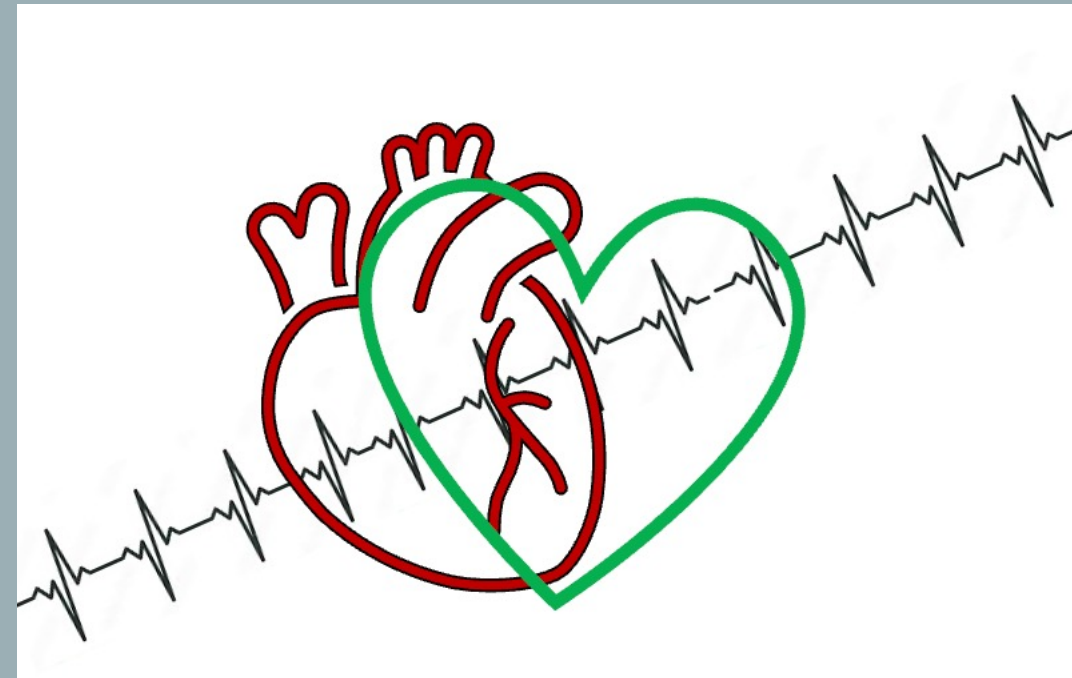


From the sun-kissed savannas of Abomey (Benin Republic) to the sprawling urban tapestry of Los Angeles, my journey has been one of exploration, understanding, and synthesis. *i & we*, **UBUNTU** encapsulates this journey, marrying my African roots with my experiences in the United States.

The philosophy of 'Ubuntu' - "I am because we are" - is the guiding force behind this narrative. It has always been more than just a word; it's the essence of community and interconnectedness that I've carried from my years living in Benin, Togo, Congo, Cameroon, Kenya and Tchad. However, living in Los Angeles has illuminated the universality of this ethos. The city, in all its diversity and dynamism, embodies the spirit of 'Ubuntu' - individuals from myriad backgrounds coming together, shaping, and being shaped by each other.

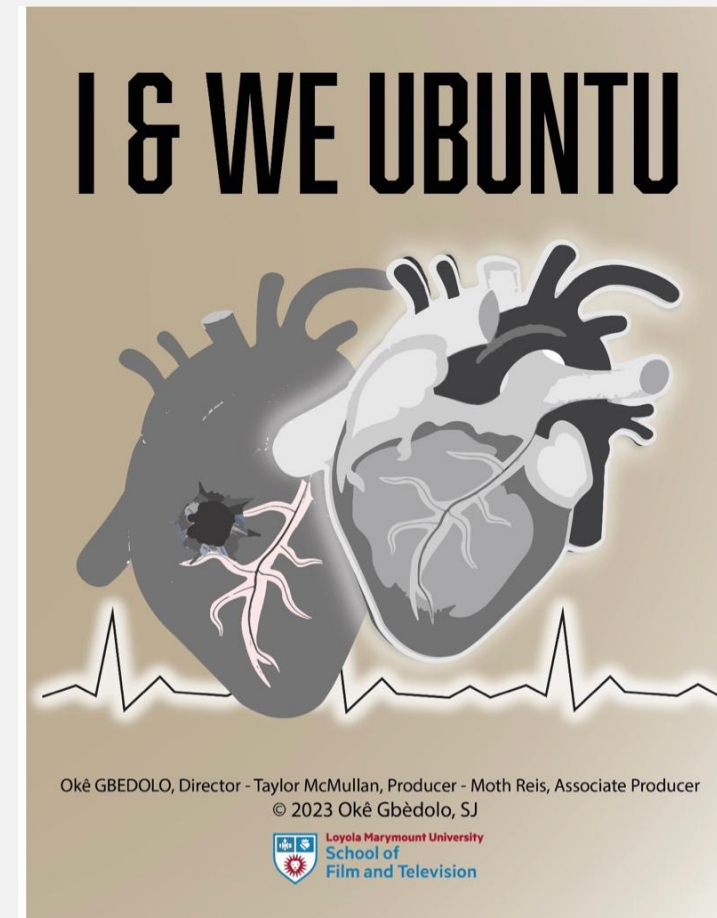
## Director's Statement



George and Kojo's poignant story in the film is a reflection of these cultural intersections. While George's anguish is palpable, Kojo, with the heart of George's son, emerges as a symbol of hope, a bridge between two worlds, two cultures, and two histories.

In creating *i & we, UBUNTU*, as well as my former films *Universal Hug* (Oct. 2022), *Life in the Little* (Nov. 2022), *Struggle* (Dec. 2022), *Double Jeopardy* (May 2023), I aim to foreground values that resonate with intercultural awareness that stands out as a beacon, teaching us to see the 'other' not as an outsider but as an integral part of our shared humanity. Reconciliation and self-forgiveness are deeply African yet universal in their appeal, urging us to mend what's broken, both within and outside. The narrative also delves into the subjects of faith and hope, vital to navigating the challenges of modern life, especially in a metropolis like LA.

...statement  
continues...



## ...statement continues.

But perhaps most crucially, the film shines a light on mental health, a topic often sidelined in many cultures. In the backdrop of Dr. Suzanne's sessions, the narrative addresses the importance of confronting, understanding, and healing our psychological wounds. Living in a city like Los Angeles, where aspirations and anxieties coexist, has heightened my awareness of the need to champion mental well-being.

Through this cinematic endeavor, I invite viewers to embark on a journey of reflection, to find the African 'Ubuntu' in the heart of LA, and to realize that our stories, no matter where they originate, are threads in the rich tapestry of global human experience.

In *i & we, UBUNTU*, I aspire to tell a tale that transcends borders, one that celebrates our shared spirit and advocates for a world where communion reigns supreme.

