

# AFDA keeps going international

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The Cape Town Honours graduate film *Wamkelekile* (Welcome back) has been selected as AFDA The South African School of Motion Picture Medium & Live Performance's entry into the CILECT (International Association of Film & Television Schools) student film competition.



This film will be up against other student productions from the 128 major film and television schools accredited by CILECT in 53 countries around the world. This exercise is in accordance with both CILECT and AFDA's goal of gaining the exchange of ideas between the schools by allowing each institution to vote for the best films. Previously *Elalini*, AFDA's 2006 Student Academy Award winner was voted in the Top 10.

*Wamkelekile* is a heartwarming tale that deals with a young man coming to terms with his father's mental illness. When Lukhanyo is forced to go back to his village and collect his father, Simpiwe, memories of his eccentric and difficult childhood return. In time, the endearing story unfolds into an humorously entertaining adventure, faced against the elements of vast landscapes, coincidental fate, and trying jobs to discover the immense love that only needed a little time to be noticed. “*Wamkelekile*? That is a great film!” says Nic Shepherd of Machete Creative.

Starting with their script the production team set out to find the right locations and cast. Bringing a full crew together they braved the Western Cape's wet winter to shoot this 24 minute film in 10 days.

*Wamkelikile* premiered at the Cavendish Square Cinema Nouveau in November 2008. After which it was nominated for Best Fourth Year Film and Best Director, to Dorotea Vucic, at the AFDA Awards ceremony. The team walked away the Executive Award. *Wamkelekile* looks set to make waves at festivals around the globe.

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