

...A learning interface for both filmmaker and the audience

By Antje Kruska



Thank you for inviting me and the film "Land in Sight" and for welcoming me to get a glimpse of wonderful Nigerian reality! Congratulations to the 10th anniversary of the festival, which unfortunately can't be celebrated appropriately in Corona-times! I am sure that IREP will bloom again for many, many years and bring people closer together through film.



[Antje Kruska - IMDb](#)

A LOUD and continuous rain drumming steadily on the roof of the tent accompanied the screening of our film "Land in Sight" at the IREP Film Festival 2015. The tent was erected in the Foodcourt section of the venue, Freedom Park.

I was representing myself and my co-author, Judith Keil; and instead of being calmed by the sweet back-sound, I got really nervous. I was sure nobody would understand the film properly and I was convinced to be reading only question marks in the faces of the audience afterwards. The nervousness and insecurity grew even stronger as I saw people leaving the tent to take a break with their mobile phones. This was sure to become a clear fiasco!

In the end it turned out to be the opposite and people applauded enthusiastically and the volume of questions and empathetic comments concerning the three vulnerable characters of the film demonstrated that we had connected with the audience here in the same way as in Germany or anywhere else. And more: I was overwhelmed by a great number of people standing up and holding spontaneous, perfectly printable speeches with a very strong and powerful attitude in word, voice and gesture.

I remember one woman wrapping up the audience session precisely: she sent out an emotional call to all intelligent young African men not to follow the example of Brian, the Cameroonian protagonist in the film, who struggles for dignity as a refugee unwelcome in Germany, and instead try hard to empower their African home-countries with their skills and energy.

In comparison to the Lagos audience, German audiences are like lumpy pizza! I am very grateful for all the energetic personalities I met during my time in Lagos, among them the two festival leaders, a wonderful humorous female writer of children's books, an aged and experienced Nigerian filmmaker who taught me to remove my colonial glasses and be more critical towards the endless

celebration of African misery in international documentaries. The young driver who studied economics and refused to understand why one would choose to be a documentary filmmaker in Germany, accepting a life with relatively small wages, and an impressive expert on African culture who argued intensely that the fine art of African twerking has nothing to do with the butt-shaking moves of J-Lo, Shakira and friends-

And last but not the least, the fine and sensitive experimental filmmaker from Lagos, who is one of the few of his kind in whole of Nigeria and whose poetic nature left a big impact on me. Apart from inspiring us with his ideas about film, he made me and a producer from Uganda meet the chief of a big slum at the coast of Lagos and we had to learn not to talk unsolicited to a person of honour...

Thank you IREP. Thank you for inviting me and the film "*Land in Sight*" and for welcoming me to get a glimpse of wonderful Nigerian reality!

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- *Antje Kruska is a Filmmaker based in Berlin*