

How women in African film can achieve influence

The Women of Influence session at DISCOP Joburg includes a panel of highly successful and influential women and aims to create a powerful and impactful dialogue where DISCOP delegates can directly engage with women from the entertainment and media industry who have reached the top of their fields.



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Established as a mechanism to support worthy women filmmakers from across Africa in order to contribute to correcting the major imbalances within the industry, [The Ladima Foundation](#), in partnership with DISCOP Joburg will present the second of its Women of Influence panel at DISCOP.

These outcomes based discussions are focused on developing positive solutions and interventions that can have tangible impact for women in the industry. With an eye to both structural and policy change, as well as the issues that affect women at the coal-face, the Women of Influence panels challenge the participants to reflect on how, as women with influence and established networks, they can actively participate in the change needed for more women to succeed.



Supporting women filmmakers in Africa

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The panel follows the recent launch of the A-List, Africa's largest searchable database of women professionals. The A-List was launched at the recent Cape Town International Film Market and Festival and already has over 1,000 registered. The A-List was a direct outcome of the first Ladima Women of Influence panel that took place at DISCOP Zanzibar in July 2018.

The discussions will include women from a diversity of backgrounds whose success and influence can be part of collectively building and strengthening the space that women occupy in the industries. The essence of this panel is to develop a framework on how women in African film can achieve influence through improving individual and collective competence and quality of output in the different fields of filmmaking and related areas.

The panel

Moderator: Lara Utian- Preston, co-founder, The Ladima Foundation.

Speakers: Raziah Athman, deputy editor-in-chief, Africanews; Kelly-Anne Joseph, head of operations, SA and rest of Africa, Kwese; Zeezee Ihe-Okuneye, managing partner, How Media & Entertainment; Valentine Gaudin-Muteba, managing director: media, sales & operations, Trace Southern African Office; Sheila Cole, vice president of post productions & operations, The Africa Channel.

These sessions, amongst other interventions, reflect the core mission of the Ladima Foundation that includes: professional training, educational support, recognition, and networking and community. The Ladima Foundation was started by Edima Otuokon from Nigeria and Lara Utian-Preston from South Africa. The Ladima Foundation was established as a mechanism to support worthy women filmmakers from across Africa in order to contribute to correcting the major imbalances within the industry.

Ladima aims to support women in a variety of roles within filmmaking, video production and related content development through a range of projects and interventions. The Foundation's flagship project is the Ladima Award for African Women Documentary Filmmakers, an Award that carries with it a cash prize and similar award categories will be rolled out in the future.

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