall apart when Blues coaxes Lisette on privately celebrating her 12th birthday with him...



Uncle Blues (early 40s)

A charming, good-looking former athlete, Blues is a gambler with varying degrees of luck, which has gotten him in such deep debt that he's about to lose his bar — his sole source of steady income.. He's also a natural predator with an affinity for young girls.

Badly injured in the accident that killed Aylana's father, he's determined to walk properly again. And he sees no reason why his pretty little nieces shouldn't pay the price for the expensive operation to repair his leg...

KEY CHARACTERS



Glynis Reese (late 30s)

Struggling to make ends meet two years after her husband's sudden untimely death, Glynis harbours serious guilt about having asked Blues to accompany him that fateful night. That guilt is why she makes Aylana help out at Blues' bar, and her own financial woes make her oblivious to Aylana's distress. The foreign work permit is a Godsend — a chance to seek out a better life abroad.

But what she's too preoccupied to notice will haunt her for the rest of her life...

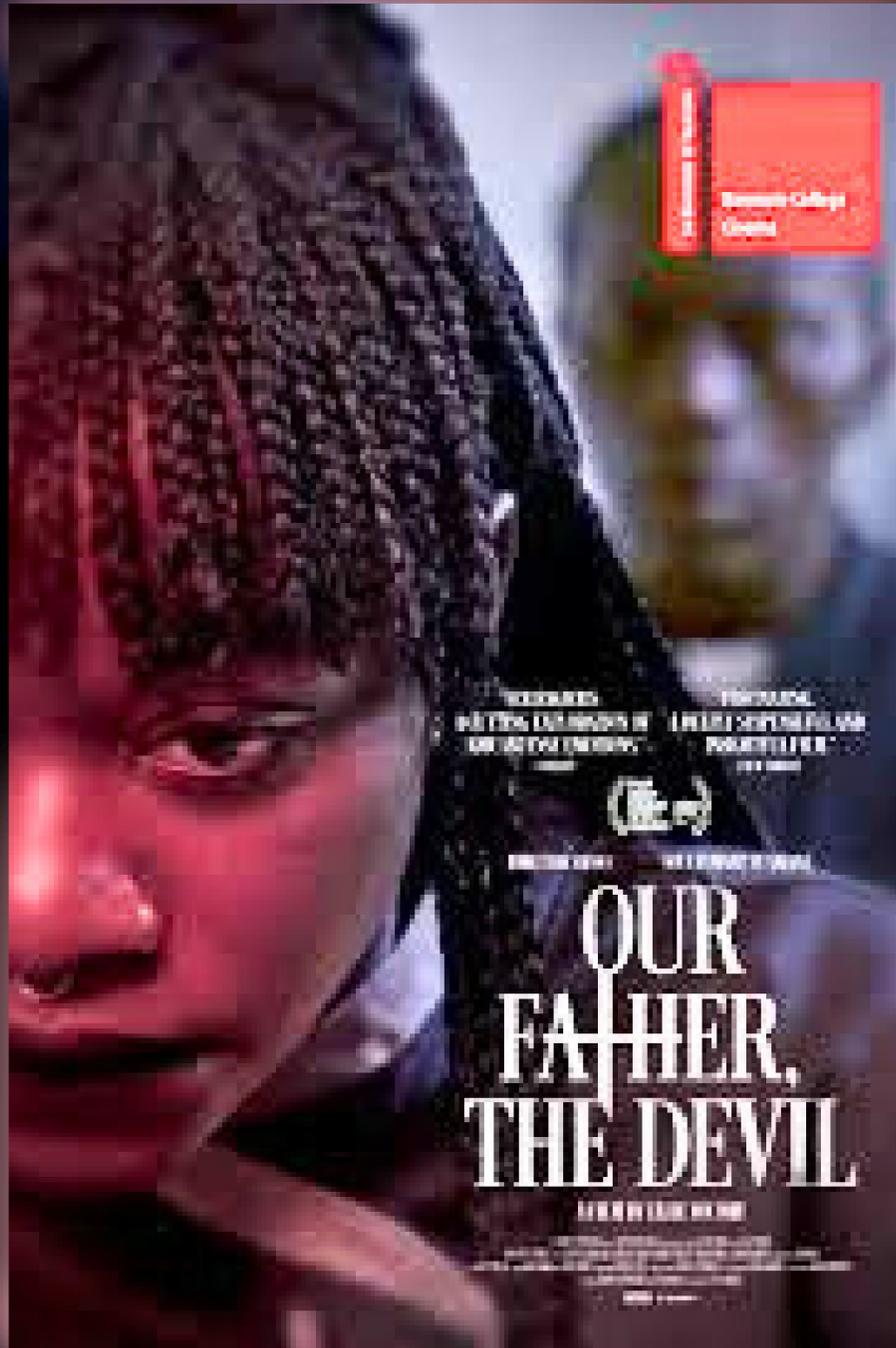


Lisette Reese (11)

Gangly, needy, and eager to please, Lisette believes that womanhood begins at 12 and can't wait for that birthday.

Desperate for attention from anyone, she finds it in her adored Uncle Blues and latches onto him despite Aylana's veiled warnings, unknowingly putting her innocence in serious danger.

COMPS



PROJECT STATUS

After 12 is currently in early development stages; its producers have applied to various international labs and are seeking co-production arrangements with foreign companies. The screenplay is under US copyright and is also registered with the WGAW.

Accolades: This script was a **quarterfinalist in both the 2023 Academy Nicholl Fellowships in Screenwriting Competition (placing in the top 10% of over 5,000 internationally submitted screenplays), as well as the Spring 2023 We Screenplay Diverse Voices Lab.** It is currently listed as **one of the top 7% of discoverable scripts on [Coverfly.com](https://www.coverfly.com)**. It is currently in its 16th draft, having been through several revisions based on feedback from the Nicholl readers and other writing workshops,

We plan on filming in semi-rural central Trinidad, and have already scouted several locations. We are also currently in discussions with the **Traditional Carnival Characters training schools** regarding using their Moko Jumbie and Jab-Jab facilities and students in exchange for equity in the film.

Anticipated release date: 2026

BUDGET SUMMARY

PRODUCTION COMPANIES: **PELAU PICTURES, PIXELPLAY MEDIA**

PRODUCERS: **Cecile George, Dion Boucaud**

DIRECTOR: **Cecile George**

TOTAL BUDGET: **US\$450,000 / €405,000**

TOTAL RAISED TO 20/10/2024: **7.0%**

PROJECT FINANCING

FINANCIAL PLAN: *AFTER 12*

PRODUCTION COMPANIES: PELAU PICTURES, PIXELPLAY MEDIA

PRODUCERS: Cecile George, Dion Boucaud

DIRECTOR: Cecile George

ESTIMATED BUDGET: US\$450,000 (€405,000)

FUNDING SOURCES	DESCRIPTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TOTAL USD	TOTAL EUROS	STATUS	% OF TOTAL
CO-PRODUCERS						
Pelau Pictures	Services	Cecile George	\$ 4,000.00	€ 3,600.00	Confirmed	0.9%
PixelPlay Media	Services	Dion Boucaud	\$ 4,000.00	€ 3,600.00	Confirmed	0.9%
Crowdfunding platform	Cash	Cecile George	\$ 5,000.00	€ 4,500.00	To be set up	1.1%
INTERNATIONAL FUNDS						
World Cinema Fund	Cash	German Federal Cultural Foundation	\$ 44,444.44	40,000.00	To be applied for	9.9%
Untold Stories	Cash and services	AT&T and the Tribeca Festival	\$ 10,000.00	€ 9,000.00	To be applied for	2.2%
Moving Picture Institute	Cash	Rising Filmmaker Program	\$ 100,000.00	€ 90,000.00	To be applied for	22.2%
Golden Script Competition	Cash	Cecile George	\$ 4,500.00	€ 4,050.00	To be applied for	1.0%
Torino Film Lab	Cash	Alessia Durante	\$ 55,555.56	€ 50,000.00	To be applied for	12.3%
Doha Film Institute Grants Program	Post-production funding		\$ 65,000.00	€ 58,500.00	To be applied for	14.4%
LOCAL FUNDS						
Film TT Tax Credit	35% Cash-back production incentive	Leslie-Ann Wills-Caton, Film Commissioner	\$ 157,500.00	€ 141,750.00	To be applied for	35.0%
Grand Total			\$ 450,000.00	€ 405,000.00		100.0%

TECH INFO

Title	<i>After 12</i>
Screenplay by	Cecile George
Director	Cecile George
Producers	Cecile George, Dion Boucaud
Shooting format	4k Raw video
Approximate running time	110 minutes
Location Country	Trinidad and Tobago
Number of Locations	15
Genre	Coming-of-age drama with magic realism
Language	(Trinidadian) English, Yoruba
Expected rating	R / 16+

CONTACT

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AFTER 12