



THE HIMBA GIRL

# Tjitji

## **SYNOPSIS - 40 words**

Tjitji, a bright young, rural Himba girl, is torn between her parent's cultural values and expectations, and her personal desire to embrace the opportunities life has to offer and maybe, even fulfil her dream of becoming a talk show host.

## **SYNOPSIS - 122 words**

Tjandjeua – Tjitji, a young, successful and ambitious student, has secret dreams of being the next famous 'Talk Show Host'.

However, Tjitji's Mother and Father live dutifully, in the time-honoured Himba tradition.

Every weekend she returns home to her village, but is concerned that Himba customs and practices, relating to young girls her age, will jeopardise her own personal dreams.

She soon learns that her Father is, as is the custom, in the process of arranging for her marriage to a young Himba man, Muasahepi.

Tjitji is upset that she's expected to follow her parents' wishes for her future and has to make a decision ... what should she do, defy her culture to follow her dream?

## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Runtime:	21 min 20 sec
Shooting Format:	SONY HXR - NX5 AVCHD, 120 fps
Exhibition Formats:	Media Files (.mov/.mpg/.avi), HDV, DVD
Languages:	Otjhimba & English
Subtitles:	English



## HOD'S STATEMENTS

### DIRECTOR

## Oshosheni Hiveluah



Tjitji the Himba Girl was such an inspiring and bold screenplay to read and the character really won over my heart. Here was the opportunity to tell a story within an interesting Namibian tribal group, that keep very much to themselves. I have always been very fascinated by Himba culture and their unpretentious way of life.

In many ways I totally understand what Tjitji is going through. What do you do with your dreams that don't seem to fit into the cultural and traditional set up within which you were born, within which you exist?

I wanted to tell a story about a young girl's courage and her fight for her dreams. It was very important and vital for us to not portray some of the cultural aspects as a negative thing, hence the inclusion of funny and light and hopefully inspiring moments in the film.

I felt it important to portray Tjitji as a person we can all relate to, who laughs and gets angry and just because she's a Himba girl, it doesn't mean she doesn't have dreams and ambitions too. We wanted Tjitji to be a Himba girl heroine, a young girl, who stands up for what she believes in without defying and insulting the culture that has nurtured her into the young woman she has become.

## HOD'S STATEMENTS

### PRODUCER:

Virginia Witts

The Namibia Film Commission's Short Film Project has given us an opportunity to tell the poignant story of just one of the many challenges young girls today face, when growing up in very traditional cultures globally.

It's been quite a journey for us all!

This story could only be filmed on location in the North Western Kunene Region, at Epupa, 900 kilometres away as our cast had to be Himba!

With a very limited budget and many Production constraints such as, the distant location, lack of electricity, intense heat and working with first time actors and the inevitable language constraints, we all knew from the beginning, that this film production would be a challenge.

The optimism, resourcefulness, solidarity and commitment from Director, Oshosheni Hiveluah and every member of our small cast and crew, and the Himba's generosity of spirit, which was and remains humbling, has resulted in a Namibian short film, which we hope you'll enjoy, and that we are exceedingly proud of!



### CINEMATOGRAPHER

Renier de Bruyn

'Tjitji - The Himba Girl' was shot on location in Epupa and surrounding areas in Namibia's North Western Kunene Region. For the most part, I tried to let the beautiful landscape tell part of the story. As most locations were in rural settings, we didn't have the luxury of extensive lighting set-ups... but our brilliant gaffer, Jaco Strauss set up a solar panel with a truck battery, with which we could charge batteries and use LED lights. For the rest of the shoot we were able to use reflectors and natural light.

In terms of shot selection and framing, I tried to let the shots add to the feelings of the scene. For instance, when Tjitji arrives in the village I shot hand held/off-shoulder to give the feeling of movement and a slight sense of chaos and confusion, as she realized that something was out of place and people were being way too friendly and welcoming... but then, when she was in her room/hut, I tried to give the shots a softer, more gentle and intimate feeling.



## HOD'S STATEMENTS

### EDITOR:

Robert Scott

'Tjitji - The Himba Girl' is about deeply rooted Himba traditions and their expectations for our main character, a young woman, who has a modern outlook to her future life and dreams.

This short story was a real challenge to edit as we needed to keep it fresh and exciting while not deviating too far away from portraying this genuinely beautiful and vivid culture.

I believe we succeeded in this endeavour and I am once again proud to be associated with this truly Namibian story. I would like to thank the Namibian Film Commission for another great film opportunity.



## CREDITS

### CAST:

Tjitji  
Tjitji's Father  
Tjitji's Mother  
Tamuna (Tamu)  
Verihiva  
Lesedi  
Bolino  
Muasahepi  
Muasahepi's Father  
Schoolgirls In Bathroom  
  
Girls At The Well  
  
Boy 1  
Boy 2  
  
Children's School  
  
Villagers

UNO KAMORUAO  
MAOONGO HEMBINDA  
TUAKARA MUTAMBO  
NAIMBONA LICIUS  
ESTER KAKOI  
NGUNOTJE RAPHAEL  
KAUNA WILLEM  
KEHITIRE DANIEL  
UTAKARA NDANDO  
MAMMY DANIEL  
MUKAA MUNGANDJO  
HINDAMI MUHONJE  
MUJO TJAMBIRU  
JAKATUNGA TJUMA  
AMOS TJIMBASI  
MBENDURA  
EPUPA PRIMARY  
SCHOOL LEARNERS  
RESIDENTS OF:  
CHIEF KAPIKA'S  
HOMESTEAD  
HIKUMINUE'S  
HOMESTEAD



# CREDITS

## CREW

Executive Producer	BRIDGET PICKERING
Producer	VIRGINIA WITTS
Director	OSHOSHENI HIVELUAH
DOP	RENIER DE BRUYN
Location Sound Recordist	GAELAN TIMM
1st A.D.	MARK GROVE
Lighting/Grip	JACO STRAUSS
Fixer/Translator/Set	SAMUEL NDIAOMBE
Editor	ROBERT SCOTT
Edit Consultant	NIKKI COMNINOS
1st Offline And Final Master	HAIKO BOLDT
Trainee Editor	GIDEON SHIIMI
Sound Design &	
Audio Post Production	WOJTEK MAJEWSKI
Production Accountant	ANKE STIER



## ADDITIONAL CREW

Script Writers	SOPHIE MUKENGE KABOMO & AUDREY MOOTSENG
Script Based On A Story By	TOUCY TJIJOMBO
Script Consultant	THANDI BREWER
Tjitji's Himba Wardrobe, Make-Up, Accessories & Hair	TUAKARA MUTAMBO
Tamu's Himba Wardrobe, Make-Up & Hair	PERAA MUHENJE
Muasesepi's Himba Wardrobe & Hair	JAKATUNGA TJUMA
Jewellery Design	KATETUA SHINUNDA
Additional Make-Up & Props	OSHOSHENI HIVELUAH
Transcriber/Translator	PUJATURA KAVETERUA
Poetry	OSHOSHENI HIVELUAH
Graphic Designer	CLARA SCHNACK
Web	MEHLULI HIKWA

## MUSIC

Composed and performed by	CHRISTIAN POLLONI & 'BIG BEN'
Senior Sound Engineer	BRIAN PETERSEN
Sound engineer	DERIK VILAS

## LOCATIONS

Epupa Primary school Headmaster	PAULUS MUMATI
Teacher	MR. KAPAZU
Epupa Community Committee	DIRK TJUMA JAKATUNGA
Himba Council	WAKAPARY TJINDUNDA
Omuremba	CHIEF HIKUMINUE KAPIKA
Otjomazeva	HEADMAN TZANANGOMBE EMBINDA
	EPUPA CAMP

## SPECIAL THANKS

Director Training: MYRTO MAKRIDES  
Jib -Thank you for your generosity: MADRYN COSBORN  
RIANNE SELLE & HER TEAM  
Epupa Falls Police Station: SERGEANT NENDONGO PETRUS, CONSTABLE NGUNAIHE U  
Epupa Falls Clinic: NURSE JAMES  
Opuwo Regional Information Office, Ministry of Information and Communication  
Technology: SELMA GUMBO  
RADIO WAVE  
MEHLULI HIKWA  
FLORIAN SCHOTT  
HELVI ELAGO  
NANGULA & NDAMONO HIVELUAH

## PRODUCTION NOTES

Our 700 kilometre journey North East to the Kunene Region's capital, Opuwo was accomplished in high spirits, with a lot of discussion and concern for the potentialities of the circumstances we could encounter, but having watched a large herd of elephant climb up a mountainside with ease en route, our attention was diverted to the amazing scenery and increasing temperature!

From Opuwo and a purchase of large quantities of ochre we travelled another 180 kilometres to Epupa Falls on a well maintained dirt road, arriving at our destination to a warm welcome back, as all our locations had been scouted several weeks earlier, by our Producer, Director, Cinematographer and Lighting/Grip.

As our budget was limited, payments were modest and we relied heavily on the kindness, goodwill and local knowledge of those we were working with.

I would like to make special mention of our Fixer in Epupa, Samuel Ndiaombe, who was exceptional, and our Cast of first time Actors, who gave their all.

We filmed for five days, using solar panels and a truck battery, to not only charge our camera batteries and to allow us to use LED lights when necessary, but to recharge homestead cell phones too.

We all, Cast and Crew, enjoyed every minute ... one more day, due to local circumstances, would have been perfect, but our Budget would not stretch to that luxury!

The Post Production process didn't run as smoothly as we had hoped.

We received a rough cut from our Editor and quickly realised we had lots of work to do. Our sound in one or two locations left a lot to be desired.

The Editing process was fascinating, as we began to see our story come alive as we tightened the edit here and there to give the storyline a better flow. An interesting musical score emphasises Tjitji's dilemma.

We have all been on a remarkable journey with this film, so it's with great delight that we can share Tjitji's journey with you.

## NAMIBIA FILM COMMISSION

'Tjitji - Himba Girl' forms part of the third round of short films funded by the Namibia Film Commission (NFC).

On the 28th May 2013 after an extensive pitching process, Producer Virginia Witts of Clever Clogs Productions and Director Oshosheni Hiveluah, were notified that they had been allocated a Budget of N\$250,000.00 to make Tjitji Himba Girl, and that the Executive Producer on the project, Bridget Pickering would manage the script development, script workshop and production process, with Nikki Comminos consulting on the film edit.

The script is based on a story outline by Toucy Tjitjombo and was written by Sophie Mukenge Kabomo and Ingrid Kinda.

The production team decided on a short 5 day shooting schedule and the NFC through Executive producer Bridget Pickering oversaw each and every aspect of the production process. The Producer, Virginia Witts, handled all the crew and cast negotiations, on the basis of a five day shoot.

Everyone involved in the entire process felt enriched and that they had made a contribution to an exciting and worthwhile project.



## BEHIND THE SCENES



## CONTACT DETAILS

### HIMBA GIRL

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FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/HimbaGirl>

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