



FILMING IN NIGERIA OVERVIEW

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Overview

After Hollywood and Bollywood the world has recently been made familiar with Nollywood, the nickname for the Nigerian film industry. The Nigerian film industry produces about 50 movies per week, second only to India and more than the United States. Although its revenues are not on par Nollywood still generates an impressive \$590 million annually.

The country has no official film commission but the Nigerian Film Corporation - a parasatal of the Federal Ministry of Information and Communication - is charged with the responsibility of promoting the development and growth of the Nigerian film industry.

There are many production companies in Nigeria, but you need to be careful when selecting a company or vendor to partner or work with. Too many companies profess to be professional, talk the talk, and look impressive. Be sure to check them our properly. Track record and references are important, and also check out the work they claim to have done.

There are also many reputable companies with impressive track records, great clients and who can be trusted to deliver what they promise. The essential thing is to be sure about who you are working with.

Recent Productions

Recent international productions include Half of a Yellow Sun (2013). The feature was filmed mostly in Calabar, in Cross River State in the south east of the country. Other productions include Nigeria Breaks Transition Jinx (2007), Dear Mama (2007), Ibadan Cradle for Literate (2007), National Head Count Census (2007) and Eclipse (2006).

More recently film producers and directors like Kunle Afolayan, Steve Gukas, Omuni Oboli and others have been producing films that are starting to have impressive showings at international film Festivals. However the industry still suffers from poor distribution and few cinemas, and lack of investment, though the Bank of Industry in Nigeria has started to support the industry.

The TV broadcast industry does not fare much better with more than 132 TV stations in Nigeria. Government and State Authorities own most of them. They lack proper management, content and are mostly unviable if not for government subventions. They do not commission programming and only offer airtime to who can pay for it; a sure guarantee for the poor quality programming seen on most of them.

Private TV has flourished well, Channels a news station, TVC and ONTV continue to be the beacon for progressive broadcasting in Nigeria. The National Broadcaster NTA needs an injection of much needed innovation and re-invention for it to be relevant in todays digital world.

Cable TV has done well in Nigeria with DSTV, a South African satellite cable owned business and Startimes, a Chinese/NTA partnership owning most of the market, though OTT offerings such as NETFLIX and IrokoTV are making huge gains as broadband becomes more affordable and accessible.

Permits

Foreign crews wishing to shoot in Nigeria must be accredited, unless a well-respected local production company invites them. They will either need to be accredited by Government which is a well worn and tedious process, or require temporary work permits which can be obtained by the inviting company. Ensure you work with a company that knows what it's doing so you don't get fleeced.

Accreditation is obtainable from the Ministry of Information and National Orientation and is based on the recommendation of the Nigerian Film Corporation. Talk to your local company for updated information on how they can work around these stringent regulations if you need to move quickly. Bear in mind that no shoot is allowed to take place in the absence of a designated liaison officer. He or she will be a trained filmmaker appointed by the Nigerian Film Corporation. However, there are ways private production companies make this work.

Also note that, though you might be granted permission to start shooting, accreditation does not in any way imply that all permissions have been granted. The film is still subject to approval from the authorities during the actual filming. Again talk to your local partner about some of these requirements, as they are not always required if filming shorts, corporates, music videos and other types of genres.

The Ministry of Information and National Orientation says that, on the recommendation of the Nigerian Film Corporation, it "reserves the right to stop the shooting/production, if it has irrefutable evidence that any of the procedural regulations has been violated".

Post Production

Post-production facilities are available in Nigeria from HD to 4K Editing.

Locations

In terms of other locations, make sure to check the various rain seasons (which isn't the same all throughout the country) and do some research on the level of safety in the area you have in mind. When choosing carefully you can benefit from Nigeria's wealth in nature, including a range of national parks and game reserves, beautiful hill ranges and waterfalls, plus nice beaches.

For more information on how we can help you during your next shoot in Nigeria email us at info@ibstmedia.com or call +234 (0) 8034387293 (24 hours availability)

