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Jacintha
de Nobrega



Here to be Cinematic

Making space for award-winning South African stories.

When *London Recruits* received the Outstanding Documentary award at the National Arts and Culture Awards, it marked another proud moment for South African film producer Jacintha de Nobrega. Co-produced by Jacintha and Gordon Main, the documentary tells the remarkable true story of young international activists who undertook secret missions in support of South Africa's liberation struggle against apartheid.

The film had already won Best Documentary at the 2024 Joburg Film Festival and received a SAFTA nomination for Best Documentary. Its continued recognition has brought renewed attention to this important South African story, while celebrating the work behind the scenes to share local stories with audiences at home and abroad.

For Jacintha, that work has been years in the making. An alumna of the Los Angeles Film School, she founded Arclight Productions in 2016 and has built a career around backing stories that have something to say and helping South African filmmaking find its place on an international stage.

Her debut feature, *Deep End*, won Best Film and Best Director at the Simon Sabela Awards in 2019. Her Zulu-language feature, *Lottery Love*, later premiered at the International London Pan African Film Festival and won Best Feature at the Hollywood African Cinema Connection in 2025. The film was directed by an emerging filmmaker, reflecting Jacintha's commitment to opening doors for the next generation of talent. That commitment goes well beyond individual productions.

Jacintha has mentored and trained emerging filmmakers across South Africa, sharing the experience she has gained while producing both local and international co-productions. She also served as founding Chairperson of the Durban FilmMart Institute, one of Africa's largest film finance and co-production markets, where she helped strengthen opportunities for filmmakers across the continent.

Women finding their place in the industry has been another important part of her journey. As former Vice Chair of Sisters Working in Film and Television (SWIFT), Jacintha has advocated for gender equality, better representation and more equitable opportunities for women working in film and television.

Representation in this industry is not only about who appears on screen; it is also about who gets to

produce, direct, make decisions and ultimately decide which stories are given a chance. Creating those opportunities allows different perspectives to come through and gives younger filmmakers tangible examples of what is possible.

Jacintha is now developing a slate of original local stories, with several projects scheduled to enter production in 2027. The recognition for *London Recruits* is an important moment, but it also reflects the bigger body of work behind it: years spent telling South African stories, developing new talent and making sure more voices have the opportunity to be heard.