KIPKEMBOI/WALL STREET BOY (2023, Kenya/Canada, 90 min.), directed by Charles Uwagbai; screenplay by Joel Richardson; cinematography by Rudolf Blahachek; edited by J.L. Munce; music by Amin Bhatia; with Thamela Mpumlwana (Kipkemboi), Elsie Abang (Chipchirchir), David Cubitt (Colin Bentley), Vinessa Antione (Simba), Kevin Hanchard (Officer Saitoti), Idrissa Sanogo Bamba (Kiprop). In English.

Young Kipkemboi, a math genius from childhood, must pass up a MIT scholarship and provide for his family when his father dies. As he struggles with his dreams slipping away, Kipkemboi's girlfriend, Chepchirchir, gives him a used book from the local market that changes his life: *Quants: How Mathematicians took over Wall Street.* Inspired, he develops an algorithm to play the stock market. Drawing from his life on the farm, watching the wind, water and weather affect the birds and livestock, Kip has an insight into predicting patterns in the stock market.

Trading from a cobbled-together computer, powered by a car battery and broadcasting from a mud hut, his algorithm turns out to be an astronomical success generating millions of dollars. Massive profits falling into an unknown village, Metipso, Kenya, attracts the attention of unsavoury international financiers, local police and the elders of his own village. When they all collide at Kipkemboi's mud hut, the resulting clash forces Kipkemboi and Chipchirchir to run for their lives. Surviving by their wits alone, they are chased across the Kenyan countryside.

With his life in jeopardy and jail almost a certainty, one question remains, how could a farm boy bring down the global financial system and how far is the international world order willing to go to silence his story?

THE DIRECTOR: CHARLES UWAGBAI

Charles Uwagbai is an award-winning, passionate, and creative film director based in Ontario, Canada, with a strong focus on the world of cinema. He was born and raised in Edo State in southern Nigeria. He graduated with a degree in Engineering at Ekiti State University, then went on to study filmmaking at the New York Film Academy. He began his career with music videos, then went on to work in Nollywood, making popular films for Nigerian audiences.

With over a decade of experience, Charles has dedicated his career to producing and directing captivating film projects across various platforms, including Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, Canal Plus (Iroko TV, Rokstudios), and more. His diverse filmography includes titles such as; *The Ghost and the Tout, Esohe, Charlie Charlie, The Blood of Enogie*, and many others.

"I see the film as an allegory about a new Africa. Almost 60% of Africa's population is under 25, making Africa the world's youngest continent. In many ways, Africa is the future. I see the story as the conflict between the old and the new. With recent the events of Game Stop and "Reddit Raiding", we are seeing a fundamental shift in how the everyday person can impact the financial markets that are usually controlled by the very few. In our story, Kipkemboi is in conflict with the old guard in his own village. Benjamin, Metipso's Elder, reflects the reluctance to change and the threat that new thinking represents. The conflict of old versus new is pushed further and more dramatically by Kipkemboi's algorithm being discovered by the traditional financial establishment represented by Colin Bentley's character."

"Today, the negative can overwhelm us. I found in this story an optimism, a hope for the future, an anticipation of a change that can happen in the world, which starts in Africa- the youngest population in the world."

THAMELA MPUMLWANA - KIPKEMBOI

In the very short time [South African] Thamela Mpumlwana has been acting, he has already secured significant roles in a variety of television series. He

appeared as Tyson, series regular, on In *The Dark* (CBS/CW) as well as the role of Sly in *21 Thunder* (CBC). Other select credits include: Owen in *Departure* (Global), Liam in *Ransom* (CBS), Young T'Kuvma in *Star Trek: Discovery* (CT), Dave in DHX's *Creeped Out*, Artie in *Murdoch Mysteries* (CBC), and Samuel in *Saving Hope* (CTV). In 2014 Thamela appeared in the Lifetime movie *The Gabby Douglas Story* which was nominated for an NAACP Award. And in 2013, Thamela received a nomination at the St. Tropez International Film Festival for Best Actor in *The Warrior and The Savior*, a feature film directed by Salvatore Sorrentino. Thamela has appeared in the role of Trey in the NBC series *Transplant* and in the recurring role of Richie in *Pretty Hard Cases*(CBC). He can also be seen in the feature film *Akilla's Escape*, directed by Charles Officer, which premiered at the 2020 Toronto International Film Festival. Thamela is also a talented animation actor and can be heard in 2 seasons of *Peg and Cat* (PBS, role of Ramone), *The Magic Hockey Skates* (CBC, role of Bernie), and *Arthur* (PBS, role of Sheick).

ELSIE ABANG - CHEPCHIRCHIR

The role of Chepchirchir is Elsie Abang's first lead performance in a feature film. Her remarkable ease in front of the camera is likely due to her intelligence and that she has been working as a signed model for over 4 years. Over the course of her career she has been featured as the face of various marketing campaigns Volkswagen, Shoppers Drug Mart Beauty Event, Reitmans and Indigo.

In February 2023, she was featured in her first nationwide beauty campaign as part of Shoppers Drug Mart's Beauty Plus Event. The campaign was visible in stores all over Canada and showcased in Dundas Square.

Elsie had her first on-screen debut in the 2022 film, *Seeking Solace*, directed by Charles Uwagbai. She currently lives in Vancouver, BC and is pursuing her Juris Doctor degree at the Peter A. Allard School of Law.

JOEL RICHARDSON WRITER/ PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Joel Richardson's extensive body of art includes large-scale installations, performances, video projections, portraits, and mural painting, with shows in New York, Miami, Moscow, and Toronto. His recent work as an Art Director/Production Designer includes the TV series *Reign* (nominated for a CSA) and Steven Soderbergh's *The Girlfriend Experience*. His art direction on the Chet Baker biography feature, *Born To Be Blue*, starring Ethan Hawke, won him a Director's Guild of Canada award. His first feature screenplay, *Kipkemboi [Wall Street Boy]* – based in part on his cofounding of Metipso TV – goes to camera in 2023 in Kenya, greenlit by Telefilm Canada, Ontario Creates and CBC Films. *Kipkemboi* is a story that is born of his twenty years of experience in Kenya and his deep roots in the Metipso community.

""The making of Kipkemboi started when I was 16. I traveled to the world junior cross country running championships in Sudbury. I ran into this cool group of guys warming up in their kenyan track suits, this is where I met my lifelong friend Matthew Birir. At the end of the cross country meet Matthew invites me to come to Kenya to visit him, and one year later on a whim I take him up on his offer with just a letter and a map. I was so young and naïve, and such a dreamer at the time, this was an offer I just couldn't refuse!"

"Metipso, the film's main location, is very rich in my mind. Almost everyone has a farm and owns some land. There are people near the coast in Kenya, places like the Bondeni Slum and in the streets of Nairobi, that are even more impoverished by comparison. Here, [in Metipso] people have the forest to gather medicines, land to till, and everyone here has a feeling of being family."

"I love metipso and I felt that metipso has important things to share with the world. The idea was that this genius who is inspired by his home town - immersed in the birds the cattle, the nature - forms equations better than finance guys who are only surrounded by computers."

--Notes compiled from the Wall Street Boy Press Packet