



Jackson 'Sparrow' Kang'ethe

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Bio

Jackson Kang'ethe is a cinematographer hailing from Kenya with a strong passion for telling authentic African stories. With an interest in the art of filmmaking since the age of 13, he has worked tirelessly to pursue his passion.

Kang'ethe is best known for his work on the film *Midlife Crisis*, which was directed by Zippy Okoth and earned him a nomination for the prestigious Kalasha award. He has also collaborated with Kigundu Martin on several short films, including *Contained* and *Gatarashaine*, as well as a feature film called *Uamuzi*, which he worked on with Nick Reding.

In 2021, Kang'ethe's exceptional talent was recognized when he won the Best Cinematographer award at the 48-hour film project for the film *Hypnagogia*. He has also worked on other notable projects, including *Lusala*, where he served as an assistant camera and *Bufis*, where he worked as the camera operator.

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. His passion and skill have earned him recognition and acclaim in the Kenyan film industry and beyond. Jackson Kang'ethe is a true talent and an inspiration to aspiring cinematographers and storytellers.

Skills

I am a Cinematographer/Focus Puller based in Nairobi, Kenya.

School

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

Camera Assisting Workshop with Jana Fitzner : 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

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

Contributions

Jury 2024 Alliance Francaise Smartphone Film Competition

Cinematographer Trainer 2024 FilmFupi Training Cohort 1 by US Embassy Kenya

NBO Cinematography Workshop 2024

Filmography

Narrative Cinema

Year	Title	Role	DP/Director
2025	Ceebla	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 Njumbif
2024	Gilgil (TV Feature Film)	Cinematographer	Jhe Waweru

2024	Kejani	Cinematographer	Kiragu Chan
2023	It's a Free Country	First Assistant Camera	Skubi / JJ Njumbi
2023	Second Family Showmax (Telenovela)	Additional Cinematography (Specific segments EP 16,17, 40,41,42,43)	Adam, Edwin Kamau, Mkamzee Mwatela
2023	DO or DIE (Feature film)	Cinematographer	Zippy Okoth
2023	Otis Janam (Feature film) (Nominated for ZIFF 2024)	Cinematographer	Zippy Okoth
2023	Hope	Cinematographer	Ceci Miah
2023	Kanairo (Nominated for ZIFF 2024)	Cinematographer	Ceci Miah
2022	Ka-nuthu (Short Film)	Cinematographer	Martin Kigundu
2022	Contract Love (Feature film, Showmax/DSTV)	Cinematographer	Zippy Okoth
2022	If you know, you know	Focus Puller	Ishmael Azeli/Abu Melita
2022	Igiza (Showmax Original)	Focus Puller (EP 1-7)	Shuria Abdi/Deen/Azeli Ishmael
2022	Inheritance (Some fine Day Pix)	Cinematographer	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	Disk	Focus Puller	Deen Ahmed
2022	Arday Somali Series (Nominated for ZIFF 2024)	Cinematographer / 1st AC	Ahmed Farah
2021	Uamuzi (Short)	Cinematographer	Nick Reding
2021	Polisi Policy (Pre-PRODUCTION)	Cinematographer	Martin Kigundu
2021	Dice (Feature film, Kenyan Scenes)	Camera Operator (Kenya Unit)	Wambui Muigai
2021	Bufis (Feature Film)	Camera Operator	Joan Poggio
2021	Hypnagogia	Cinematographer	Karanja Ng'endo

2020	Midlife Crisis (Feature Film)	Cinematographer	Zippy Okoth
2020	How to dream in African (Feature Film)	Cinematographer	Kui Wamithi
2020	Gatarashaine (short)	Cinematographer	Kigonde Martin
2020	Angela (short)	Cinematographer	Abu Melita
2020	Contained (short)	Cinematographer	Kigonde 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	Nick Reding
2020	Nafsi (Feature film) (ON Netflix)	BTS Cinematographer/Director/Editor	Shuria Abdi/Reuben Odanga
2020	Ayaanle (Feature film) (ON Netflix)	Focus Puller	Shuria Abdi/Ahmed Farah
2019	Kahawa Black (Short)	2nd Assistant Camera	Emma Nzioka/Samuel Tebandeke
2019	Lusala (Feature film) (ON Netflix)	2nd Assistant Camera	Emma Nzioka/Mugambi Nthiga
2019	Sand Castles (Short)	Cinematographer	Kigonde Martin
2018	Ten O'clock (Short)	1st Assistant Camera	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
2025	Surviving Black Hawk Down (Netflix)	2nd Unit - 1st AC/Focus Puller	Ahmed Farah /Jack MacInnes
2025	DALA	Cinematographer	Angela Dorice Noi
2018-2021	Tsavo : A moment in Time(Unreleased)	Camera Operator/Editor	Simon Trevor
2015-2017	KUTV (Kenyatta University Television)	TV Cameraman	Cameraman
2024	DW Healthy Me Endometriosis	Co-director & Cinematographer	Elayne Okaya
2024	DW Healthy Me Drug Abuse	Co-director & Cinematographer	Elayne Okaya
2024	BLACK IS GOLD	1st Assistant Camera	Naizi Nasser
2023 Sept	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Orange Flesh Potatoes	First Assistant Camera	Oliver Cohen / Shravan Vidyarthi
2023 July	Water.org Documentary	Camera Operator	Abdi Shuria
2023 June	Inside Dadaab: life in one of the world's largest refugee camps Channel 4 UK Doc	Cinematographer	Jamal Osman
2023 March	Videos showing sexual exploitation of Somali women shared online: Channel 4 UK Doc	Cinematographer (Kenya unit)	Jamal Ousman
2022	Microsoft Show : Game of Learners	Cinematographer	Erick Sirama
2022	Sema Documentary	Cinematographer	L. Biko Nyongesa
2022	Ukongo / Docubox	Cinematographer	Eric Sirama
2022	Jecinta's Story/MOHi	Cinematographer	Patrick Gerber
2022	Minecraft Mangroves: Making an Impact	Focus Puller	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 Assistant/Additional Photography	Manu Akatsa
2021	42.125	Cinematographer (Kenya Unit)	Alejandro Strauss
2021	Chasing the Rains / Love Nature, Arte France, and Sky Nature	Camera Assistant / B Camera Operator Block D	Justin Purefoy
2021	Give Directly Short Doc	Cinematography and Assistant Editor	Joan Poggio
2021	Bill and Melinda Gates Project (Covid testing Machine, Thika)	Focus Puller/AC	Joan Poggio
2021	Free-money	Cinematography/Additional Photography	Sam Soko
2019	One leg at a Time	Camera Operator	Ishmael Azeli
2019	Portrait of a Fashion Designer	Director/DP	
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	Joan Poggio
2018	CNN Sports (More than Rugby)	Camera Assistant	Brandon Widener
2016	Meet the Country King of Kenya (Great Big Story)	Camera Trainee	Joan Poggio

2014	Mazagazaga	Boom Operator	Gitura Kamau
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TVC's & PSA's

Year	Title	Role	DP
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

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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