

**Intensive Audiovisual Training and Production Program initiated by
Société de Productions Audiovisuelles SOPA S.A. in partnership with KAP
Film and Television Academy**

OWNING THE NARRATIVE

Training a new generation of African creators capable of telling their stories according to
international standards

Benin - Nigeria

June - September 2026

Training | Specialization | Production | Post-Production

20 YOUNG BENINESE TALENTS SELECTED

Applications Open: May 19, 2026

Application Deadline: June 2, 2026 at 11:59 PM

Applications and Information Requests: contact@sopa.bj *ef*

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS FOR THE FILMMAKING BOOTCAMP ACCELERATOR

1. BACKGROUND

The African audiovisual industry is experiencing unprecedented momentum, driven by the rise of digital distribution platforms, the emergence of new storytelling formats, and growing global demand for original, authentic content rooted in the realities of the continent.

Within this global movement, West Africa possesses considerable creative talent that remains insufficiently structured, trained, and equipped to compete in regional and international audiovisual production markets.

To address this challenge, the Government of Benin established Société de Productions Audiovisuelles, "SOPA S.A.", a company responsible for designing, producing, promoting, and distributing audiovisual content that showcases Benin, while structuring a competitive national production industry and supporting the development of the creative economy.

As part of its strategy to strengthen the capacities of young Beninese audiovisual and film professionals, SOPA S.A. has entered into a strategic partnership with KAP Film and Television Academy, a leading film training institution in Sub-Saharan Africa.

This partnership aims to implement an intensive cross-border accelerated capacity-building program: the FILMMAKING BOOTCAMP ACCELERATOR, built around the central theme "Owning the Narrative" – taking ownership of one's story, voice, and perspective.

The program is based on a shared conviction: African stories deserve to be told by Africans trained to the highest technical and narrative standards, capable of bringing them to local, regional, and international audiences with creativity and excellence.

2. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the FILMMAKING BOOTCAMP ACCELERATOR is to train a new generation of competitive Beninese audiovisual professionals deeply rooted in their cultural realities.

The program is structured around three strategic pillars:

Professionalization and skills enhancement

- Intensive training in key audiovisual disciplines: screenwriting, directing, production, cinematography and lighting, art direction, casting and directing actors, sound design, editing and post-production, and film business.
- Supervision by international industry experts and mentors.
- Immersion in a professional production environment at KAP Film Village (Nigeria).

Creation and Production

- Development and production of short films intended for professional distribution (public screenings, digital platforms, festival submissions).
- Immediate practical application of acquired skills through an intensive and immersive production residency.
- Promotion of contemporary African narratives according to high technical standards.

Structuring the Beninese Creative Ecosystem

- Development of production capacities geared toward local and regional content markets.
- Training creators capable of producing attractive works efficiently and rapidly, adapted to new digital distribution models, particularly YouTube and online platforms, inspired by the Nollywood production dynamic.
- Promotion of South-South knowledge transfer between Benin and Nigeria.
- Contribution to the emergence of a strong Beninese audiovisual industry capable of generating cultural influence and sustainable economic opportunities. #

3. PURPOSE OF THE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

This call for applications aims to identify, select, and mobilize twenty (20) young Beninese audiovisual talents to participate in the FILMMAKING BOOTCAMP ACCELERATOR.

Applications are open to semi-professional profiles with between two (02) and five (05) years of professional experience in the following fields:

- Directing
- Screenwriting
- Editing and Post-Production
- Cinematography (camera and lighting)
- Sound
- Audiovisual Production
- Content Creation (web, mobile, documentary, fiction)

The FILMMAKING BOOTCAMP ACCELERATOR will be conducted in four (04) phases. It will begin with four (04) weeks of theoretical training in Benin, followed by three (03) weeks of specialization in Nigeria. The program will conclude with a five (05)-week intensive short film production residency at KAP Film Village, including production (03 weeks) and post-production (02 weeks).

This unique program offers full sponsorship for the twenty (20) selected participants as well as total immersion in a professional film production environment. It combines intensive training, mentorship by international experts, and the production of short films intended for professional distribution.

Selected participants will benefit from an intensive capacity-building program covering key audiovisual professions including screenwriting, directing, production, cinematography and lighting, art direction, acting, sound design, editing, and film business. #

4. LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

The Filmmaking Bootcamp will be conducted entirely in English. All teaching content, training materials, exchanges with instructors, and practical exercises will take place in English without translation support.

Applicants are therefore required to demonstrate a strong operational command of English enabling them to:

- Understand technical and artistic instructions;
- Participate actively in group discussions and collaborative sessions;
- Interact fluently with instructors and fellow participants;
- Produce simple written and oral deliverables in English.

5. PARTICIPANT SELECTION TIMELINE

- Opening of applications: May 19, 2026
- Closing of applications: June 2, 2026
- Pre-selection phase: June 3 - 5, 2026
- Publication of pre-selection results: June 5, 2026
- Technical and creative evaluation phase: June 6, 2026
- Candidate interviews: June 6, 2026
- Announcement of final results: June 8, 2026
- Official program start date: June 15, 2026

6. SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process will take place in four (04) stages:

Launch of the Call for Applications

The call for applications and program information will be promoted nationwide through traditional media (TV and radio), social media, cultural institutions, schools, and universities. *g*

Application Submission and Pre-Selection

Pre-selection will be carried out through application review.

Technical and Creative Evaluation

Shortlisted candidates will be assessed based on narrative potential, originality of the proposed project, artistic coherence, ability to explain creative choices, and relevance of professional background.

Interviews (Physical or Online)

Interviews will assess candidates' motivation, commitment, personality, and collaborative spirit.

7. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants must:

- Be of Beninese nationality;
- Submit a project pitch (maximum 60-second video recorded in English);
- Be an emerging talent working in audiovisual creation professions (directing, writing, production, etc.);
- Clearly indicate their primary discipline or specialization to facilitate the formation of complementary teams;
- Be passionate, dynamic, creative, and aged between 18 and 35 years old as of May 19, 2026;
- Provide evidence of previous work (short films, scripts, showreels) demonstrating storytelling experience or strong interest in audiovisual creation and cinema;
- Submit a portfolio (films, videos, creative projects) proving previous or ongoing productions;
- Be available throughout the twelve (12)-week program;
- Be willing to travel to Nigeria;
- Be capable of working collaboratively within a creative environment and participating in collective projects.

8. APPLICATION SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

This call for applications is open to all young creatives passionate about audiovisual production and cinema.

Applicants are allowed to apply for only one position. Any application submitted for multiple positions will automatically be disqualified.

Complete application files must be submitted electronically to contact@sopa.bj with the subject line:

“Application - Filmmaking Bootcamp - Specialization - Full Name”

no later than June 2, 2026 at 11:59 PM. Any application that does not comply with this format or is submitted after the deadline will be deemed inadmissible.

SOPA S.A. reserves the right not to proceed with any application without being required to justify its decision.

Furthermore, SOPA S.A. guarantees a selection process based on competence, artistic quality, and relevance to the program objectives.

No application fee is required.

For any questions regarding the program, eligibility criteria, or application process, candidates may contact the program coordination team at: contact@sopa.bj

SOPA S.A. is committed to supporting applicants in understanding the program participation requirements.

9. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Interested applicants meeting the eligibility criteria must provide:

- A detailed CV outlining previous production experiences and projects;
- A motivation letter describing the applicant's creative process and interest in the program;
- A portfolio presenting previous work (short films, scripts, showreels, moodboards);
- A project pitch (maximum 60-second video recorded in English).

10. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND DISTRIBUTION OF WORKS

The short films produced within the framework of the Filmmaking Bootcamp Accelerator - Owing the Narrative will be created within a collaborative educational framework under the coordination of SOPA S.A. and KAP Film and Television Academy.

The exploitation rights of the works produced will be held by SOPA S.A. as part of the program and its dissemination and valorization strategy.

Participants will retain recognition for their artistic and technical contributions through film credits and may use the productions for professional promotion purposes (portfolio, showreel, artistic presentations), subject to compliance with the distribution terms defined by the organizers. *ny*

The films may be subject to:

- Public screenings;
- Distribution on digital platforms;
- Submission to festivals and professional circuits.

For the Acting Managing Administrator

And on behalf of the PRNP

Ms. Sènadé Martine KAKPO - ADOUKONOU