

INVESTOR BRIEF · 2026 · RC-1992462

BANO STUDIOS 2026.

A Nigerian indie film studio. Eleven films shot. A bootcamp, a competition, a festival in 2027. Looking for partners for the next leap.

FOUNDED · 2019

REGISTERED · CAC RC-1992462

BASED · ABUJA, NIGERIA

WEB · BANOSTUDIOS.AFRICA

It started with an iPhone 6.

In 2019, a small team in Nigeria decided that the only thing standing between them and great cinema was the courage to start. They had a story to tell — about a boy crushed under the weight of expectations — but they did not have a camera. They had a phone.

That film, *Expectations*, was shot on an iPhone 6. It went on to win the African Smartphone International Film Festival (ASIFF) in 2021. It proved, in the most literal way possible, the thesis Bano Studios has been operating on ever since: **great cinema does not require massive budgets — just compelling narratives and dedicated craftsmen.**

Since that first film, we have shipped ten more — short films, thrillers, romantic dramas, psychological pieces, anthologies — collaborating with directors, writers, and production houses across Nigeria. We have built equipment. We have trained over 50 emerging filmmakers through our annual bootcamp. We have launched a screenwriting competition that gives unknown writers a real chance at production.

We did all of that with no external capital. Every camera, every light, every edit suite, every flight, every crew payment — funded by us, our partners, and the projects themselves. The studio works.

And now, having proved we can ship films on shoestring budgets with sheer determination, we are inviting investors, partners, and sponsors to help us answer the bigger question: **what could we do with proper capital behind us?**

This brief walks you through who we are, what we have built, and three concrete ways to come in. Read it like a short letter — not a financial prospectus.

Our ambition is simple.

To become the A24 of Nigeria — a studio known not for the size of its budgets but for the quality and integrity of its films. African stories told by African filmmakers, made in Africa, watched everywhere.

What we are **building.**

Vision

To empower diverse voices and stories, celebrate Nigerian culture, and contribute to the development of a thriving film industry in Nigeria. We aim to redefine the narrative of African cinema on a global scale.

Mission

To be a leading independent film production company in Nigeria — producing high-quality, impactful films that resonate with local and global audiences, films that explore diverse human experiences and inspire positive change.

What this looks like in practice

- Original Nigerian stories with international production values, told without apology.
- A talent pipeline: bootcamp graduates moving into our productions, screenwriting-comp winners getting their scripts produced.
- A community of artists, writers, and crew who can choose to make their next film with us instead of leaving the industry.
- Distribution through cinemas, streaming platforms, and our own physical Short Film Festival (inaugural edition 2027).
- Equipment, training, and post-production capacity that lifts the floor for every Nigerian indie filmmaker we work alongside.

Where we are heading

From a studio that ships eleven films on indie budgets, to a studio that ships a slate of films per year on production-grade budgets — backed by partners, distributed through real channels, and watched by audiences far beyond Nigeria. The thesis is straightforward: African storytelling is in unprecedented global demand, and indie African studios that can ship consistent quality at indie budgets are the natural beneficiaries.

The thesis. Bano Studios already ships consistent quality at indie budgets. Capital scales the output, not the existence.

Eleven films. Five years. **No external capital.**

Everything we have shipped since 2019, mostly on our own resources, often in collaboration with other indie production houses. Each film was produced with whatever equipment and capital we could mobilise at the time.

2021 · ASIFF WINNER

Expectations

Our debut. Shot on iPhone 6. Directed by Barnabas Atu.

2022

Hoax

Anti-human-trafficking thriller. Written by Stony Watson.

2022

Breakfast in 3D

Romantic drama – when dreams begin to bleed into waking life. Written by Chiamaka Alex O.

2023

Cal: A Goodbye Tale

A boy battling chronic disease considers quitting. Directed by Cynthia Onoja.

2023

Her Story

A young woman whose trust was betrayed by her closest friend. Directed by Cynthia Onoja.

2023

Sick

A psychological thriller – at first glance a victim, on closer look a mastermind.

2023

Reflection

A tech founder loses hope on his startup and considers a quick fix.

2023

Awakening

A short on tribalism and accepting new cultures. Co-directed by Jaystan & Bano Atu.

2023

Scandal

"Be careful of who you call your friends."
Shot for Lynda-Amaka Eze.

2023

Nightmares – Through the Badlands

Premiered with full press treatment.
Directed by Josh Ajimah.

2024 · UNN PREMIERE

An Anthem in Grey

A morally declining campus, a Puritan, and a political movement. Premiered March 2024 at UNN.

2026+

The next slate

Investor capital unlocks the next 5 productions. See § 06.

Beyond films, we build filmmakers.

Three programmes form the backbone of Bano Studios beyond film production. Together they form a complete talent pipeline — we do not need to find filmmakers, we grow them.

The Filmmaking Bootcamp

Held annually in August. Intensive workshops covering scriptwriting, cinematography, lighting, sound, directing, and post-production. Hands-on, in-person, led by working professionals. Over **[X]** alumni have come through it since launch — many now collaborating on Bano productions, others working independently across the Nigerian indie scene.

The Screenwriting Competition

An annual call for original Nigerian screenplays. Five stages of judging over three months. Top three winners get production funding from Bano Studios — we either shoot the script ourselves or buy it outright, so we can iterate before shooting or pitch to investors. The pipeline turns unknown writers into produced ones, and produced scripts into Bano films.

The Short Film Festival (Inaugural 2027)

A 3-day physical festival celebrating African short films. ₦30M cash prize pool — ₦15M to first place, ₦10M to second, ₦5M to third — plus category awards for cinematography, directing, performance, and screenplay. Films by Africans, shot in Africa. Brings the African indie film community into one room for three days of screenings, panels, and deals.

How they connect

The Bootcamp finds and trains talent. The Competition surfaces the best scripts that talent writes. The Festival gives the resulting films a real audience. And the production studio at the centre turns the strongest pieces into proper releases. Each programme feeds the next — the whole thing is one machine, not three separate initiatives.

Why this matters to investors. Capital deployed against a Bano production is not just capital deployed against one film — it is capital deployed against a system that already finds, trains, and ships the talent that makes the film.

Lean. Shipping.

We currently operate with the following equipment — modest by Hollywood standards, productive enough to ship eleven films:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| → Blackmagic 6K Pro Cinema Camera | → Canon 1200d DSLR Camera |
| → Yongnuo 35mm F2.0 Prime Lens | → Canon 18-55mm Zoom Lens |
| → Canon 18-135mm Zoom Lens | → Zoom H6 Sound Recorder |
| → BOYA BY-WM8 PRO K2 LapeL Mic | → SUTEFOTO P100 RGB Light |
| → 2 × LED 800 Bi-Color Light Panels | → Tungsten Red Head 800w Light |
| → GODOX 5-in-1 Reflector | → Tripods + Light Stands |

What investor capital unlocks

Capital allocated to equipment unlocks the next tier — cinema-grade cameras (Sony FX9, RED Komodo), professional audio departments, dedicated lighting kits — without which we cannot compete with bigger productions for streaming-platform deals.

Why equipment is one of the three capital forms we accept

An investor who buys us a Sony FX9 (\approx \$12M) has effectively invested \$12M in the studio's production capacity. Same outcome as cash, different form, same credit. We deploy the equipment immediately on the next production and you are credited as gear-financier across every project that camera shoots. For some investors — especially distributors, equipment houses, and brands with existing kit — this is a cleaner way to come in than writing a cheque.

Equipment as capital. Cash, equipment purchase, or a tenured loan structure — all three are accepted, all three credited the same. Pick the form that suits how you actually invest.

Three ways to come in.

Every investor relationship at Bano Studios takes one of three forms. All three accept capital in any of these forms: **cash investment, equipment purchase, or tenured loan.**

/01 · FILM PRODUCTION

Back a specific film

Short film, series, three-part film, feature, or comedy series. You can come in on projects in development OR pre-production. Returns are deal-by-deal: percentage of net distribution revenue, named EP credit, recoupment plus a premium, or a combination — structured to standard practice.

NO MINIMUM

PER PROJECT

STANDARD STRUCTURES

/02 · STUDIO PARTNERSHIP

Long-term operating partnership

You bring capital. We bring expertise, equipment, the production team, and the bootcamp talent pipeline. Revenues are shared per the agreed structure across the partnership window. **Not equity in Bano** — a project-and-revenue partnership.

6 / 12 / 24 MONTHS

OR PER SLATE

NO MINIMUM

/03 · SPONSORSHIP

Put your brand on the work

Sponsor any part of the Bano universe — Filmmaking Bootcamp, Screenwriting Competition prize pool, an individual film’s credits, equipment, or the 2027 Short Film Festival. Custom — no fixed bronze/silver/gold tiers, just a conversation.

CUSTOM PACKAGES

CASH OR IN-KIND

NAMING RIGHTS

How they compare at a glance

DIMENSION	PRODUCTION	PARTNERSHIP	SPONSORSHIP
Timeline	One film cycle (3-12 mo)	6, 12, 24 mo or per slate	Per programme / per film
Returns	Revenue share + EP credit	Slate revenues	Brand value + impact
Best for	Film-specific investors	Multi-project capital	Brands, sponsors, CSR

What is a "slate"?

A slate is a bundle of films a studio plans to produce together — for example, 5 films over 18 months. Instead of backing one film and taking the risk it underperforms, you back the whole slate. If one film flops but another over-performs, returns balance out across the bundle. For early-stage indie investors, slate deals are often the safer way in.

We discuss slate structures inside the Studio Partnership avenue (§ 06 / 02) — you commit capital up front, we commit a defined number of productions over a defined window, recoupment comes from collective revenues across all of them.

Pick your **avenue.**

We are not asking you to fund the existence of the studio — we are asking you to fund the next ambition. The studio works. What we are inviting you to back is the leap from "small studio that ships" to "the A24 of Nigeria".

What happens after you reach out

/01

You email or fill the form

Tell us which avenue interests you, what you are bringing, and roughly how much. No minimum.

/02

Founder call within 48h

Senior member of the team gets on a call with you to walk through fit, structures, and the relevant pitch deck.

/03

Tailored deck + terms

If there is a fit, we send you the full pitch for the project or partnership shape we discussed.

/04

Term sheet → contract

Standard-practice paperwork, signed off both sides. Capital deployed. We get to work. You get credited.

What you can expect from us

- **A senior person on every call.** No junior account managers, no sales pipeline.
- **Honesty about timelines.** Indie film moves at the speed it moves. We tell you what is realistic.
- **Quarterly progress reports.** Once you are in, written updates every 90 days — what shot, what shipped, what hit which festival.

Let's talk.

Reach us through whichever channel suits you. We typically respond within 48 hours and try to schedule a call within the first week of contact. Every conversation is led by a senior member of the Bano team – not a sales pipeline.

EMAIL · PRIMARY

info@banostudios.africa

Best for detailed questions or document sharing

WHATSAPP · FASTEST

[+234 802 709 2221](https://wa.me/2348027092221)

Best for a quick conversation or scheduling

PHONE

+234 906 092 7010

Office line, weekdays 09:00 – 18:00 WAT

WEB · INVESTOR FORMS

banostudios.africa/investor-relations

Per-venue intake forms, current opportunities

What to expect

48h INITIAL RESPONSE	1 week FOUNDER CALL SCHEDULED	2-3 weeks TERM SHEET READY
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A note from the founder

We started this with a phone and a story. Every film we have shipped since has been an argument that great cinema does not need permission, just the courage to start. If any of what you have read in this brief lands with you – for any of the three reasons we laid out – please reach out. The next chapter of Bano Studios will be written with the partners who show up now.

— Barnabas Atu, Founder