

Title: Stories in die Wind (*Stories in the Wind*)

Duration: 60 Minute

Genre: Animation

Languages: Nama | Afrikaans | English Subtitles

Writer | Director: Deidre Jantjies

Animators: Dav Andrews | Tauriq Isaacs | Joshua Roypin

Producer: Na Aap Productions

Cost: R 250 000.00

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/c9ZG4RCCXz8>

Logline:

Stories are a key part of our rich legacy and intangible heritage: language, memory, ritual, traditional knowledge systems & practices.

Synopsis:

A *Nama & Afrikaans* language story, a young girl from Richtersveld was born with a gift to communicate with the rain, animals and plants. This gift will be a blessing for the Nama people of the Richtersveld community. An old wise woman in the community guides her to use this gift for the greater good. The child is then acknowledged in the community having a lot of expectation from her when she is older.

A huge dryness comes over the small *Nama* community one day, rain has not been coming to visit their landscape anymore and it created a shortage in food and water. This is because of the way that the community was reacting to the blessings of the Rain. The community has been wasting the water and has lost their respect for it, and did not acknowledge rain the way they always have in their tradition. The children were not acting according to the customs and this disrupted the cycle of the rain.

Rain was keeping himself away from their landscape, the community then had to ask the moon to tell them who they should send to speak to rain for they are in need of him. The moon then replies to send the young girl that was chosen.

She goes on the journey of finding rain, asking him to send blessing on their land. The child walks for many days to find the rain as he is a very busy and an important part of nature. She finds help from a plant and a lizard that could guide her into the direction of the rain. When she finds him, he is stubborn and makes her go back to speak to her people in order for them to know that their actions made the rain stay away.

Artist Profile:

Deidre Jantjies is a cultural activist; her focus is telling First Nation Indigenous stories of Southern Africa. This flamenco dancer found herself performing on Artscape theatre stage, with La Rosa Spanish Dance Theatre since the age of 17 years old and as time went by her vision changed as she started to understand her purpose as a brown skinned woman in Southern Africa. She started a production company called Na Aap Productions, a South African broad-based production company,

screening, unearthing untold indigenous historical stories. Na Aap Productions started because there was a misrepresentation in the world of indigenous people, the production house then became a place to express creative artistry into stage performances, short-film development, feature films and animation.

Deidre Jantjies wrote the 'Stories in die Wind' project in 2018 when she started to find her voice as a writer. She learned how to take risks with this story and entered it into the Jake Gerwel Foundation writer's mentorship. Her application was successful and is currently being developed into a book with a series of stories.

Deidre is also making a name for herself as a producer in the industry, recruiting talented women that she works closely with, she believes that African stories in the future will win 22 Oscars, this is what indigenous stories deserves. Her journey continues as she takes up space in the industry to create indigenous content that gives voice to those that didn't have the chance.

<https://www.bruinou.com/aweh/bruinou-tv/video/sarah-baartman-is-my-ancestor-deidre-jantjies>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AjMFovLk8Ms>
<https://www.timeslive.co.za/amp/sunday-times/books/news/2019-09-16-qa-with-storyteller-and-cultural-activist-deirdre-jantjies/?fbclid=IwAR3VKFwIAtsF9Z4s4bXNPi--I5ojlx30vAHBG2EKT7JFIjmC0TPXCIC6XSg>
<https://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/Local/Peoples-Post/best-minute-film-winners-20191028>

Objective:

This initiative is aimed to be screened internationally in theatre & film festivals abroad. The film wants to highlight the African identity, indigenous stories that can connect and unearth the story within each African.