



FROM PATRICE TO LUMUMBA

DOCUMENTARY OVERVIEW

Genre: Documentary
Running Time: 70 minutes
Director: Patrick Kabeya
Writer/s: Patrick Kabeya and Mina Malu
Narrator: Mina Malu
Language: French
Subtitles: English

PRESS CONTACT

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Directed by Patrick Kabeya

SYNOPSIS

As his fate was decided, Patrice Lumumba decided to write a letter to his wife, as a token of the promise he had made to himself about his country and his people.

This letter, although keeping a militant tone, reveals the more private side of Lumumba, yet freer still to express what is deep inside him. This story, mainly told in his own words, gives Lumumba back the humanity he was not afforded throughout his career.

It is about understanding the passion that animated his convictions. But above all, it is about seeing the man behind the political emblem, facing a destiny that gradually escapes him.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

When I started toying with the idea of a Lumumba biographical documentary, I knew that I had to focus the story on Patrice Lumumba as a person and tell it from his own perspective. I needed a different angle; and the last letter to his wife Pauline was the most complete document which showed a vulnerable side but also the militant Lumumba who became synonymous with the African independence movement.

I felt that I knew the film I wanted to make, but I was also very conscious of producing a film about a person who most Congolese regards as the number one national hero. It was intimidating at first as I felt an enormous sense of responsibility to deliver this documentary. Patrice Lumumba's story is very important, not only for Congolese, but for all Pan-Africans.

I wanted Lumumba to regain his humanity with this film. I needed his voice, vision and thoughts to be heard. I felt it was the best way to get the emotions into the story. I had to tell it right. I needed to make sure that the core of the story was his narrative; through his interviews and the letter.

Once I mentally accepted the responsibility, I remembered Lumumba's line from the letter which says; *"Africa will write its own history and both north and south of the Sahara it will be a history full of glory and dignity."* and knew that I had the responsibility to do this film. I had the responsibility to produce a film which would show Lumumba, the man who just wanted an independent Congo and a free Africa. I hope to have achieved that.

I want the viewers to be shocked when they watch it. I want them to question what they knew about the man, and most importantly, I want the viewers to be in the moment and feel all those events and what it was like for Lumumba to have been the main character in this story. I hope this documentary will do just that.

–Patrick Kabeya

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Director, Writer and Producer: Patrick Kabeya

Born in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Patrick Kabeya is a Congolese-Canadian award winning Documentary Producer currently based in Ottawa, Canada.

Patrick has produced and/or directed several independent Congolese historical documentary feature films as well as numerous short documentaries.

His recent documentaries include the feature-length documentaries "Congo – A Political Tragedy" (2018) and "From Patrice to Lumumba" (2019), "Congo – Nature" (2018) as well as the first season of the "Congo Series" program.

His films have screened at numerous international festivals across the globe and received several accolades including "Audience choice Award" and

being nominated for the UNESCO Flemish Commission African documentary of the year 2020.

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FESTIVAL AND SCREENINGS

- [Festival International du Film Panafricain de Cannes 2019](#), France
- African Film Festival 2019, Uganda
- [Festival Lumieres d'Afrique 2019](#), France
- International Moving Film Festival 2020, Iran
- [Leuven Afrika FilmFestival 2020](#), Belgium
- The Black Cinema Meeting 2020, Brazil
- Festival International du Cinema des peuples 2021, Caledonia
- [Ottawa Black Film Festival 2021](#), Canada
- [Calgary Black Film Festival 2021](#), Canada

MEDIA ARTICLES/ INTERVIEWS:

- [CBC Radio Interview](#)
- [Radio-Canada](#)
- [La Rotonde](#)
- [Veto.be](#)
- [CKCU FM 93.1](#)

