

## African short films on Oscar shortlist

Six African short films are in the running to win an Oscar, selected from 63 qualifying films. The five finalists will be announced this Tuesday, 23 January 2018, with the awards scheduled for 4 March 2018 in Los Angeles.



*Revolting Rhymes*. Image supplied.

*Revolting Rhymes* is one of the films shortlisted as well as South Africa and Senegal's foreign film entries, *The Wound and Felicite* and *Jane*, set in Tanzania, in the documentary category. The Ghana-set *Kayayo* was shortlisted in the short documentaries category; and the Kenyan-set *Watu Wote* in short films.

Directed by Jakob Schuh (Oscar-nominated for *The Gruffalo*) and Jan Lachauer (Oscar-nominated for *Room on the Broom*) and co-directed by Bin Han To, produced by Martin Pope and Michael Rose, *Revolting Rhymes* is an adaptation of Roald Dahl and Quentin Blake's classic book of surprising fairy tales. It's voiced by a stellar cast that includes Dominic West (*The Affair*) as The Wolf; Rose Leslie (*Game of Thrones*) as Red Riding Hood; and Gemma Chan (*Humans*) as Snow White.

### African animation, among best in the world

Produced by Magic Light Pictures, *Revolting Rhymes* was animated at Magic Light's Berlin studio and Cape Town's Triggerfish. The film has already won nine major international awards: the Cristal at Annecy in France, the world's premiere animation festival; Best Animation at the Bafta Children's Awards; two awards at the European Animation Awards; Best Animated Short at TIFF Kids; Best Animation at the World Banff Media Festival in Canada; Best Storytelling at Shanghai International Film and TV Festival in China; the Children's Jury prize at the Chicago International Children's Film Festival and the Audience Award at Filmfest Munchen.

*Revolting Rhymes* is also nominated for a prestigious Annie Award on 3 February 2018 in Los Angeles; a British Animation Award on 15 March in London; and an International Emmy Kids Award, which will be presented in April 2018.

“When we started Triggerfish 21 years ago, there was no animation industry in South Africa, so it’s amazing to have worked on a film which is now on the Oscar shortlist, for directors whose work we’ve always admired,” says Triggerfish CEO Stuart Forrest. “This shows again that African animation is now among the best in the world and we hope it will inspire many more people across the continent to consider animation as a career path.”

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