



Mohamed Cheikhna Kenkou

Film & Drama Director | Screenwriter | Producer | Visual Language Researcher

A Mauritanian director and screenwriter belonging to a new generation of image-makers who approach cinema and drama as tools for critical thinking and narrative construction, rather than mere entertainment.

My work focuses on developing a unique visual and narrative language rooted in character building, conflict management, and the exploration of psychological and social dimensions. I place heavy emphasis on rhythm, plot cohesion, and audience engagement. I possess both theoretical and practical expertise in directing and screenwriting for short films, feature-length projects, and web/TV dramas, alongside artistic script supervision and international festival experience.

Personal Information

- **Name:** Mohamed Cheikhna Kenkou
- **Year of Birth:** 1999
- **Nationality:** Mauritanian

- **Specialization:** Film & Drama Directing – Screenwriting – Production
- **Languages:** Arabic (Native) | English (Basic)

Academic & Professional Training

- **Film Directing & Screenwriting** – Arab Film & Television School.
- **Certificate in Film Business & Management** – The Open University.
- **Screenwriting for Feature Film & Television** – Michigan State University.
- **Specialized Documentary Filmmaking Training** – Al Jazeera Media Institute.
- **Production Design for Film & Screen** – Australian Film, Television and Radio School (AFTRS).

Filmography

- **The Return (2019):** Compilation Documentary.
- **The Fatal Grant (2019):** Drama – Writer, Director, Producer.
- **Unknown Parentage (2020):** Short Fiction – Writer & Director (Produced by Media Plus).
- **Don't Play (2021):** Psychological Drama – Writer, Director, Producer.
- **A Wish Beyond a Million Parsecs (2022):** Screenwriter & Creative Consultant.
- **The Imaginary Family (2023):** Short Fiction – Writer & Director (Produced by Serviproduct).
 - *Official Selection: Emirates International Film Festival (EFF).*
- **What Will I Say to God? (2025):** Short Fiction – Writer, Director, Producer.

Current Projects

- Developing a slate of feature films, including the feature-length project "**Cocoon.**"
- Web and TV drama projects currently in development with international production entities.
- A collaborative cinematic project with investigative journalist **Dr. Ayman El-Sisi** (Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Al-Ahram Newspaper).

Awards & Recognition

- **Honorable Mention from Hollywood:** Awarded by the *Royal Chance Film Festival* via *FilmFreeway* for the short script "**The Room Fits Everyone**" (Inspired by Sidney Lumet's *12 Angry Men*).
- **Multiple Honors:** From the *Al-Awda International Film Festival*.
- **Official Praise from Ronald M. Oua:** Founder of the *Emirates International Film Festival (EFF)* and one of the 100 most influential figures in the Gulf film industry (*Illustrado Magazine*). He described "**The Imaginary Family**" as "one of the best and most controversial films I have seen," praising its boldness and philosophical depth.
 - *Note: The concept for the series "The Story" (Al-Hikaya) was adapted from this film after its screening at the Nouakchott International Film Festival.*
- **Critical Acclaim:** Film critic **Nadia Meflah** dubbed me the "**Quentin Tarantino**" of the region, stating: "*Mohamed pays attention to the smallest details; in four years, he*

will be a great filmmaker."

Activities & Memberships

- **Ambassador of Mauritania:** Cinema Today Magazine (Kuwait Cinema Club).
- **Mentor:** Contributing to the training and guidance of young cinematic and dramatic talents.
- **Independent Researcher:** Specializing in the philosophy of image and cinematic narrative.

Publications

- **The Screenwriter and the Script:** *A Journey with Mohamed Cheikhna Kenkou in Learning Film Writing* (Educational & Intellectual Guide – Available Electronically).

Artistic Vision

I believe that cinema and drama are not merely reflections of reality, but a humanitarian and aesthetic re-formulation of it.

- **In Cinema:** I tell stories through action and image, utilizing space and time as narrative elements.
- **In Drama:** I prioritize the character over the event, building gradual conflict that respects the viewer's intelligence, balancing depth with suspense without resorting to artificiality or direct preaching.





Contact Information

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