

Chapter Name: Women in Film Guild Botswana

Approximate size of membership: 20

Interviewee name & role: Nikita Neo Mokgware, Chairperson

How did you come into this position with your chapter?

There was a call for change in our industry, and a few ladies including myself stepped up to assist. It was decided to start a society focused on women in the film and television industry, and I was nominated due to, honestly, being the one with the most time to offer to build the group. I've grown into it, and I thoroughly enjoy what I do!

What are some challenges unique to your local industry?

There is such a small market to cater to, as Botswana only has around 2-3 million citizens in the entire country, and so getting interest in the creative industry is incredibly difficult. Also, our country mainly focuses on the mining and agriculture industries, and so it's a struggle to show local investors the potential our industry holds compared to others.

What's one initiative that has had a huge impact on your membership?

Joining the IWomen in Film and Television International group! The access to others like us, and a network of help and support has done so much for morale, and guidance.

What's one of the biggest challenges your chapter has faced in the past year? How did you overcome it? Did you have any outside support?

Maintaining interest in our initiative. It's still something we struggle with now, but we plan to soon launch our social platforms and promote more online as well as get some projects off the ground to show how serious we are. We currently have no other support outside of the guidance and help from WIFTI, but we look forward to hopefully connecting more with others!

If you could broadcast a message to the people at the highest decision-making level of the Film + Television industry, what would it be?

Better rates is the only way to better our industry. No one is looking to become a millionaire, but just to earn enough for a living they enjoy waking up to everyday.

Where are things heading for your chapter in the coming years?

We aim to become a hub of learning and internship for projects happening in and around Botswana. We want to help women become better in their craft, and provide sets for them to hone their skills on. It won't happen overnight, but we look forward to seeing it grow little by little!

Where can find more info on your WIFT chapter? You can follow us on social media @wifbotswana on all platforms. They are yet to be active, but will be soon! Also you can email us at wifbotswana@gmail.com to connect and collaborate!