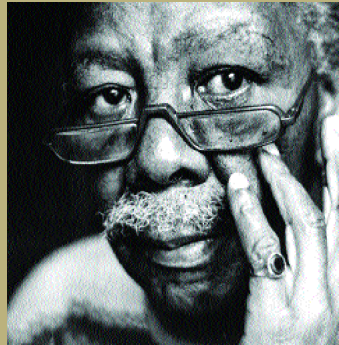


Dr Lionel Ngakane (1928 – 2003)

THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN SILVER (POSTHUMOUS)



**AWARDED TO
LIONEL NGAKANE
FOR OUTSTANDING
ACHIEVEMENT IN THE FIELD
OF MOVIE-MAKING AND
CONTRIBUTION TO THE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE
FILM INDUSTRY IN SOUTH
AFRICA AND ON THE
AFRICAN CONTINENT**

Lionel Ngakane entered the film-making industry in 1950 and established a career in cinema, television, theatre and radio, as actor, writer, director and producer, principally in Britain, but also in Senegal, Liberia, Ivory Coast and Nigeria.

Between 1957 and 1962, he directed *Vukani Awake*, a documentary on South Africa. In 1962, his short feature film *Jermima and Johnny* won first prize at the Venice and Rimini Festivals, and a bronze award at the Festival of Carthage. This film is still screened at international festivals. In 1985, he produced the documentary film *Nelson Mandela*, which was screened in Britain, on the African continent, in Europe and the United States.

Ngakane was instrumental in organising the first African Film Festival at the National Film Theatre in London, participated in international symposiums on African and Third World Cinema and wrote articles for newspapers and magazines. Ngakane conceived an organisation of African film-makers to foster co-operation and in 1967 the Pan-African Federation of Film-Makers was formed, with Ngakane as regional secretary for southern Africa. He was also a member of the Advisory Committee on Cinema for Africa '95 in Britain.

In 1994, Ngakane returned to South Africa to create a chain of independent township cinemas. In 1996, he was a member of the new Government's Reference Group to prepare the *White Paper on Film Policy* and has been chairperson of the M-Net Film Awards selection committee.

Lionel Ngakane was currently advisor to the Newtown Film and Video School, served on the board of the Film Resources Unit, was a member of the board of directors of the South African Cinema Foundation and served on the Media Outreach Group of the Centre for Cultural and Media Studies, University of Natal.