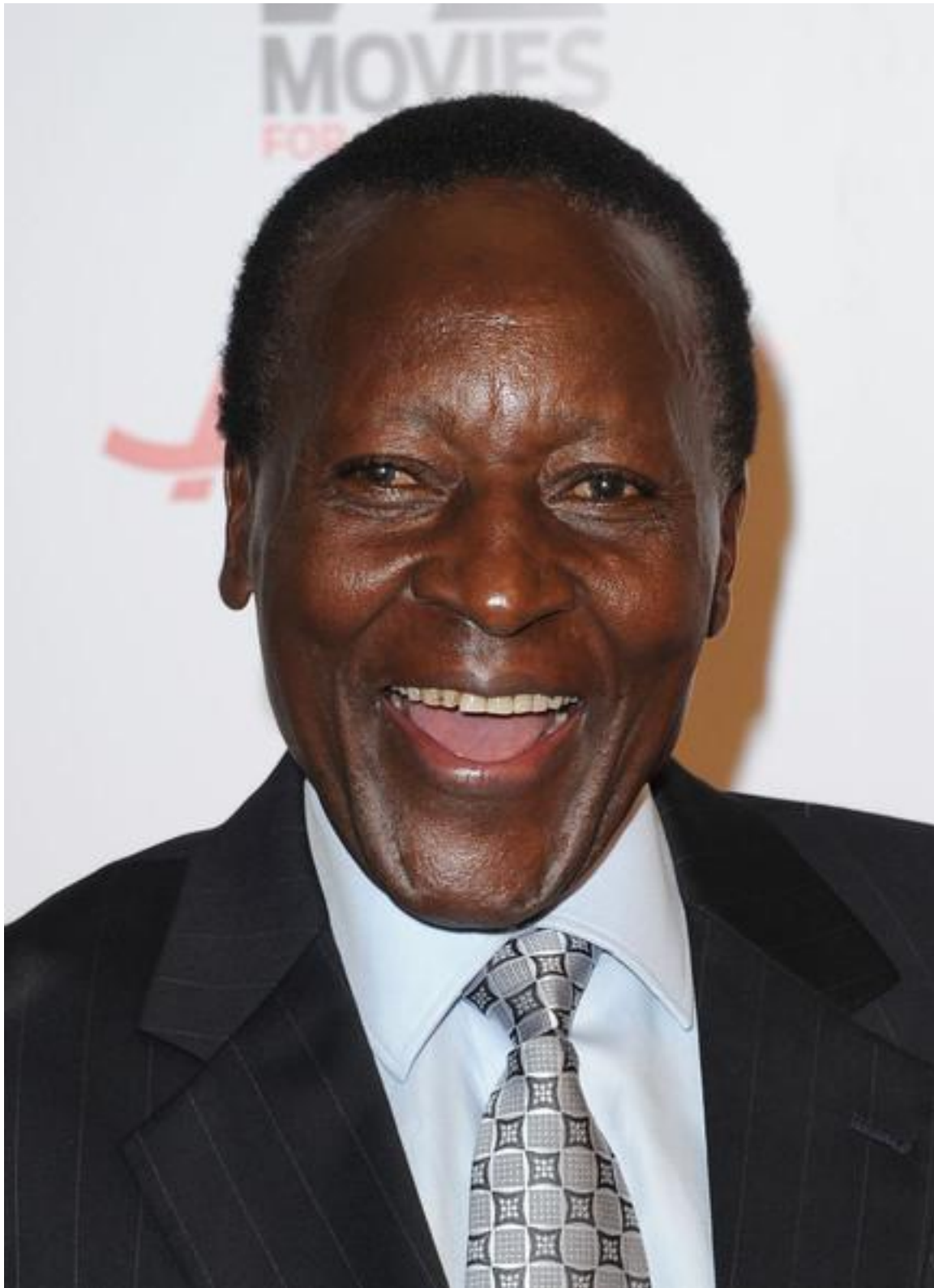


Oliver Musila Litondo (1948 -)



February 2012

Oliver Litondo was born in Kakamega, Kenya in 1948. He went to university in the United States. His career which started in broadcast journalism included as correspondent with BBC and Deutsche Welle. He was also anchorman for Voice of Kenya (currently Kenya Broadcasting Corporation - KBC) and anchorman for Kenya Television Network (KTN).

Meanwhile, Oliver developed interest in film acting and theatre. One of the major movies in which Oliver acted was the Wilby Conspiracy released in 1974, starring Oscar winners Sydney Poitier and Michael Caine. Previous to that he acted on a British movie, "The Search for the Nile" in 1971. Oliver went on to co-produce with Alakie Mboya, a hit National Theatre stage production, "The Muntu", by Joe de Graft, starring Oliver Litondo and Beldina Auma in 1976 who later became his wife. In 1978 Oliver starred in the film "The Bush Trackers" produced and directed by the late Gordon Parks, Jr. (who died in a plane crash in Nairobi on his way to a shooting location) and Gary Strieker, completed the movie after Gordon's death.

In 1984 Oliver acted in "Sheena: Queen of the Jungle" Starring Tanya Roberts He also acted in "The Lion Of Africa" in 1988, starring Bryan Danahy, and the "Ivory Hunters" in 1990 starring James Earl Jones and John Lithgo. Oliver's latest movie released in 2010 is "The First Grader", directed by Justin Chadwick and starring Oliver Litondo and Naomie Harris. Mr Litondo beat the venerable Hollywood greats like Morgan Freeman to land the role. Oliver is very excited about the First Grader and says "more adults now go to school in Kenya since the movie was released, inspired by Maruge's (played by Oliver) courage to start first grade at age 84". Oliver loves kids and acting in a movie with so many kids was "like fish in water for him", says his wife.

Oliver is married to his long time friend and confidant, Beldina Auma, a communications practitioner, former journalist, former actress (starred with him in "The Muntu") and model. They have four children. One of his daughters, Grace, is an up and coming singer, with a decent following in YouTube.

Source: <http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0514411/>

FIRST GRADER AROUND THE WORLD



Oliver Litondo (left) playing Kimani Maruge as a pupil in Class One

[📄 The First Grader Scores at NAACP Image Awards](#)

NAACP Image Awards The First Grader, received five nominations for the 43rd NAACP Image Awards it was announced in the United States last week. The NAACP Image Awards are presented by the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People to honour outstanding people of color in film, television, music, and literature. The First Grader received nominations in the following categories: Outstanding Motion Picture, Outstanding Actor (Oliver Litondo) , Best Independent Motion Picture , Writing in a...

[📄 Awards Boost for Videovision Entertainment's "The First Grader"](#)

Oliver Litondo - Best Actor Black Film Critics Circle Oliver Litondo who plays the tenacious, 83-year-old Maruge in the award-winning movie, The First Grader, which is co-produced by Videovision Entertainment, won the Best Actor Award from the Black Film Critics Circle it was announced last night. Founded in 2010, the Black Film Critics Circle is comprised of film critics of colour who write for daily newspapers, weekly newspapers, magazines, radio, television and qualifying on-line publications in the...

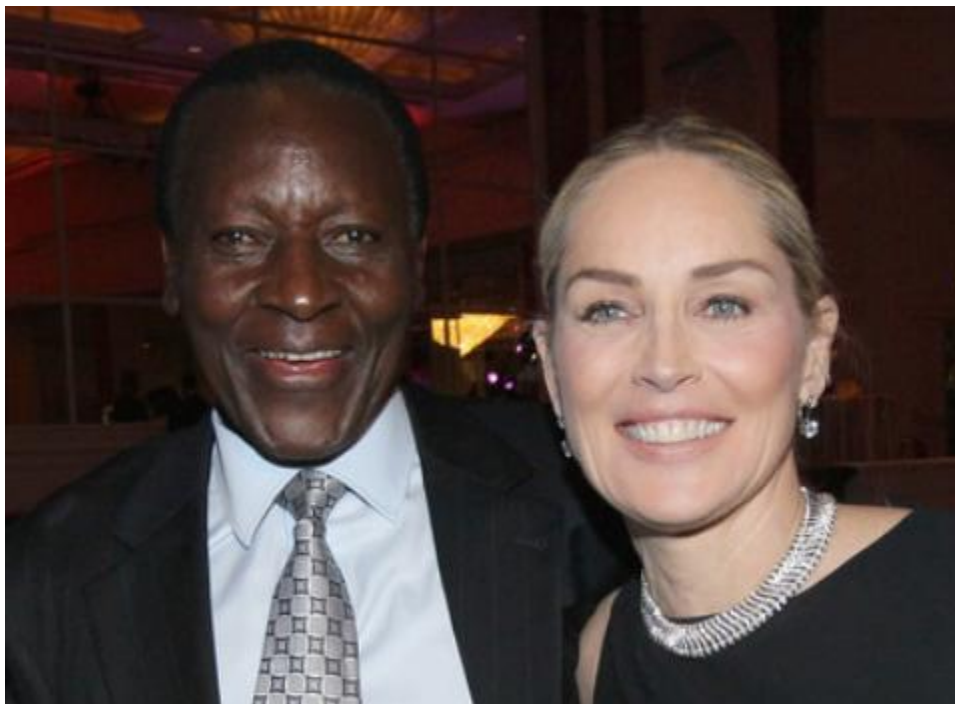
[📄 Gotham Awards Nomination for Videovision's "The First Grader"](#)

The Gotham Independent Film Awards The award-winning film, The First Grader, co-produced by Videovision Entertainment has been nominated for the prestigious Gotham Independent Film Awards coveted Genius Audience Award it was announced in New York last night. The Gotham Independent Film Awards, are held under the auspices of the Independent Filmmaker Project and are selected

by distinguished juries and presented in New York, which is acknowledged as the home of independent film. These Awards are the first...

📺 [Videovision's "The First Grader" Star is New Bond Girl](#)

SKYFALL - 23rd film in the James Bond Franchise The star of the Videovision Entertainment's The First Grader , Naomie Harris , who plays the lead role of Jane Obinchi in the multi award-winning film , has been cast in the new James Bond film, Skyfall , the 23rd film in the James Bond franchise. Harris will play one of the most famous and memorable roles of the Bond franchise, that of Miss Money Penny . Harris, who gives a powerful performance in The First Grader, won the Best Actress Award at the Kenyan...



Oliver Litondo with Hollywood actress, Sharon Stone

["The First Grader" Tops The Class at Kenya Film Festival](#)

Kenya International Film Festival The First Grader scooped the main prizes at the Kenyan International Film Festival, winning the Best Actor (Oliver Litondo) , Best Actress (Naomie Harris) and Best Film Awards it was announced at the closing ceremony of the Festival in Nairobi last night. The film, co-produced by Durban based, Videovision Entertainment, BBC Films, UK Film Council and Origin Pictures is directed by Justin Chadwick and stars Oliver Litondo and Naomie Harris as well as South African...

["First Grader" wins at World Soundtrack Academy Awards](#)

38th Ghent International Film Festival Music Composer, Alex Heffes , won the Discovery of the Year prize for his work on The First Grader at the 2011 World Soundtrack Awards which were announced at the closing event of the 38th Ghent International Film Festival on Saturday, 22 October 2011. The Awards is an initiative of the World Soundtrack Academy which was launched in 2001 by the Ghent Film Festival, is aimed at organizing and overseeing the educational, cultural and professional aspects of the art of...



Oliver Litondo, Naomie Harris and Justin Chadwick, the film's producer.

[Videovision's "First Grader" Premieres in Johannesburg](#)

Johannesburg, South Africa The First Grader, co-produced by Durban based, Videovision Entertainment , the BBC , UK Film Council and Origin Pictures had its South African premiere in Johannesburg with the director, Justin Chadwick and local actors Vusi Kunene , Tony Kgoroge , Israel Kakoe and Shoki Mokgapa with Executive Producers, Anant Singh and Helena Spring in attendance. The Guest of Honour at the event was Deputy Minister of Basic Education, Enver Surty while other VIP guests included Deputy Minister...

[Durban International Film Festival Audience Award for TFG](#)

Durban International Film Festival The First Grader, co-produced by Durban-based, Videovision Entertainment, won the coveted Audience Award at the 32nd Durban International Film Festival it was announced at the Festival's awards ceremony. The film had its South African premiere on Sunday (24 July) at the Festival with actors Oliver Litondo and Tony Kgoroge, Executive Producer Anant Singh and Guest Of Honour, Minister of Arts and Culture, Mr Paul Mashatile in attendance. The Audience Award at the Durban...

[SA Premiere for The First Grader at Durban Film Festival](#)

Durban International Film Festival 2011 South Africa The First Grader, based on a true story, is set in a remote primary school in the Kenyan bush where hundreds of children are jostling for a chance for the free education promised by the new Kenyan government. One new applicant causes astonishment when he knocks on the door of the school. He is Maruge, an old Mau Mau veteran in his eighties, who is desperate to learn to read at this late stage of his life. He fought for the liberation of his...

[📺 The First Grader US Release May 13, 2011](#)

National Geographic Entertainment the First Grader will be released in the United States on May 13, 2011 by National Geographic Entertainment. The film will be launched in New York and Los Angeles and then expanded to other US cities in the forthcoming weeks. The First Grader, based on a true story, is set in a remote primary school in the Kenyan bush where hundreds of children are jostling for a chance for the free education promised by the new Kenyan government. One new applicant causes astonishment...

[Palm Beach Film Festival : Best Feature Film](#)

Videovision Entertainment's 'First Grader' Tops The Class at the Palm Beach Film Festival The Videovision Entertainment co-production, The First Grader, won the Best Feature Film Award of the Palm Beach International Film Festival last night. The film, shot in Kenya, is directed by Justin Chadwick (The Other Boleyn Girl) stars Naomie Harris and Oliver Litondo , Vusi Kunene , Tony Kgoroge and David Chege , written by Emmy winner Ann Peacock , produced by David M. Thompson , Sam Feuer and Richard...

[The First Grader Wins Audience Prize In Doha](#)

Doha Tribeca Film Festival The First Grader which was the Closing Night film at the Second Doha Tribeca Film Festival last night where it captivated audiences, garnering the Audience Prize for Best Narrative Film. The Award was presented to director, Justin Chadwick and the team by actor, Robert De Niro . Also in attendance were the leads, Kenyan star, Oliver Litondo and Naomie Harris;

Producer, David M. Thompson and Executive Producer, Anant Singh. The First Grader has consistently been a hit with...

📄 [London Film Festival 2010 Round-Up](#)

The First Grader Philip Concannon - Phil on Film This is conventional, tick-the-boxes filmmaking and you can predict its narrative arc from frame one, but The First Grader is a solid crowd-pleaser nonetheless. It's based on the true story of Kimani N'gan'ga Maruge (Oliver Litondo) , an 84 year-old who turned up at a local school one day when the new Kenyan government announced free education for all. Undeterred by the teachers' insistence that the offer is aimed only at children, Maruge...

📄 [Maruge goes to London](#)

Topi-Talk The spirit of Maruge, the 84 year old first grader, was brought to London on a chilly autumn evening, when star actor Oliver Litondo and lead actress Naomie Harris stepped on to the red carpet at the Odeon in Leicester Square. Away from the glamour however there were some fundamental issues raised by the stars. The First Grader may well be a landmark in Kenya's Film Industry, but the lack of creativity and understanding of the power of film by those in position, has put paid to a great...

📄 [The First Grader Premieres at London Film Festival](#)

London Film Festival 2010 Press Association - Mirror Video - People.co.uk The First Grader was inspired by the true story about a Kenyan man who goes back to primary school at the age of 84 to get the education he always wanted. Click here to watch the London Film Festival premier on YouTube...