



Official Space of AR Film Studio


Bridging the worlds of African and American filmmaking

ARCHIVE

Studio Spotlight - Kiran Shah



Never miss a post! ✕

 **arfilmstudio**
Official Space of AR Film Studio Follow

For most people, certainly in the western world, the name Kiran Shah wouldn't ring any bell of particular significance, and considering just how much there is to know about him which most would readily describe as somewhat uncommon, we can't help but feel this is a miscarriage of justice. A man of Kenyan-Indian heritage, whose profession has served to blur the line between stunt-work and acting, Kiran has lent his particular talents and advantages in life to some of the most globally-recognized and world-renowned films of the modern era; Superman, Raiders Of The Lost Ark, Titanic, The Lord Of The Rings...actually you know what, let's upgrade that miscarriage

of justice to a straight up crime. It is a crime this man has remained largely wrapped in the cloak of anonymity when his name should be out there in line with Warwick Davis and Danny Woodburn. Though he may lack the typical Hollywood accolades, he does at least hold the Guinness World Record for 'Shortest Professional Stuntman' since 2003.



Nairobi-born in 1956, and brought up not only in Kenya but India and England as well, Kiran's interest in the world of film was very much an early development in his life, cultivated initially whilst living with his family in their ancestral homeland. Upon moving to London, Kiran made his start in showbiz and at 21 he made his feature debut in the David Niven and Jodie Foster-starring 'Candlehoe', initially as just a stand-in but when legendary stunt-coordinator Bob Anderson (The Princess Bride, The Mask of Zorro, the man was Darth Vader's stunt double!) asks you to do the stunts on top, you really can't refuse. Thus began a long and prosperous career that would see Kiran work with the industry's best and brightest, playing the young boy Abu alongside Harrison Ford in 'Raiders', Ewoks in 'Return Of The Jedi', a Goblin in Harry Potter's first feature, and body-doubling not only for Elijah Wood's 'Frodo Baggins' at the turn of the century, but returning ten years on to do the same for Martin Freeman's 'Bilbo' in Peter Jackson's Middle-Earth saga.

On top of all these iconic works, Kiran has enjoyed plentiful work and recognition in television, live entertainment and even music videos! Spandau Ballet, Fatboy Slim, Alison Moyet, just three among so many other great artists that can add their names to the list of people Kiran has worked with. Throughout the 80s and into the 90s, he collaborated with magician Simon Drake to create exclusive shows for stars and celebrities of the day, their audience including such big names as Terry Gilliam, Eric Clapton, Pink Floyd and Richard Branson. They even went on tour with Julian (son of John) Lennon, and were the only entertainers at Tina Turner's 50th. Put simply, if the celebrity world were the Marvel Cinematic Universe, Kiran would be Stan Lee.



Regardless of whether you knew all of this already, or if this has been something of an education for you, the life and work of Kiran Shah is certainly deserving of a solid round of applause, an invitation to pause and reflect on just how fruitful a committed and passionate work ethic can be. Kiran's career has all the ingredients for starting a compelling debate over the representation of dwarfism in modern society, a real conversation-starter. Skeptics may point to the fact that perhaps his more recognizable roles share an abnormal nature, playing all manner of creatures from science-fiction and fantasy, only further stigmatization. We would encourage subscribers to that viewpoint to not necessarily overlook that fact, but to take into account the reality that Kiran has forged for himself a career that countless would envy. He has become a true professional,

very highly respected by directors, actors and all manner of industry contributors, and it is a respect he has earned in his own right through the many, many years he has committed to the entertainment world.



Time and time again, with every successive project, Kiran has quite literally thrown himself into things and given his all. He even topped his 2003 world record title in 2010 by becoming the shortest ever wing walker (a feat achieved by being strapped to the wing of a 1940s biplane and travelling at 120mph 1000ft in the air). His temperament, by all accounts unfailingly calm and cheerful, a likely result of him being a practitioner of Jainism; one of the oldest Indian religions built on a belief of non-violence and self-control (which is admittedly a tiny bit ironic given his line of work). On top of everything else, Kiran is an accomplished poet, his work published in the UK and the USA, every piece founded upon his personal thoughts, emotions and reflections on all the experiences he's had. With nearly forty-years of those under his belt, it's safe to say he probably won't be running out of poetical steam anytime soon.



There are far too many stigmas in the world. It comes as some comfort that Kiran is certainly doing his part to change that.

Kiran can be seen in the hotly and wildly anticipated upcoming 'Star Wars – Episode VII: The Force Awakens', which also features Oscar-winning actress Lupita Nyong'o.



#kiran shah #actor #actorslife #african actor #kenyan indian #stuntman #stuntlife #biography #star wars #The Force Awakens #lord of the rings #stunt double #bob anderson #harry potter #dwarfism #stigma #stigmatization #viggo mortensen #superman #raiders of the lost ark #warwick davis #feature #studio spotlight #ar film studio #new blog

Dec 15th, 2015

Studio Spotlight - Lupita Nyong'o



Of all the greats to proudly hail from the African continent, have any taken the international scene by storm quite so suddenly and with so resounding an impact as Kenya's own Lupita Nyong'o? From the most humble and relatable of beginnings as can be in the motion picture industry, a Production Assistant under the internationally relished Ralph Fiennes in 2005's 'The Constant Gardener', to receiving her very own Academy Award in 2014, it feels more apt to describe Ms Nyong'o as not merely a rising star, but a shooting star. Later this month, her name will become forever etched into the history of one of cinema's all-time largest and most beloved franchises with the phenomenally anticipated 'Star Wars: The Force Awakens'. What better time to look back on the life and career of someone who has enchanted, engaged and engrossed audiences across the world in her journey from starlet to supernova?



Mexico-born but Kenya-raised, the second-born of six children to Dorothy and Peter Anyang' Nyong'o, Lupita came into this world amidst somewhat intensely political circumstances (but then again what isn't intensely political when Kenya is concerned?) Her family had left Kenya amidst political unrest in 1980, her father a college professor turned politician who, during their exile,

I still love acting says Desmond Elliot

[realnewsng:](#)

[I still love acting says Desmond Elliot](#)



Desmond Elliot Many fans of Nollywood actor turned politician Desmond Elliot have been wondering if the legislator has abandoned the movie industry to fully pursue a career in politics. The lawmaker in a recent interview with NET has however disclosed that he is still going to be a part of Nollywood although for now he focused on lawmaking. He said: "There is nothing acting in all I do now, it's..."

[View On WordPress](#)

[realnewsng](#)

1 note



[transfertears:](#)



Growing up was 10 times worse for me than for the so-called normal boys because I had to play the role of two people every single day.



I never showed any interests in anything a boy was supposed to do according to society. Society didn't see me as a straight woman. I knew for a fact that I was not gay.



In South Africa you have to wait 20 to 25 years for your sex-reassignment surgery if you can't pay for it. The definition of patience to me means having to put your life on hold and fight for what you want nonstop, even if it seems you are getting nowhere.



The fact that I haven't had my sex change yet doesn't affect our relationship at all, because he fell in love with me as a person and not with my gender.



I sing a variety of songs but mostly Whitney Houston, Gladys Knight, Diana Ross, Jennifer Hudson, Gloria Gaynor, and Donna Summer because these are all strong women that went through hell and back.



We are so used to seeing starving children, or victims of war, or the 'rape' of nature, that we think that's all Africa is. I wanted to portray these women the way they want themselves to be seen.

[refinery29:](#)

salon.com

Under the c humanitarian U.S. militar Africa >

Nick Turse

[salon:](#)

So how m bases are simple qu answer. F Command [stock res](#) Lemonnie bleached America's "base" or wasn't tru there wer compoun facilities e military le semantics

Take a loc official list and the n 2015 repc of Defens portfolio li and three sites on o continent: [Research](#) research 1 Egypt, the 1946; Asc Airfield, a station an 1,000 mile West Afric by the U.S warehouse seaport ir that were

AFRICOM wider th: being to only goir bigger in come

became a visiting lecturer in political science at Mexico City's El Colegio de Mexico. Following Lupita's birth (a Spanish name taken in Luo tradition), the family returned to their homeland, where the future sensation spent practically the entirety of her upbringing amidst her quite artistically-inclined family, and so began her desire to act which became realized as early as the age of 14, professionally debuting as Juliet in Shakespeare's classic for a Nairobi-based repertory company. Graduating school in 2001, she then attended Hampshire College for film and theatre studies. "I wanted to be an actor but I wasn't ready to admit it yet", she confessed during a January 2014 interview with The Telegraph, "my plan B was filmmaking and that felt more acceptable for people in my community". Fortunately for us all, and especially fortunate for the child that Lupita once was, who watched the film adaptation of Alice Walker's 'The Color Purple' at the tender age of eight and became inspired by the sight and talents of Whoopi Goldberg and Oprah Winfrey, fate was resolved on her plan A.



The whispers of inspiration would guide her further still during her time as Production Assistant on Fernando Meirelles' Academy Award-nominated 'The Constant Gardener', where leading man Ralph Fiennes imparted to her what she would later describe in that same Telegraph interview as 'sage'; "Lupita, only act if you can't breathe without it". Fast forward through four years and a couple of additional production jobs, and Lupita found herself in Brooklyn, starring in the short film 'East River', followed that same year by the Kenyan TV series 'Shuga'. In 2009, despite having flirted with plan B by writing, directing and producing the documentary 'In My Genes', as well as an MTV Africa Music Award-nominated music video, she enrolled for a master's at Yale School of Drama, where her acting had become prize-winning by the time she graduated in 2012. One year later, everything changed.

For those of you who may not have heard about what is going on in South Africa, here are a few powerful pictures of the student protests. The first image is a group of White students forming a barrier to protect their fellow Black students from police attacks. Universities across the country have been shut down because of these protests. The #FeesMustFall movement is protesting the increase of university fees by as much as 11.5%. This is particularly a problem when one looks at the fact that presently 95% of South Africa's population already cannot afford higher education.

🔗 transfertears

396 notes

Stunning Portraits Of Chedino & Her Family

Dissatisfied with the way an entire continent of women were "overlooked, dismissed, or downright ignored," Gunther decided to launch her own photo series, Proud Women of Africa. It was while working on "Rainbow Girls," a project focusing on lesbian women in South African townships, that Gunther met Chedino, a trans woman living in Cape Town.

MORE

🔗 refinery29

165 notes

🔗 salon Source

138 notes



'12 Years A Slave', Steve McQueen's 2013 adaptation of the memoirs of Solomon Northup, its cast bursting with acting powerhouses the likes of England's Chiwetel Ejiofor and Benedict Cumberbatch, Ireland's Michael Fassbender and America's Brad Pitt and Paul Giamatti. Within weeks, Lupita's name was a regular piece of Oscar buzz, relentlessly singled out as a truly standout performance in a truly standout movie. At the Oscars that year, with competition from serious Hollywood heavyweights such as Jennifer Lawrence, Julia Roberts and Sally Hawkins, Lupita took home the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress, and the world embraced Kenya's new favourite daughter.



Minus a frankly underserving role in the 2014 Liam Nesson vehicle 'Non Stop' (literally underserving, she plays a flight attendant), Lupita's career has only continued to soar, and the crazy thing is she's still barely even started! This December she's heading for the stars as galactic pirate Maz Kanata in the long-awaited return to the Star Wars saga. In 2016, she is set to continue her foray into motion-capture performance with Jon Favreau's 'The Jungle Book', playing the part of Raksha, the mother wolf who takes in the 'man-cub' Mowgli. Add to that her starring in the upcoming biopic about

Ugandan chess prodigy Harriet Mutesi, and her future appears just as bright as her present.



We at AR Film Studio truly applaud Lupita Nyong'o for everything she has accomplished, and we especially give praise for her dedication, persistence but most of all her integrity with which she has stayed true to her dream and achieved so much. Bridging the motion picture industries of the United States and Africa, and using those bridges to raise transnational awareness of very real issues that affect our world today, and Africa in particular, is the very mission which AR Film Studio strives to complete. We thank Lupita for showing us and the world not just how it's done, but how well it can be done, and we eagerly look forward to seeing what her future holds.

May the force, and all good fortune, be with you, Lupita.



#lupita nyong'o #actress #africa
#kenya #nollywood #hollywood
#academy awards #12 years a slave
#steve mcqueen
#peter anyang nyong'o #filmmaking
#acting #biography #feature
#blog post #star wars
#the force awakens #the jungle book
#voice acting #motion capture
#arfilmstudio #studio spotlight

Show more