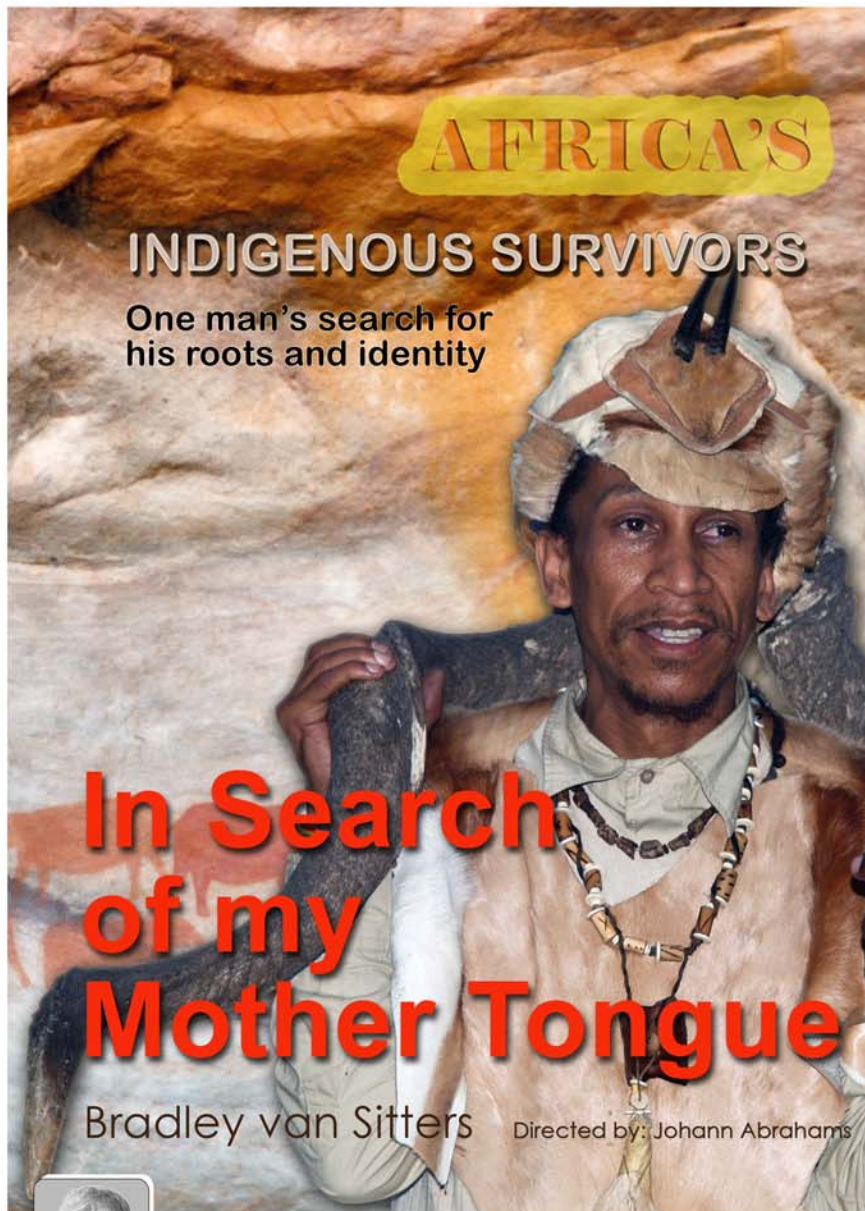


# AFRICA's Indigenous Survivors In Search of my Mother Tongue



On Set Images  
**On Set Productions**



**Working Title** In Search of my Mother Tongue

**Writer**  
**Director**



Johann Abrahams

**Genre**  
**Tag Line**  
**Log Line**

Feature Documentary, 90 Minutes  
One man's search for his roots and identity  
The personal and epic journey of a young man's quest to revisit the ancient memories of his ancestors and re-claiming his true mother tongue

### Synopsis:

Bradley van Sitters, aka Bradlox, is a Khoehoe heritage activist from Lavender Hill, a notorious township plagued by gang violence, on the outskirts of Cape Town.

His cultural name is //Hui !Gaeb di !Hunib !Gûkhoeb meaning... "The Yellow walker where the clouds gather"

He sets on a journey to rediscover the Khoehoe language and to revive one of the oldest languages spoken on the planet. Despite the disappearing numbers of first language of Khoekhoe mother tongue speakers, Bradlox is intent on raising up a new generation of speakers who will keep the language alive.

This feature documentary captures the personal and epic journey of a young man's quest to revisit the ancient memories of his ancestors and relearning his true mother tongue.



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**Cultural Objects used in Khoikhoi rituals and tribal gatherings to invoke the spirits of the Ancestors; using the Kudu (Xaib) horns as antennas and receptors to communicate with the Ancestral world**

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**A gathering called by the King of the Kutsokua "Cochoqua" Royal House in Mamre to declare the process that Louwskloof will become a World Heritage Site. Johann Abrahams is capturing the moment when bishop Gail Lawrence is blowing the Kudo horn to invoke the spirits of the ancestors.**

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Bearing ritual markings Bradley van Sitters is here accompanied with Headwoman Georgina Katsie at a Gorachouqua Tribal Council Gathering.

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Performing the Kudu horn (Xaib //nâb) Ceremony here Bradley is supported by Headman Abraham Koeberg, within the Gorachouqua Tribal Council Circle, at the launch of the Lavender Hill School Holiday Project. The programme was geared towards cultural and linguistic revitalization of the Khoikhoi through indigenous-games, -instruments, -dance

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Gorachouqua Tribal Council Paramount Chief, Hendrik van Wyk (second from the left) is attending an inter-tribal gathering in the Western Cape to facilitate cohesion and emphasize on the importance of elevating the 'Spirit of unity' amongst various indigenous groupings in South Africa. and -drama.

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Senior Traditional Leadership of the Khoikhoi is attending a //Nâu Ceremony at Oude-Molen in Pinelands, Cape Town. This historic location has been the place of an ancient kraal of the Goringhaiqua Tribe where (Paramount Chief) Gaob Gogosoia at the arrival of Jan Van Riebeeck lived. In the same vicinity the outbreak of the First Khoikhoi-Dutch War commenced in 1659. and -drama.

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**!Ora (Katz Korana) Chief !Xam from Hout Bay addresses an audience at the //Nâu Ceremony at Oude-Molen in Pine-lands to emphasize the importance of Land Distribution in favour of the marginalized indigenous people.**



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**Sitting around the ceremonial campfire are (from left) !Ora (Katz Korana) Xoma-Aob (Traditional Healer) and !Ora (Katz Korana) Chief !Xam from Hout Bay.**

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Different tribal members and other dignitaries witness the //Nâu Ceremony at Oude-Molen in Pinelands.

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**Bradley van Sitters engages with youth during the Lavender Hill School Holiday Programme; in one of the most notorious gang infested communities in Cape Town. The idea is to connect younger members of the community with their hidden past and oppressed identity through playful engagement.**

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The children from Lander Hill aged between 9 and 15 are attending a Ronde-Vlei Guided Workshop at Ronde-Vlei Nature Reserve. These children, living on the outskirts of the Nature Reserve, here for the first time got the opportunity to see the beauty of the Nature Reserve and its breath taking bird watch towers.

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**As part of the School Holiday Programme, Youths were taken to Ronde-Vlei Nature Reserve to harness closer contact between the neighbouring community and the surrounding natural landscape.**

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## Khoisan in 'liberation' walk to deliver petition fighting for customs

Katharina Riebesel

A GROUP of Khoisan people went on a "liberation" walk of 1 300km from the Kalahari to Cape Town, to deliver a petition to Parliament for their customs and practices to be respected.

The 18 Indigenous First Nation Peoples of the Republic of South Africa members claimed their customary system and cultural practices were prohibited by law.

They had intended to hand over their petition to a government official, but had to turn back as there was no one to receive their document.

"We could not be received this time, but we will not give up. Our mission is too important.

"We will get more signatures for our petition in our communities and come back. Hopefully, the meeting will not be cancelled next time," said Neal Hartman, spokesman for the group.

Members of the group said the Khoisan people were against an amendment to the Traditional Leaders Act, claiming it was "government's attempt to lump Khoikhoi (sic) with people of Mbo and Nguni descent".

They were also unhappy about what they called the

“  
We could not be received, but we will not give up. Our mission is too important

redundancy of Nama language teachers by the Northern Cape government.

"The Khoikhoi and Bushmen language family is the oldest in the world, and without language, a culture cannot exist," said Bradley van Sitters, a member of the group. During their gathering outside Parliament's gates, the group practised a cleansing ceremony.

Dressed in traditional attire of animal skins, they burnt herbs and smeared the ashes over their bodies. The ritual was to praise their ancestors, they said.

"This is a sacred moment for me because I am reconnecting with the suppressed part of my identity," said Van Sitters. [katharina.riebesel@inl.co.za](mailto:katharina.riebesel@inl.co.za)



SEEKING RECOGNITION: Bradley van Sitters (left) and other Khoisan people conduct a cleansing ceremony outside Parliament.

Picture: BRENTON GEACH

In aid of promoting International Mother Tongue day on 21 February, the 1300 km relay-walk from the Kalahari Desert to Cape Town was to shed light on the plight of safe guarding the ancestral language family of the Khoikhoi.