

**Here's to Us!**  
**by Lebohang Masango**

Here's to us!

To becoming filmmakers, DOPs, screenwriters,  
Sound professionals and production designers  
To growth and momentum  
To perfecting our craft as African storytellers

To us who imagine new worlds  
and bring them to life  
through the camera lens  
and through the scripts we write

To friends turned family  
To long days and late nights  
To practicing until perfect  
To as many takes as it takes to get it right

To knowing life isn't a dress rehearsal  
To the challenges we faced  
To the fears we turned our backs on  
Choosing instead to be brave  
To deconstructing destructive myths  
To constructing a hopeful present

To our continent: the gift that keeps on giving  
To the centuries of genius,  
in whose image we're all molded in  
To the go-getters grabbing goals with both hands  
To embracing the roots of all our beginnings  
To rewriting the narrative for all to understand

To knowing our dreams are worth standing up for:  
As firm as any baobab tree  
As tall as any skyscraping building  
To our unshakeable convictions  
To leading with our best intentions  
To our collaborations  
To building brick by brick,  
A vision dedicated to our collective ambitions

From Kenya to Nigeria  
From Zambia to New York  
To this one-of-a-kind factory where imagination  
meets excellence  
To making our dreams happen

*Lebohang Masango*  
*28 August 2022*  
*MultiChoice Talent Factory Graduation Video*  
*Script: Here's to Us!*

Through discipline and perseverance  
To celebrating the next generation of storytellers