

# PATIRI IN THE PROMISED LAND

*What would you be  
willing to risk?*

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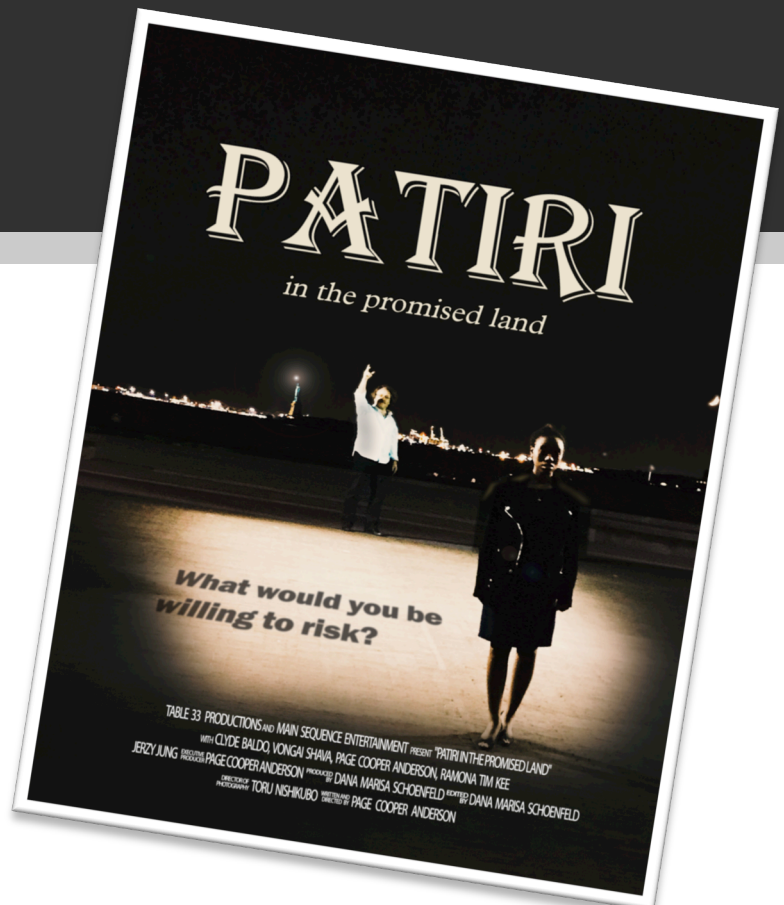


**When a story shows up** in the mind of a writer, it never goes away. You either write it, or you don't. For New York

City based actor, writer, and director Page Cooper Anderson, there was no question about writing *Patiri In The Promised Land*. The unexpected story literally appeared in front of her in the form of a tiny human, and from that interaction, burned into the depths of her brain. It wouldn't go away. And because it wouldn't go away, Page Cooper Anderson had no choice. She had to write it.

"The idea of *Patiri In The Promised Land* was not something I was searching for," she said. "I never sat at my computer with Final Draft open, the curser blinking, and my head in my hands. I think that's the beauty of it."

The short film, an official selection of the London International Filmmaker Festival of World Cinema 2018, is a touching story about a young immigrant student's fight to stay in the United States after her status is revoked. To stay in the Promised Land, and with the kind-hearted soul who takes her in, Patiri makes up a past that never existed. The lies she tells creates heartache she couldn't have imagined, for both her and the man who opened his heart and home to a perfect stranger.



Anderson was in the middle of working on her web series, *The Real Page Turner*, when the young woman who inspired (and would eventually star in) the film approached her. On the set of the weeklong shoot with more than fifty paid extras, the young lady was the only one who thanked Anderson for the opportunity.

"I was wowed. She had a cherubic face, a beautiful smile, and a lovely British accent," Anderson recalls. "I was curious about her, so we started talking. She told me she was from Zimbabwe. When she told me her name, Vongai, I told her it was a warrior's name. I would learn later that she really was a warrior."

The beauty of Vongai stayed with Anderson. After connecting on social media, Anderson came to learn that Vongai was days away from losing her student Visa status. Time was *not* on her side. The young girl was alone, her family thousands of miles away in Zimbabwe.

As a mother, Page Cooper Anderson felt she had no choice but to reach out. They met a few times, sharing stories of hope and desire. The more Vongai talked, the more the writer and director learned of her story. Vongai *was* a warrior. A determined warrior. So determined, that she had collected pages of documentation for one purpose and one purpose only: To stay in America.



All the while, the tide was turning on Capitol Hill. There was a transition in The White House. For Anderson, that was the tipping point. She knew she was meant to tell a version of this young woman's story, and in the interest of time, she had to do it *now*.

It didn't take long for the story to unfold on the page. Anderson was thrilled to share a version of Vongai's tale, as well as cast her in the role of Patiri. And with a film challenge looming just around the corner, Anderson decided to make *Patiri In The Promised Land* part of that challenge. After four days of shooting, directing, and facing the trials of a short timeline, the film was born.

*Patiri In The Promised Land* is not Anderson's first piece of work. Nor will it be her last. The short film is part of a deep-seated passion that took years to surface. In the first part of her life, she was a full-time homeschooling Mom, then the CEO of her own real estate company. She also spent time as a therapist. Today, she is an ambitious and vivacious writer, director, and actor.

"After 50-plus years of being in charge of everything and everyone around you, you become fearless as well as bit stupid," Anderson quips. "So when it came time to dive into writing and directing, it was like being fearless all over again. The idea of standing on the edge of a cliff and falling into nowhere seemed like a really cool idea."

Anderson moved to New York City in 2013 with her husband, a luxury that afforded her the opportunity to reinvent herself without a day job to distract her. She started as a print model and commercial actress. Those gigs led her to a group of actors, writers, and filmmakers who were just as determined to create their own content. Anderson was all in. In her eyes, these ambitious creators were standing on an unpredictable cliff of limitless creation. She wanted to stand with them.

Anderson took the time to learn how to write for the screen. She also harnessed a ton of other industry skillsets. Soon thereafter, her production company, Table 33 Productions, was born. Her first project was the web series, *The Real Page Turner*. The 12-part series is about a woman who sets out on a mission to change the world. In her search, she ends up changing herself instead.

The series was shot in a week. Anderson cast herself as the lead and gathered highly talented actors and crew to do the rest. She admits that in the beginning she had no idea what she was doing. But by the time the series wrapped, she was an old pro. She knew anything was possible, and set out to continue creating.

From here, Anderson dug into her directorial debut with *Patiri In The Promised Land*. Again, she didn't go it alone. Accomplished writer, director, and actor Dana Marisa Schoenfeld was by her side. For Anderson, co-directing with Schoenfeld was a life changing experience. Despite their very different personalities, Anderson calls the duo an unstoppable powerhouse, ready and willing to take the indie film world by storm.



*Page Cooper Anderson (right) on the set with director Dana Marisa Schoenfeld and cast.*

*"Closing your eyes isn't going to change anything. Nothing is going to disappear just because you can't see what's going on. In fact things will only be worse the next time you open your eyes. That's the kind of world we live in. Keep your eyes wide open. Only a coward closes his eyes." – Haruki Murakami*



# Her Next Stop: Exit 0

Anderson is shooting the pilot for Exit 0 in Cape May, New Jersey this spring.

As *Patiri In The Promised Land* debuts in London, Anderson is a few short months away from shooting a fresh comedy pilot titled, *Exit 0 – The Last Stop*. The series takes her talents to new levels as she skillfully writes characters, both alive and dead, into a story about giving, selfish taking, and dealing with the dead in order to stay alive at Exit 0.

Anderson is honored to have *Patiri In The Promised Land* nominated for Best Story, Best Short and Best Director at The London International Filmmaker Festival of World Cinema 2018. These accolades encourage her to explore new cliffs. And really, she seems to dig that kind of thrill.

For more information on Page Cooper Anderson and **Table33 Productions**, please visit her at: <https://www.table33productions.com>

