



Vertical text in a stylized, geometric font, possibly representing the word "LOZOLA". The characters are composed of simple shapes like triangles, diamonds, and lines.





WE ARE NOT ALONE

Running Time:	11 minutes
Director/Animator/Editor:	Adebukola Bodunrin
Writer:	Ezra Clayton Daniels
Producer:	Mariel Neto
Cinematographer:	Adam Bial
Original Score:	Jeremiah Chiu & Marta Sofia Honer



LOGLINE

A reclusive young Nigerian immigrant becomes convinced that a mysterious object approaching Earth's orbit holds the key to her loneliness.

SYNOPSIS

A reclusive Nigerian immigrant becomes convinced that a mysterious object approaching Earth's orbit holds the key to her loneliness. Determined to decode the signal emitting from it, she enlists the help of a skeptical stranger. Adapted from the short comic by award-winning graphic novelist and screenwriter Ezra Clayton Daniels, *WE ARE NOT ALONE* is a lo-fi sci-fi tale that explores themes of connection, expectation, and false promises.

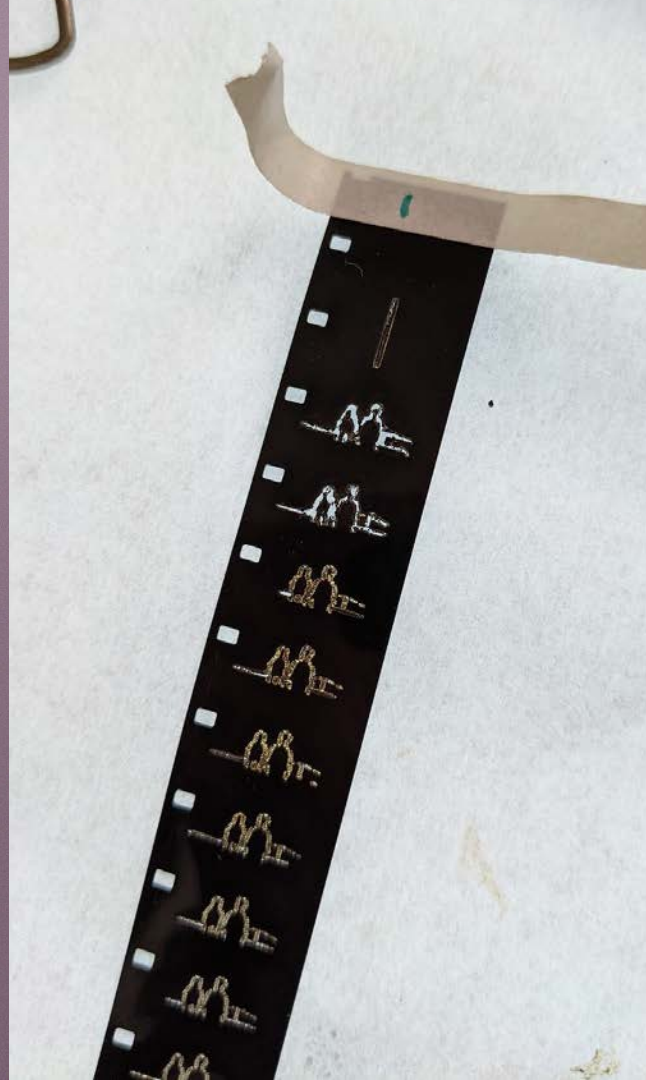
At its core, *WE ARE NOT ALONE* is a parable for the false promise of the American Dream. How far are we willing to go in pursuit of it? How much are we willing to sacrifice? How much does chasing it change who we are? And ultimately, what are we left with once we realize it was never real? The answer, at least in this piece, is each other. In the end, *we're all we got.*

ABOUT THE PROJECT

WE ARE NOT ALONE combines experimental animation with live-action footage, immersing viewers in a world buzzing with texture. Shot primarily on salvaged Kodak Ektachrome 16mm film, the film incorporates a variety of direct-on-film animation techniques, including painting, scratching, laser printing onto clear leader, and laser etching directly into the film emulsion.

The second collaboration between spouses Buki and Ezra (following the award-winning afrofuturist animated short, *The Golden Chain*), *We Are Not Alone* was conceived before COVID—but the film found its true themes in the midst of the pandemic. What began as a focused indictment of American inequity found a thread of hope in the midst of lockdown. The piece became more about the need for connection and the strength we can find in each other.

When things finally began to open up again, Buki and Ezra attended a small dinner party and, despite atrophied social skills, became fast friends with another creative couple, producer Mariel Neto and DP Adam Bial. The four jumped headlong into the collaboration, embodying the trepidation and desperation to reconnect that so many felt—and still feel—in a world that feels more chaotic every day.



THE CHARACTERS



Tobi Omodehinde as *Wunmi*

Wunmi, born in Lagos, never felt at home, lacking close friends despite a loving family. Midwifery became her passion, offering the connection she craved. Hoping for a fresh start, she moved to Los Angeles but found herself equally unhappy. When astronomers announced an approaching extraterrestrial object, the world saw solutions, but Wunmi saw a personal answer. Convinced the aliens seek worthy humans, she believes proving her worth will secure her selection.



Katie Malia as *Jenny*

Jenny led an exciting life as a singer, traveling the world with different bands before going solo. Despite the thrill, she chose to step away and start a business, facing the challenges that nearly broke her, impacting her social life and dreams. The discovery of the alien ship leaves her nonchalant, just another thing beyond her control.

THE FILMMAKERS



Adebukola “Buki” Bodunrin, Director

Adebukola Bodunrin is a Nigerian-Canadian film and video artist whose work has been featured at IFFR, Images Festival, Anthology Film Archives, BFI, REDCAT, MCA Chicago, Festival Animator, the Black Cinema House, and is in the permanent collection at the Whitney Museum. Her work on KCET’s “Lost LA” series earned her an LA Area Emmy for segment direction. *We Are Not Alone* marks her first venture into live-action film making.



Ezra Clayton Daniels, Writer

Ezra Clayton Daniels is the creator of the award-winning graphic novels *Upgrade Soul* and *BTTM FDRS*. Ezra's short story, “Pressure”, was included in Jordan Peele's NYT Bestselling horror anthology, *Out There Screaming*. Ezra currently writes for film and television, including *Doom Patrol* for HBO Max and Monkeypaw’s upcoming *People Under the Stairs* remake.

THE FILMMAKERS



Mariel Neto, Producer

Mariel Neto is an LA-based director, writer, and producer. Her directing work finds the surreal and silly in the commonplace and everyday, living in a mishmash of highbrow and lowbrow and none of that doldrum drudgery between. As a producer, she loves to investigate unique approaches by collaborating with artists who work in mediums outside of traditional filmmaking. Her film *Blue*, for which she won Best Screenplay at Montecantini IFF, was acclaimed at festivals throughout Europe. Mariel is currently producing a docu-series about women who seek out and develop relationships with incarcerated men.



Adam Bial, Director of Photography

Adam Bial was born and raised in greater Boston, now lives in Los Angeles. His latest feature, *Amongst the Trees* (EP NBA's Paul George), premiered at Palm Springs IFF 2024. *We Are Not Alone* directed by Buki Bodunrin & written by Ezra C Daniels, premieres at SXSW 2024. Other award winning films include: *Still* (CCFF, SSIFF), *Float* (SIFF, MADRID, HIFF), *Blue* (MIFF, MADRID), *ICE* (MAMMOTH, OFF), and more. Adam is currently producing *Year of the Rat*, a documentary about a year in the life of an amateur boxer from Appalachia.

TRAILER

<https://vimeo.com/892444449>

WEBSITE

<https://www.adebukolabodunrin.com/we-are-not-alone>

SOCIAL

[@wearenotalone_film](#)

Thank you.

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