



Jackson 'Sparrow' Kang'ethe

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Bio

Jackson Kang'ethe is a Kenyan Cinematographer/1st Assistant Camera with a deep-rooted passion for telling authentic African stories. His journey into filmmaking began at the age of 13, and since then, he has constantly pursued to perfect his craft.

He is widely recognized for his cinematography in Midlife Crisis, directed by Zippy Okoth—a project that earned him a nomination for the prestigious Kalasha Awards. Jackson has also worked on several documentary projects as 1st Assistant Camera such as 'Surviving Black Hawk Down' on Netflix, Chasing the Rains on Sky Nature TV, 42.195 and many others.

Kang'ethe's commitment to telling authentic African stories is a driving force behind his work. He is dedicated to showcasing the diversity and richness of African culture and society through his cinematography.

Skills

Cinematographer

First Assistant Camera / Focus Puller (RT Motion CTRL 3. , CTRL 1, Nucleus M, WCU-4, HI-5)

DIT / (Shotput Pro, Hedge)

Editor (FCPx/ Adobe Premiere Pro/Davinci Resolve Studio)

Digital Experience

Arri Alexa Mini / XT+ / SXT / SXTW/ ALEXA MINI LF / ALEXA 35

RED EPIC DRAGON / HELIUM / MONSTRO / WEAPON / GEMINI / DRAGON / V RAPTOR XL / KOMODO OG / NIKON ZR

SONY F3/FS7/FX3/FX6/FX9/A7S3/A73/BURANO/VENICE 2

BLACKMAGIC POCKET 4K/6K/6KPRO URSA MINI PRO G2

CANON C300/C300KM2/C300M3/C100/C200/C70/EOSR/EOSR5/5DMK3/C50

Freefly Ember 5k

Go Pro Hero 8,9,10,11,12,13

School

Bachelor of Arts ; Film Technology and Theatre Arts; Kenyatta University 2012-2017

Camera Assisting Workshop with Jana Fitzner (Germany) : One Fine Day films 2018

Cinematography Workshop with Willy Owusu 2021

Cinematography Short Course with Jutta Pohlmann : Some Fine Day Pix ; 2021

Cinematography Workshop / Canon Roadshow Video with Enos Olik 2024

Awards/Nominations

Kalasha Award Nominee 2020 - Best Director of Photography for Midlife Crisis

Kalasha Award Nominee 2026 - Best Director of Photography for Kanairo

Best Cinematographer Nairobi Winner 2021 - 48 hour film project for Hypnagogia

Contributions

Jury 2024 Alliance Francaise Smartphone Film Competition

Cinematographer Trainer 2024 & 2025 FilmFupi Training Cohort 1 & 2 by US Embassy Kenya

NBO Cinematography Workshop 2024

Filmography

Narrative Cinema

Year	Title	Role	DP/Director
2026	Cue Stick (In Development)	Cinematographer/Executive Producer	Eric Sirama
2026	Banana Time	First Assistant Camera	Jacob Krupnick / Soren Nielsen
2026	Kibra Lottery	First Assistant Camera	Joan Poggio / Nathan Collett
2026	Ikimanuka (Rwanda)	Focus Puller / 1st Assistant Camera	Naizi Nasser / Samuel Ishimwe
2026	Whispers of a burning scent (Somalia)	2nd Assistant Camera / DIT	Mo Harawe/Mustafa Kashef
2026	Stars and Vows Netflix Reality Show - (South African)	Camera Assistant	Pascual / JJ Osborne
2025	The Yellow Dress (The All African Independent Film Festival - Best Independent Film winner 2025)	Associate Producer	Mike Lolly P.
2025	The Earth has ears	First Assistant Camera	Ahmed Farah / Khadar Ayderus Ahmed
2024	Killer Music (Uganda)	1st Assistant Camera / Focus Puller	Naizi Nasser / Mitra Anurban
2024	DETOUR short film	Cinematographer	Wambui Kairo
2024	Thayu	Focus Puller	David Sikobe/JJ

		 "THAYU" Official ...	Njumbi
2024	Gilgil (TV Feature Film)	Cinematographer  OFFICIAL GILGIL ...	Jhe Waweru
2024	Kejani	Cinematographer	Kiragu Chan
2023	It's a Free Country	First Assistant Camera/Focus Puller  It's A Free Countr...	Skubi / JJ Njumbi
2023	Second Family Showmax (Telenovela)	Additional Cinematography (Specific segments EP 16,17, 40,41,42,43)  [SEASON FINALE...	Adam, Edwin Kamau, Mkamzee Mwatela
2023	DO or DIE (Feature film)	Cinematographer	Zippy Okoth
2023	Otis Janam (Feature film) (Nominated for ZIFF 2024)	Cinematographer  OTIS JANAM OFF...	Zippy Okoth
2023	Hope	Cinematographer	Ceci Miah
2023	Kanairo (Nominated for ZIFF 2024)	Cinematographer https://vimeo.com/793952478	Ceci Miah
2022	Ka-nuthu (Short Film)	Cinematographer	Martin Kigundu
2022	Contract Love (Feature film, Showmax/DSTV)	Cinematographer https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7m6sP_HKZNw	Zippy Okoth
2022	If you know, you know	Focus Puller	Ishmael Azeli/Abu Melita
2022	Igiza (Showmax Original)	Focus Puller (EP 1-7)  Igiza Launch Trail...	Shuria Abdi/Deen/Azeli Ishmael
2022	Inheritance (Some fine Day Pix)	Cinematographer  OFFICIAL TRAIL...	Barbara Minishi
2022	White Gold (Feature Film)	Focus Puller	Mike Lolly P/ Neil Scheil
2022	Midnight Van (Nominated for ZIFF 2024)	Focus Puller	Mike Lolly P/ Carol Odongo
2022	Stero	Focus Puller	Deen Ahmed

		Stero – trailer IF...	
2022	Arday Somali Series (Nominated for ZIFF 2024)	Cinematographer / 1st AC TAXANAHA ARD...	Ahmed Farah
2021	Uamuzi (Short)	Cinematographer Uamuzi (Choices)	Nick Reding
2021	Polisi Policy (Pre-PRODUCTION)	Cinematographer	Martin Kigundu
2021	Dice (Feature film, Kenyan Scenes)	Camera Operator (Kenya Unit) "DICE" Official M...	Wambui Muigai
2021	Bufis (Feature Film) (ON NETFLIX)	Camera Operator Bufis (2023) Trailer	Joan Poggio
2021	Hypnagogia	Cinematographer	Karanja Ng'endo
2020	Midlife Crisis (Feature Film)	Cinematographer MIDLIFE CRISIS F...	Zippy Okoth
2020	How to dream in African (Feature Film)	Cinematographer	Kui Wamithi
2020	Gatarashaine (short)	Cinematographer	Kigundu Martin
2020	Angela (short)	Cinematographer	Abu Melita
2020	Contained (short)	Cinematographer	Kigundu Martin
2020	Adapting (short)	Cinematographer	Muriithi Mwangi
2020	Comeback (short)	Cinematographer	Alice Kombani
2020	New Normal (short)	Cinematographer	Alice Kombani
2020	S.A.F.E. Samburu Short Films	Cinematographer SAFE Samburu HI... SAFE Samburu FG... SAFE Samburu C...	Nick Reding
2020	Nafsi (Feature film) (ON Netflix)	BTS Cinematographer/Director/Editor	Shuria Abdi/Reuben Odanga
2020	Ayaanle (Feature film) (ON Netflix)	Focus Puller AYAANLE - Offici...	Shuria Abdi/Ahmed Farah

2019	Kahawa Black (Short)	2nd Assistant Camera	Emma Nzioka/Samuel Tebandeke
2019	Lusala (Feature film) (ON Netflix)	2nd Assistant Camera  LUSALA - Official ...	Emma Nzioka/Mugambi Nthiga
2019	Sand Castles (Short)	Cinematographer	Kigundu Martin
2018	Ten O'clock (Short)	1st Assistant Camera/Focus Puller	Bo Muigai/Esteri Tebandeke
2018	MIA's Great Escape (Short)	2nd Assistant Camera	Nathan Collett
2017	Torn (Short)	Cinematographer	Muriithi Mwangi
2017	Metamorphosis (Short)	Cinematographer	Muriithi Mwangi
2016	Nazif (Short)	Cinematographer	Jimmy Gor

Docs/TV

Year	Title	Role	DP/Director
2026	Wells of Time	First Assistant Camera	Noella Luka / Ahmed Farah
2026	Tropic Air Bush pilots Episode	1st Assistant Camera	Ahmed Farah / Luke Wilms
2026	Women's Day feature ; Manufacturing Africa	B Camera Operator	Naizi Nasser
2026	Terraton/BioChar Documentary	1st Assistant Camera / Production Assistant	Joan Poggio
2026	KMTC Graduation Documentary	Cinematographer	Edu
2025	Gates Foundation Health	1st Assistant	Joan

	Documentary	Camera/Gaffer	Poggio/Shravan Vidyarthi
2025	LG HVAC Documentary	1st Assistant Camera 📺 LG HVAC CASE S...	Done by Don
2025	DW Healthy ME SSN 2 Episode 1 - Living with Disability (Kenya) Episode 2 - Intermittent Fasting (Kenya) Episode 3 - Chronic Liver Disease (Kenya) Episode 4 - Living with HIV/AIDS (Uganda) Episode 5 - Sickle Cell disease (Uganda)	Co-Director / DP 📺 Winning the fight ...	Elayne Okaya
2025	IFTIN Documentary (Mogadishu)	1st Assistant Camera/Focus Puller 📺 Healing from Trau...	Ahmed Farah
2025	Ocean Planet	1st Assistant Camera/Focus Puller	Ahmed Farah
2025	Surviving Black Hawk Down (Netflix)	1st AC/Focus Puller 📺 Surviving Black H...	Ahmed Farah /Jack MacInnes/Stefano Ferrari
2025	MTV Shuga Genfree John Johnny Johnté MTV Doc	2nd Camera/Focus Puller 📺 MTV Shuga Genfr...	Simon Mwai / Joash Omondi
2025	DALA	Cinematographer / Co-director	Angela Dorice Noi
2025	Tsavo : A moment in Time	Camera Operator/Editor	Simon Trevor / Joan Poggio
2015-2017	KUTV (Kenyatta University Television)	TV Cameraman	Cameraman
2024	DW Healthy Me Endometriosis	Co-director & Cinematographer 📺 Winning the fi...	Elayne Okaya
2024	DW Healthy Me Drug Abuse	Co-director & Cinematographer 📺 Winning the fi...	Elayne Okaya
2024	BLACK IS GOLD	1st Assistant Camera 📺 IRABURA THE O...	Naizi Nasser

2023 Sept	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; A Kenyan farmer and the miracle potato	First Assistant Camera ▶ A Kenyan farmer ...	Oliver Cohen / Shrvan Vidyarthi
2023 July	Water.org Documentary	Camera Operator ▶ The power of sust... ▶ Closing the gap be...	Abdi Shuria
2023 June	Inside Dadaab: life in one of the world's largest refugee camps Channel 4 UK Doc	Cinematographer ▶ Inside Dadaab: life...	Jamal Osman
2023 March	Videos showing sexual exploitation of Somali women shared online: Channel 4 UK Doc	Cinematographer (Kenya unit) ▶ Videos showing se...	Jamal Ousman
2022	Free Money (Netflix)	Additional Cinematography ▶ Free Money Docu...	Sam Soko
2022	Microsoft Show : Game of Learners	Cinematographer ▶ Game of Learners ... ▶ Game Of Learners...	Erick Sirama
2022	Sema Documentary	Cinematographer	L. Biko Nyongesa
2022	Ukongo / Docubox	Cinematographer	Eric Sirama
2022	Jecinta's Story/MOHi	Cinematographer ▶ Jecinta's Story	Patrick Gerber
2022	Minecraft Mangroves: Making an Impact	Focus Puller / 1st Assistant Camera ▶ Minecraft Mangro...	Jahawi Bertolli/Manu Akatsa
2021	Ferrero EA Short Doc	Cinematographer	Abu Melita
2021	Bill & Melinda Gates Project	Camera Assistant	Brandon Widener
2021	Up in the Air (feature doc)	Camera Assistant/Additional Photography	Guy Wilson/Jim Bishop
2021	UNEP	Camera Assistant	Joan Poggio
2021	Invisible Inventories Programme Docu Short	Director/Cinematographer	
2021	The Greatest Show BBC	Camera	Manu Akatsa

		Assistant/Additional Photography	
2021	42.125	Cinematographer (Kenya Unit) 42.195 TRAILER ...	Alejandro Strauss
2021	Chasing the Rains / Love Nature, Arte France, and Sky Nature	Camera Assistant / B Camera Operator Block D Chasing The Rains...	Justin Purefoy
2021	Give Directly Short Doc	Cinematography and Assistant Editor How Eunice used ...	Joan Poggio
2021	Bill and Melinda Gates Project (Covid testing Machine, Thika)	Focus Puller/AC	Joan Poggio
2019	One leg at a Time	Camera Operator	Ishmael Azeli
2019	Portrait of a Fashion Designer	Director/DP Portrait of a Fashi...	
2019	Just A Band Doc	Focus Puller	Joan Poggio/Anjali Nayar
2018	CGTN Belt & Road	Camera Assistant/Additional Filming (B Cam)	Simon Smith
2018	CNN Heroes (Max BobHolz)	Focus Puller/ Camera Operator https://edition.cnn.com/videos/world/2018/12/11/heroes-yw-max-web.cnn	Joan Poggio
2018	CNN Sports (More than Rugby)	Camera Assistant https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVsvKKolU8w Collins Injera's gui...	Brandon Widener
2016	Meet the Country King of Kenya (Great Big Story)	Camera Assistant Trainee	Joan Poggio

		  Meet the Country ... 	
2014	Mazagazaga	Boom Operator  MAZAGAZAGA E... 	Gitura Kamau

TVC's & PSA's

Year	Title	Role	DP/Director
2026	IPF CO-OP Bank TVC	First Assistant Camera/Focus Puller	Isaya Evans / Naizi Nasser
2025	Grains of Greatness Rwanda TVC	First Assistant Camera/Focus Puller	Abu Melita/ Naizi Nasser
2025	LG Bottom Freezer TVC	First Assistant Camera/Focus Puller  LG InstaView™ Bottom ...  LG InstaView™ Bottom ...  LG Instaview™ Bottom F... https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6AuXpcxrpYg	Wael / Kimani
2025	Untitled Fashion Film	First Assistant Camera/Focus Puller	Nino / Abu Melita
2025	Treatos TVC	First Assistant Camera/Focus Puller	Simon Mwai / Joash Omondi
2025	Helmet Bora Maisha Safe	Cinematographer/Focus Puller	David Ndenga
2025	Acting Out MTV Shuga Doc	Focus Puller	Simon Mwai
2024	Kiss Condoms ;Ready to Play: A Kiss East Africa Anthem	Focus Puller	Simon Mwai

2024	Betika Bet responsibly	Focus Puller	Naizi Nasser
2024	Showmax New APP TVC	Focus Puller	Simon Mwai
2024	BETIKA	Focus Puller	Naizi Nasser
2024	Smirnoff Battle of the beats	Focus Puller	Victor Ombogo
2023	Yogueta	Focus Puller/ 1st Assistant Camera	Joan Poggio/Tomas Corredor
2023	DSTV Kenya	Focus Puller	Andrew Mageto/Tosh Gitonga
2023	Beticar Ibambe	Focus Puller	Sammy Maina
2023	Prestige Margarine	Focus Puller	Ishmael Azeli
2023	Skol Lager Africa TVC	Focus Puller	Naizi Nasser
2022	Indomie Nigeria TVC	Focus Puller	Jay Bhansali
2022	Yogueta	Focus Puller	Joan Poggio
2022	Monster Energy - Rally Training Kenya with Khaligraph Jones	Cinematographer	Eric Sirama
2022	Jiko Okoa Commercial	Cinematographer	Elayne Okaya
2021	Sendy Go	Focus Puller	Churchill Oele
2021	Official Park and Chill Promo	Camera Assistant	Ishmael Azeli
2021	Yogueta Xhale	Focus Puller	Joan Poggio
2021	Yogueta Enerlife	Focus Puller	Joan Poggio

2021	GoFrut Reload TVC	Focus Puller	Joan Poggio
2021	Safaricom Pata Chanjo	Focus Puller	Joan Poggio
2020	Yogueta Fruitiya	Focus Puller	Joan Poggio
2020	Yogueta Pinpop	Focus Puller	Joan Poggio
2020	Choma Picha	Camera Assistant/Gaffer	Wambui Bo
2020	Betika Football is Back!	Camera Assistant	Ishmael Azeli
2020	C-Boost	Focus Puller	Joan Poggio
2020	Premier Bank Premier Wallet Somalia	Focus Puller	Naizi Nasser
2020	Nexus Corona Virus Hand Washing Script 60 second PSA	Cinematographer	Karanja Kiarie
2019	Koko Networks	Focus Puller	Joan Poggio
2019	GoFrut	Focus Puller	Ishmael Azeli
2019	ICEA Lion	2nd AC	Shuria Abdi
2019	Yogueta Milky Pops	Camera Assistant	Joan Poggio
2018	Koko Networks	Camera Assistant	Joan Poggio
2018	ProGas TVC	Camera Assistant	Ivan Odie
2018	World Wildlife Day; Ellie Goulding; UNEA	Camera Assistant	Joan Poggio
2018	World Sea Turtle Day with Ellie Goulding	Camera Assistant	Joan Poggio
2016	Koko Networks	Camera Assistant	Joan Poggio
2016	KRA Soma Label	Camera Trainee	Joan Poggio

MUSIC VIDEOS

2026	Palagoma - Oddo Koddó	First Assistant Camera/Focus Puller	Phillipe / Wael Gzoly
2024	Always on my mind - Hart the band	First Assistant Camera/Focus Puller	Tosh Gitonga / Ivan Odie
2023	Si ndo tuko	Cinematographer/Director	
2022	Emmanuel Jal	Focus Puller	Andere
2020	Penja Baba	Cinematographer/Co-director	Angela Noi
2020	My Happy Place - Lovince Mckenzie	Focus Puller	Ishmael Azeli/Abu Melita

Referees

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