



AWALI COMICS

www.awalicomics.com

COMPANY PROFILE '26



ABOUT US 1

WHAT WE STRIVE FOR

Awali Comics is South Africa's first Afro-Manga studio, dedicated to creating and developing local manga and anime. Our journey began in 2009 under Awali Studios, before we took the leap to become an independent entity in 2017 with the release of our debut manga, *Siri Watu: Descendants of Africa* #1.

To date, we have released more than a dozen manga, including three full volumes of *Siri Watu* and a new anthology series called *Afro-Shout*, where we collaborate with aspiring African mangaka to bring their stories into physical format.

Driven by a love for Japanese pop culture, we focus on finding natural ways to fuse it with South African storytelling. This passion led us to develop local TV content like *Anime Manga Otaku*, produced alongside Comic Con Africa. Over the years, we have also become a regular fixture at major local pop-culture events, including Comic Con Cape Town, R.A.G.E., and ICON.

Our work has opened doors for us to develop original IP within a first-of-its-kind United Nations Development Programme aimed at helping young entrepreneurs enter the South African animation industry. Additionally, we have delivered custom artwork for the City of Cape Town and had our journey featured internationally on the French news network, TV5Monde.



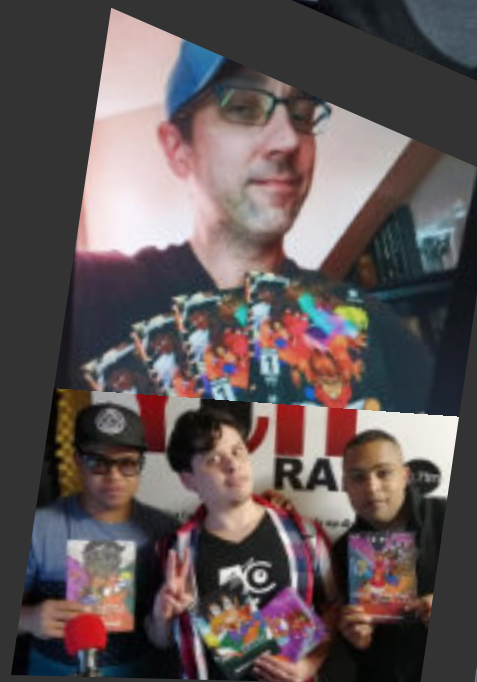
WE CREATE MANGA & ORIGINAL IP

CONTINUE —————>



Z I Y A A D R A H M A N

The studio was started by Ziyaad Rahman, a qualified master historian, who brings his education and lived experience to his writing, illustration, and animation work. Ziyaad believes in sharing what he has learned, frequently hosting open workshops at local libraries and conventions to help aspiring creators. He has also had the privilege of collaborating with the Japanese Language Club of South Africa to host discussions on the creative process behind making manga and building original IP.





AFRO-MANGA 2

Afro-Manga is the blend between African history, folklore and storytelling with Japanese Anime Aesthetics.

Siri Watu

WATCH NOW



HATED! BETRAYED! HUNTED! If your people were taken from you,, how far would you go to get them back?

Siri Watu follows four teenagers as they discover they are part of a community of supernatural people in hiding, who are being hunted by a sinister collective with unknown motives.

Set in a fantastical world, where Djinn and Tokoloshe whisper in supernatural abilities, *Siri Watu* is a story about finding community amid the struggle for survival, where those you know may disappear at any moment.

Siri Watu is inspired by the folklore and mythology of South Africa, West Africa and the emergence of its melting culture. This includes the quiet history of the Lost City of the Kalahari, and the tales of Djinn and mischievous Tokoloshe. It is also inspired by the real life disappearances that happened in South Africa between 1960 and 1980s.

CONTINUE →

AFRO-MANGA 2

Afro Shout

ANTHOLOGY
SERIES

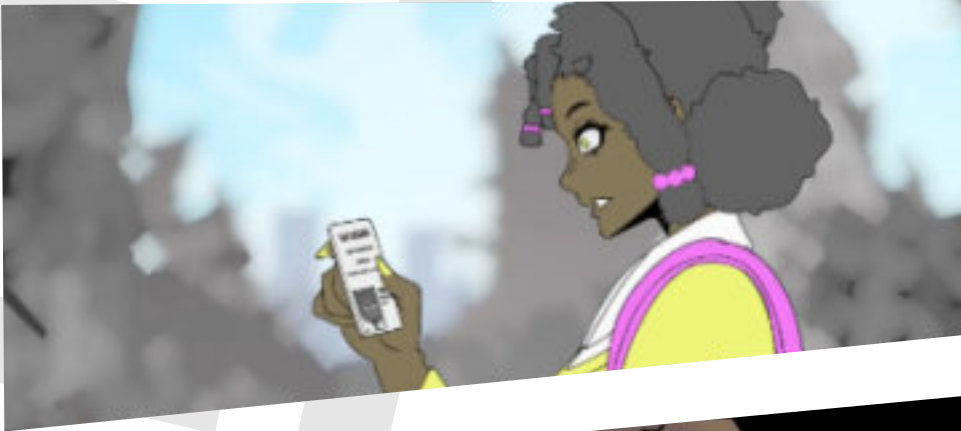
Afro-Shout is a South African anthology series produced by Awali Comics, created to support and grow the country's Mangaka community. With a focus on the Seinen, Shounen, and Action genres, the series provides a platform for local creators to blend South African culture with the dynamic energy of manga storytelling. It aims to highlight diverse voices, encourage collaboration, and inspire new generations of artists to explore bold and imaginative narratives. The first anthology showcases four unique stories, each with its own distinct style and theme. 10 Kaiju vs 206 Sangoma face South African folklore and tradition against the might of towering kaiju. Terror-tory explores the boundaries of fear, heroism and survival in an isolating world. Metro 06 pits gritty, futuristic Mecha-Fighters against the oldest African Gods. Whlist, Wondering Salesman presents a mysterious tale about desire, revenge and the consequences of making the wrong deal. Together, these stories all mark an exciting beginning for Afro-Shout, setting the stage for future South African afro-manga stories.



ANIMATION **3**

Ses'fikele

In a radio-pop, post-apocalyptic South Africa ruled by Undead Corpsos, A.I. death popo, E.T. Conquerors, and Psycho Man-Eating Monsters, a young orphan girl risks everything to secure a home for her brothers. Ses'fikele, developed under the United Nations Development Program, follows Dembe, who scrapes by selling avos on the roadside while caring for her siblings. When she steps into the perilous role of a boytjie (taxi conductor), she enters a world where survival depends on courage, cunning, and sheer willpower. Her ultimate dream is to own a heavily modded taxi capable of navigating the wasteland, but to achieve it she must face the most lethal transport competition ever devised: The Long Trek. An event that sees taxi drivers haul cargo and people across the longest and most dangerous road in South Africa, with one promised outcome: riches beyond comprehension.



PROJECTS **4**

HIGHLIGHTED PROJECTS



City of Cape Town

In this project, Ziyaad worked on illustrating the artwork for a mini manga that was on large scale display at promoting tourism activities in the city of Cape Town at Comic Con Africa.



Anime Manga Otaku

Ziyaad acted as host, producer and editor for the TV show Anime Manga Otaku that aired in 2025, and early 2026.



CONVENTION APPEARANCES

- Comic Con Africa
- Comic Con Cape Town
- Fan Con (Merged with Comic Con Cape Town)
- ICON
- RAGE
- UCON
- Con.Ect
- Geek.Fest
- Open Book Festival
- Superheroes Challenge Fun Run Charity Event
- Electronic Gaming Expo (No Longer Exists)



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