



# tropical fish

WRITTEN BY: DIRECTED BY:  
**DOREEN MSHAI MWANGOLA**  
**BAINGANA** AND **SARAH NANSUBUGA**

STARRING: PRODUCED BY:  
**ESTERI TEBANDEKE ASIMWE DEBORAH KAWA** AND  
AND **LULU JEMIMAH KENNETH KIMULI** a.k.a **PABLO**  
TEBERE ARTS FOUNDATION -

NDERE CENTRE  
**9-10 | 15-17 OCTOBER**  
CAPITAL PALACE HOTEL  
**22-24 | 29-31 OCTOBER 2021**  
**3PM | 30,000UGX**

## WORD FROM THE PRODUCER



**ASIIIMWE  
DEBORAH KAWE**  
Producing  
Artistic Director,  
Tebere Arts Foundation

Welcome to the Tebere Arts Foundation's annual production! We are so thrilled that this year we are producing Doreen Baingana's Tropical Fish. What a journey this has been! We began working on this project in early 2020 when we accepted Doreen Baingana into our playwright's residency. The plan was to give Doreen an in person workshop with a director, actor and dramaturge, but we all know how early 2020 was like. Instead of cancelling the program, we quickly reimaged it to all happen virtually. The workshop of the play's development was quite successful despite the circumstances.

At the beginning of this year, we were eager to continue supporting the development of the play with the plan of producing it as our 2021 annual production. However, the world has continued to look a lot different than what we thought it would this time last year. We have had to do the significant part of our activities online including other planned workshops of the play as well as the first two weeks of the rehearsals. One of the directors of the show, Dr. Mshai Mwangola has had to direct the show online from Nairobi and Sarah Nansubuga has been in the space to shepherd the process as the "in the room" director.

The pandemic has disrupted all of our lives and livelihoods in the most unimaginable ways. Live performance has taken the hit as expected. But as we say in theatre; "the show must go on!" Therefore, it is truly an honour for us to finally bring you Doreen's brilliant writing. Thank you Sarah and Mshai for your tenacity in bringing this play to life. Thank you Esteri and Lulu for sharing your talent with us and for your flexibility as the schedule kept changing because of all the uncertainty that came with the pandemic. I'd also like to take a moment and thank my colleagues at Tebere Arts Foundation who work selflessly to support the artists that walk through our doors. The work that I do would not be as fun and fulfilling without you! In a very special way, I'd like to thank our emerging artists, the 2021 cohort who joined Tropical Fish family about three months ago and are working in every department as assistants as part of their emerging artists intensive lab.

Tebere Arts Foundation's annual program of the emerging artists lab, the playwright's residency, the annual production and the Kampala International Theatre Festival would not be possible without our partners and supporters, partners and supporters who believe in the work that we do, who believe that art makes change possible, that art can change perceptions and that art and culture hold a very important place in all of our lives: Doen Foundation, Ndere Cultural Centre, The Sundance Institute, USA for Africa, Goethe Institute, Uganda National Cultural Centre-National Theatre, THANK YOU!

Thank you our patrons who support us day in and day out!  
Welcome and enjoy the play!

## THE CREATIVE TEAM



**DOREEN  
BAINGANA**  
Playwright  
'Tropical Fish'

**Doreen Baingana** is a writer, editor and arts manager whose short story collection, *Tropical Fish*, won a Grace Paley Prize and a Commonwealth Prize for Best First Book, Africa Region.

Other awards include three nominations for the Caine Prize, the most recent in June 2021; a Sustainable Arts

Foundation Grant, 2021; a Rockefeller Bellagio Residency in 2017 and a Miles Morland Scholarship for African Writers in 2014.

She has also published two children's books, as well as fiction and essays in numerous international journals.

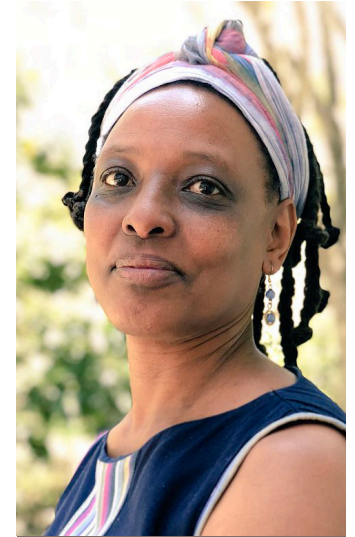
Ms. Baingana has a law degree from Makerere University, Kampala, and an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Maryland, USA, where she was later a Writer-in-Residence. In 2016, Ms. Baingana co-founded and is the Director of the Mawazo Africa Writing Institute, based in Entebbe.

Ms. Baingana embraced theatre when her short story, *Tropical Fish*, was performed at the Writivism Festival and Kampala International Theatre Festival (KITF) in 2016, and three other venues in Kampala and the AfriCologne Theatre Festival in 2017. Another play, *Hills of Salt and Sugar* was staged at KITF in 2018. Further, *Questions of Home* is forthcoming this year in the anthology *Telling Our Stories of Home: International Performance Pieces by and about Women* edited by Kathy A. Perkins. In 2020, Ms. Baingana received a Tebere Arts Foundation Playwright's Residency to fully adapt *Tropical Fish* to the stage, and is excited to continue this process to production with Tebere in 2021.

**Mshai Mwangola** is a talented performance scholar, storyteller, and oratorist. She has performed, conducted performance workshops, researched and worked with and for diverse performance ensembles and individuals in four continents and has a career stretching over 25 years in acting, directing and story-telling.

Mshai holds a PhD in Performance Studies from Northwestern University (USA). Her thesis on Kenya's "Uhuru Generation", titled '*Performing Our Stories, Performing OurSelves*', approaches the idea of a generational historical mission through the re-creation, invocation and facilitation of performance as a site of individual and communal reflection. Prior to this, she obtained an MCA (Masters of Creative Arts) from the School of Studies in the Creative Arts, University of Melbourne (Australia) and a Bachelor of Education (Hons) from Kenyatta University (Kenya).

Mshai's pedagogy, research and creative work is grounded in understanding performance as both the process and product of meaning-making. Her specialties as an academic researcher include; Teaching experience at multiple levels (kindergarten to university), Theatre director and actor; Performance scholar and educator; Oratorist with particular interest in storytelling,



**MSHAI  
MWANGOLA**  
Director

Workshop facilitator and Teaching consultant

She is the chairperson of the Governing Council of the Kenya Cultural Centre.





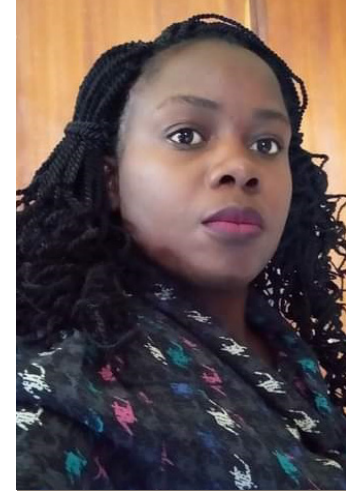
**SARAH  
NANSUBUGA**  
Co-Director

**Sarah Nansubuga** holds a Bachelor of Dramatic Arts Degree from the University of the Witwatersrand (Johannesburg, SA), and has recently graduated with an MFA in Acting from Louisiana State University (August 2019). Following her Graduation, she acquired a position at the Algiers Charter School Association as the primary Theater

and Dance instructor for Grades K-12 (2019-2020), during which she was solely responsible for creating curricula, curating lesson plans and engineering student productions for learners in this grade bracket. Outside instructional time, Sarah worked actively on the New Orleans theater scene as an actor and theater maker, having most recently appeared as the titular character in Southern Rep's *Mother Courage and her Children*, in addition to writing and submitting an original piece for *The Breath Project (2020)*. She is a member of the Acting Company under Southern Reparatory Theatre in New Orleans, having appeared in Danai Gurira's *Eclipsed* as Maima, and the aforementioned *Mother Courage*. Other notable theatre roles include *Miss Ruby in Airline Highway*, Thomasina (understudy) in *Arcadia* and *Lysistrata* in *Lysistrata*. She has since returned home to Uganda and has joined founder Aganza Kisaka under Yenze Theatre Conservatoire as an Acting / Voice / Movement Instructor and course curriculum curator. In Uganda, she has most recently appeared in *Key Card (2021)*, a precursor for the upcoming feature film *Black Glove (2021)*, and has been involved in several writing projects. Sarah is ecstatic to come on board as a Mentor for the Emerging Artist Lab at Tebere Arts, and looks forward to interacting with and learning from students and fellow Mentors.

**Atukunda Pamela Hannah** is an everyday student of art, a writer, stage manager, and director. She is doing stage management on the Tropical Fish production.

She has done stage management for *Betrayal in the City* and *The Government Inspector* at the Uganda national theatre 2016. Pamela has written radio dramas for Kubri Bridge in South Sudan 2017. She also attended the intensive emerging artist in 2019 under which she worked as the assistant director for the Redhills production. She wrote *Cryptic* during the Tebere Lab, a story which was told in the African summer camp in Amsterdam August 2021



**ATUKUNDA  
PAMELA**  
Stage Director

**Esteri Tebandeke** has performed in various theatre productions. From *Lion and Jewel* to *Maria Kizito* by playwright Erik Ehn that she performed on stage in New York and New Orleans.

She also portrayed young girl Maria in a play *Cooking Oil* by a Ugandan playwright Asiimwe Deborah Kawe on stage here in Uganda and in Los Angeles. *Marriage Chronicles* by playwright Samuel Tebandeke and *Conversations with my Mother* a play she co-wrote with Samuel Tebandeke.



**ESTERI  
TEBANDEKE**  
Actress



**LULU  
JEMIMAH**  
Actress

**Lulu Jemimah** is a writer, editor and producer from Uganda. She started out as a freelance journalist and after a decade, worked as a communication consultant for the International Organisation for Migration on human trafficking.

This is where she experimented with writing scripts for radio, screen and the stage. In 2013, this earned her a BA Media (film) scholarship from Macquarie University (Australia), where she was later shortlisted for the 2015 Monash Undergraduate Prize for Creative Writing. In 2019, she graduated from the Masters in Creative Writing program at the university of Oxford where she majored in audio storytelling.

Her goal is to tell authentic Ugandan experiences, whether it is through her podcast [Realtalk256](#), her work as a producer for NGO documentaries, or her hobby doing comedy on stages far away from home. She can be found on Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/lulujemimah>  
or <https://lulujemimah.net/>

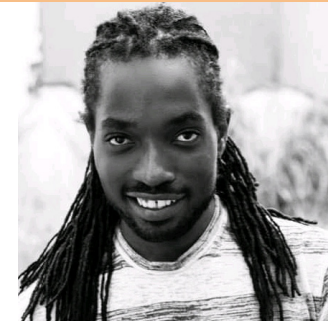
## PRODUCTION TEAM



**Gerald Puto**  
Set Designer



**Grace Kateete**  
Makeup Artist



**Guy Zziwa**  
Costume Designer



**David Ddembe**  
Light Design



**Ismail Ssebuwufu**  
Sound Design

## EAI-LAB PARTICIPANTS



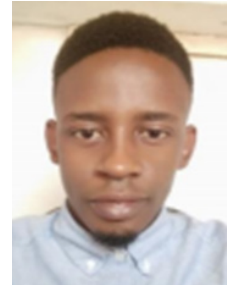
**Brenda Ibarah**  
Participant



**Kamanda Bosco**  
Participant



**Kitaka Alex**  
Participant



**Mugume Linus**  
Participant



**Nakiyonga Margaret**  
Participant



**Komagum Rogers**  
Participant



**Lubwama Duncan**  
Participant



**Micheal Patrick Tamale**  
Participant



**Tumuhirwe Dorothy**  
Participant



**Ulokwinuyu Ubia Hope**  
Participant

Emerging Artists Intensive Lab is an initiative for Ugandan Emerging Artists interested in theatre and performance for live audiences where they are given an opportunity to be mentored by established theatre-makers from Uganda and elsewhere.

Through lectures and hands-on work on projects developed throughout the lab, the focus is on helping each emerging artist

acquire skills in various fields in the arts so that they discover their unique artistic voice.

Each class is designed in such a way that the artists are tasked to critically think and interrogate their involvement in the Arts, their existing passions and the skills they seek to develop while in residency.



## OUR SPONSORS



## APPRECIATION

In a very special way, we would like to convey our sincere gratitude to: Kimuli Kenneth, Asimwe Deborah Kawe, Rosette Nteyafas, Faith Lunyolo, Kahuma Walter, Stephen Rwangyezi, Musinguzi Bamuturaki, Steven Odeke, Buule Gabriel, Nasasira Roland, Andrew Kagwa, Mugarura Mutana Rachel, Kangye David, Niwagaba Roland, James Onen, Emurwon Mable Joy, Nsubuga Paul and Mary K. Onen for the support given to make this show a success.

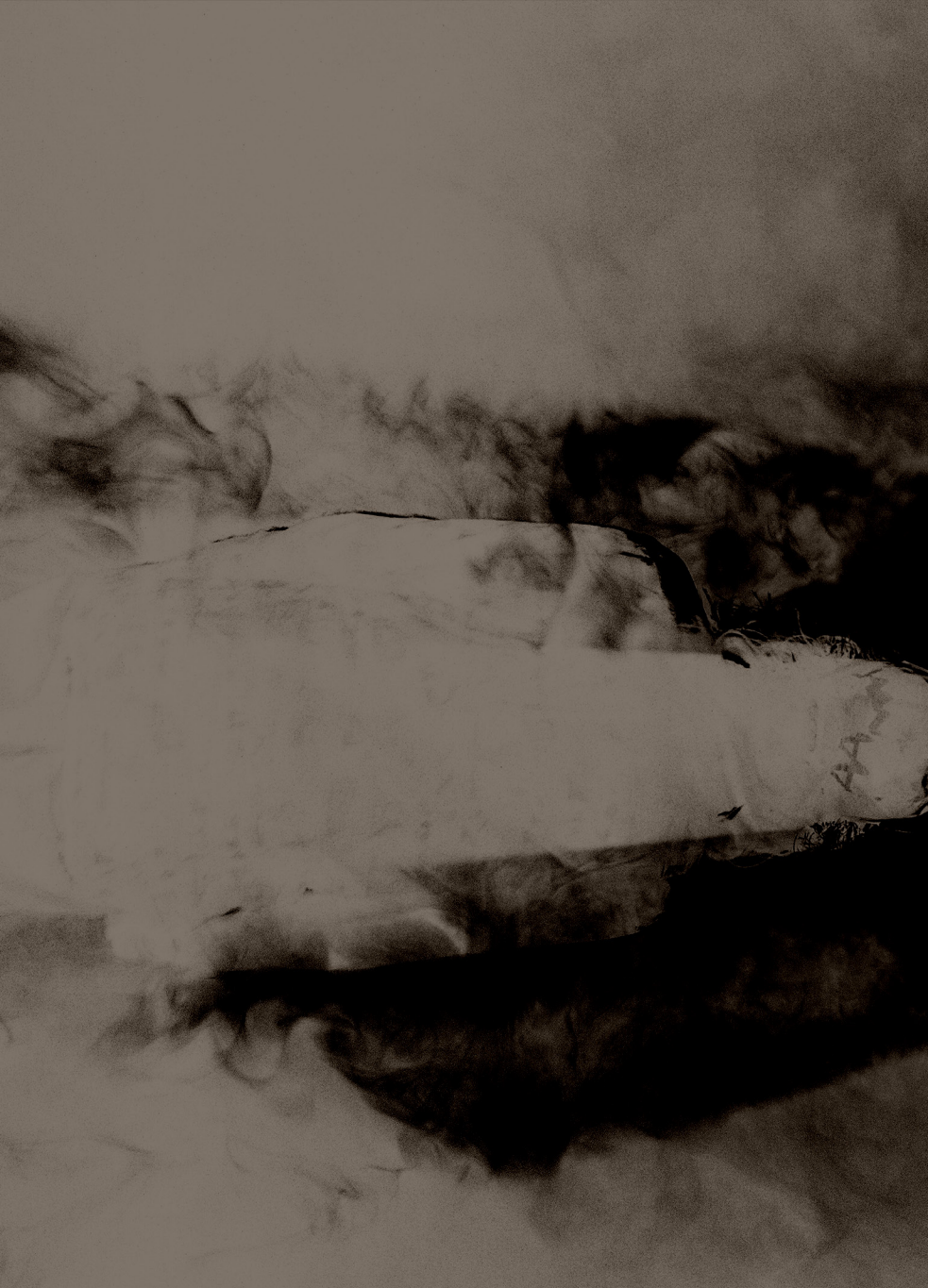
KAMPALA  
INTERNATIONAL  
THEATRE FESTIVAL

# KAMPALA INTERNATIONAL 8<sup>EDITION 2021</sup> THEATRE FESTIVAL

JOIN US VIRTUALLY  
FOR OUR  
**8TH EDITION OF THE  
KAMPALA INTERNATIONAL  
THEATRE FESTIVAL (KITF)**  
THIS WILL  
**A 4-DAY ONLINE  
FESTIVAL**

[www.kampalainternationaltheatrefestival.com](http://www.kampalainternationaltheatrefestival.com)

**24-28  
NOV.  
2021** | **ONLINE  
EDITION**



[www.tebere.org](http://www.tebere.org)