



**TV BIBLE**

**DIPRENTE™**

**inkgroup**



In urban Africa, a street kid with a talent for trouble, Tio, discovers he can manipulate his shadow to wield the awesome power of the ancient trickster god, Anansi.

Joining the headstrong Welile and her cynical friend Vincent—each with their own supernatural skills—Tio dives into a secret world of spirits and gods, wild and thrilling.

Spun out of African folklore, our story is about a mismatched team of outsiders, destined to defend the world from creatures of myth and legend—and all that on top of coping with their school homework!

**FANTASY/ADVENTURE**

Format: CGI animation

Season 1: 22 min X 26

Monsters! Gods!

Kids with powers from said gods!

And — each week — an amazing adventure!

You've seen that before.

What you haven't seen is a show that does all that while drawing on the beautiful, bizarre, bottomless well of African folklore, myth, and legend. Add to that uncommonly believable, relatable and human heroes, and you have something very special indeed.



# OUR SHOW

ANANSI is a case-of-the-week adventure series following TIO, the newest member of a team of kids dedicated to ridding to world of creatures of African myth and legend. The creatures are somehow spilling out of their realm -- the Jagudara -- and into Mbanza City. Somebody has to do something about it. It might as well be Tio, Welile, and Vincent, each of whom is a medium for a forgotten African god. Through music and dance, they are able to summon magical “gifts” from their gods.

Tio is the medium for the trickster god ANANSI. He can wield his shadow, changing its shape, using it to vault, lift, shield, throw and most of all, to trick.

Welile is the medium for the Zulu god of creation, UNKULUNKULU. She can manifest traditional African weapons -- shields and spears -- made of pure light.

Vincent is the medium for earth goddess Eka Abasi. Through his magical drumming, he is able to send mythical creatures back to their realm. And his loveable Jagu pet, BUBU, helps him track them down.

The kids are mentored by Auntie Iz, an eccentric witch-doctor, whose shop provides a base for the team and a window on bustling downtown Mbanza.





## EVERY EPISODE IS....

- A single case, self-contained and fully resolved by the end of the episode
- With roots in African culture, both ancient and contemporary
- Told to surprise and delight!
- Featuring music and dance-driven set-pieces
- Underpinned by the relationships between our characters.



# Tio

## is a rogue

You wouldn't know it from his easygoing, wisecracking attitude, but everything Tio has, he's fought for—landing on the doorstep of the social services as a baby, and eventually ending up on the street, Tio survived by becoming an artful conman.



On the verge of his tenth birthday, Tio discovers that he has been chosen to be the “medium” for the African trickster god, Anansi. For a kid who knows so well what it is to be powerless, it’s a tricky situation, made trickier by being bossed around by the ultimate authority figure—a god!

And so Tio, a kid who’s only ever known how to be alone, is about to face a very personal challenge—being part of something bigger than himself.

# Welile

is a soldier

There's no-one you'd rather be in charge  
than Welile. Good thing she is.



Her grandmother raised her to be a great warrior. Her lullabies told tales of ancient war. Her toys were deadly weapons. She was only a baby when she learned not to cry. And, when her village was swallowed whole by the Mokele-Mbembe and dragged to the Jagudara, she quickly transformed her grief into an unwavering sense of purpose—protect humanity from Jagu, creatures of the Jagudara.

At the same time, she longs to “pass” as a regular, modern-day, city kid, even though the fight is all she knows. Any attempts to be “normal”—be it at gym class, a sleepover, or the school dance—tend to fail horribly... and hilariously!



# VINCENT

is a dark horse

The son of a billionaire captain of industry, James Kruger, Vincent was raised by a team of experts: a rotating roster of nannies, butlers, and tutors. His father was a shadowy figure, never within reach, even as they lived in the same mansion.

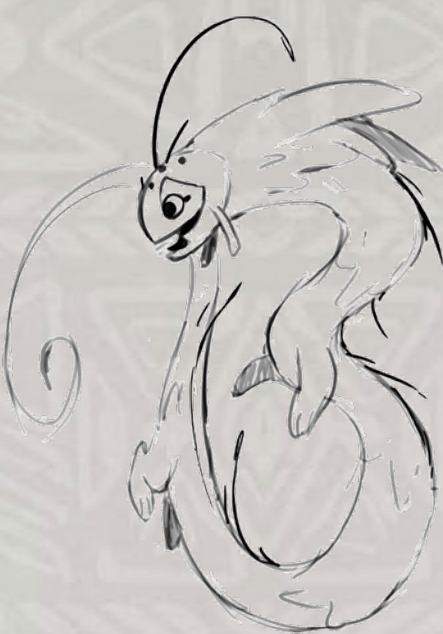




This mistrust of the world of people feeds into his deep love for the Jagu—those most inhuman creatures of the Jagudara that he, Tio and Welile are tasked to protect humanity from.

Secretly, he suspects he's part Jagu. He's wrong. But not entirely—Vincent will eventually learn that he is the son of a fallen god, Anansi's legendary foe, Tiger.

There will be choices to be made.



# BUBU

BUBU is the troublesome creature who lives in Vincent's backpack. He was created out from a gob of mucus from a NINKI-NANKA—a gargantuan dragon and one of the most feared creatures in African mythology—during a failed experiment by Vincent. Given that the little guy never knew the Jagudara, Vincent couldn't bear to send him there. Besides, Bubu's ability to sniff out Jagu and get to places the rest of the team can't does come in handy. Even if there's always a chance he'll someday become a full-blown, fully-grown Ninki-Nanka.



# AUNTIE IZ

Welile's aunt is a Sangoma, a kind of African witchdoctor. From her busy inner-city shop, she consults with distressed "clients", helping them with spiritual maladies by going in and out of trances (some real, some not-so-real) and astral projecting herself to other realms (or so she says).

A wild card, she's sometimes temperamental and foul-mouthed, sometimes fun-loving and warm. Her claims that she is a narcoleptic are yet to be verified by the kids Tio suspects she just loves napping.





# ANANSI

Even gods were once young. And, when Anansi was young, he was a lot like Tio—a troublemaker! Which is why so many of the original Anansi stories—so beloved across Africa—are about Anansi tricking somebody.

When the gods decided to exile themselves from the human realm, no-one was less excited about it than Anansi—humans are fun! Gods are lame. So, the opportunity to have an actual medium? This is what he's been waiting for. Let's hope he doesn't mess it up. (It wouldn't be the first time.)

# UNKULUNKULU

Unkulunkulu (or “Kulu”, as he’ll become known by the kids) is the Zulu god of creation. Kulu is able to give his medium, Welile, the power of the “First Fire”—the divine spark that started all life. Of course, many cultures have gods of creation, and these gods are likely to clash about who is the true god of creation. Uniquely, Kulu, the philosopher king, is gracious about such matters, claiming to not quite remember creating the universe at all. He has enormous respect for his medium, Welile.





# AKEKHO

Akekho is a recurring enemy and this season's supervillain. He is Unkulunkulu's former medium, now replaced by Welile.

Akekho was once considered the most powerful medium ever. He split from both gods and humans when he decided that the separation of worlds instituted by the gods is unjust. The Jagu, he believes, have as much claim to the "world of humans" as you and I do. Now, covered in the white ashes of fallen Jagu, he fights for them

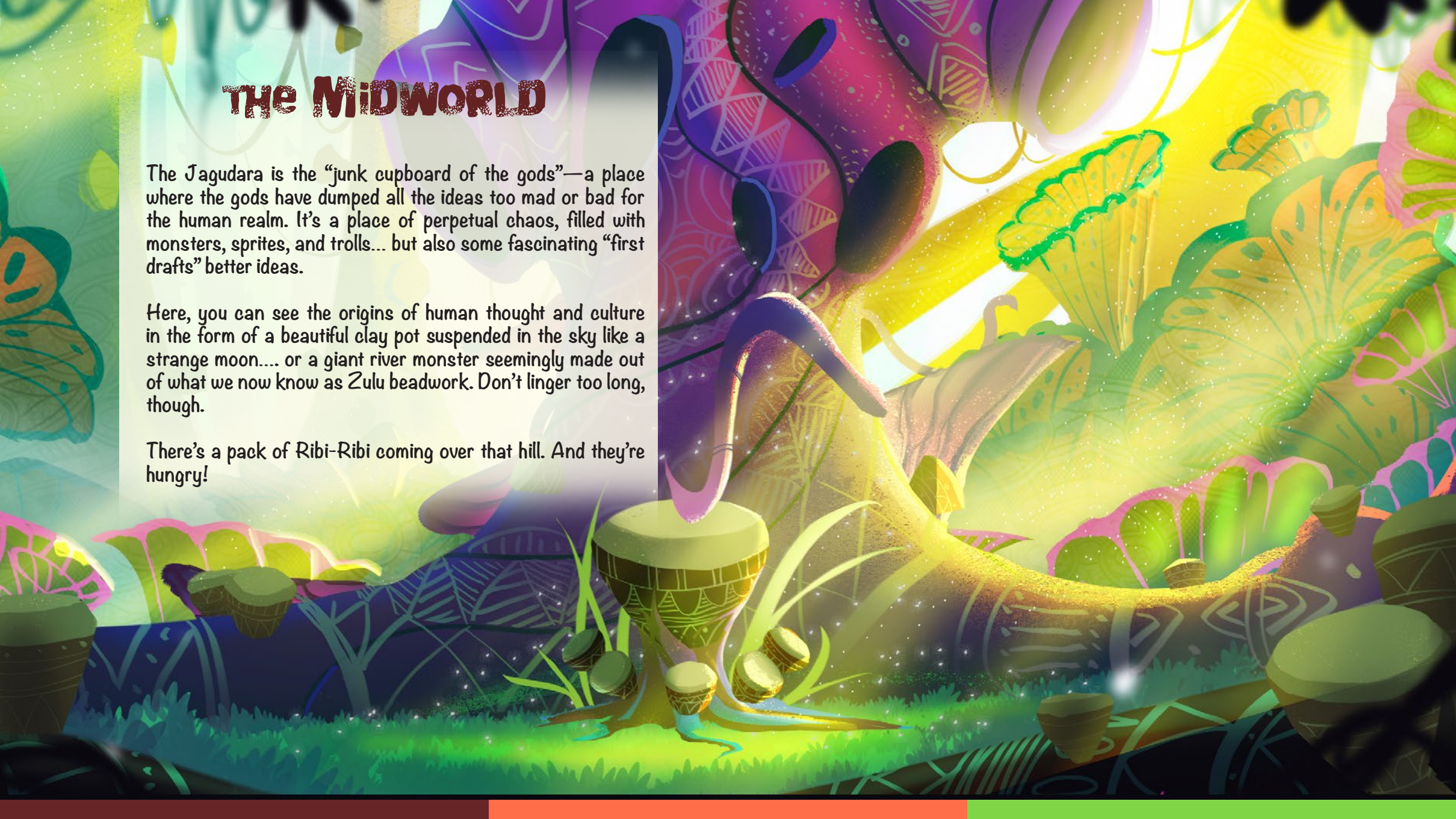


# THE MIDWORLD

The Jagudara is the “junk cupboard of the gods”—a place where the gods have dumped all the ideas too mad or bad for the human realm. It’s a place of perpetual chaos, filled with monsters, sprites, and trolls... but also some fascinating “first drafts” better ideas.

Here, you can see the origins of human thought and culture in the form of a beautiful clay pot suspended in the sky like a strange moon.... or a giant river monster seemingly made out of what we now know as Zulu beadwork. Don’t linger too long, though.

There’s a pack of Ribi-Ribi coming over that hill. And they’re hungry!





## THE GREAT BEYOND

This is the realm of the gods, a place of eternal meditation, patterns and shapes without meaning and purpose being endlessly manifested by gods in a self-imposed exile. According to Anansi, it's pretty boring.

# MBANZA ACADEMY

Mbanza City's most elite school is Mbanza Academy. Straddling the river that runs through The Centre, Mbanza Academy is an impersonation of Old English Public (Private) School charm. Apart from the occasional charity case, everybody here is the son or daughter of somebody rich and/ or famous and/ or powerful. Everybody here is in training to be the same. Vincent and Welile both go here. Tio soon will.

The image shows a large, multi-story building with a light tan or beige facade, featuring numerous arched windows and doorways, characteristic of Gothic or Old English architectural style. The building is set against a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. In the foreground, there is a well-maintained green lawn with some small shrubs and a paved path. A dark blue sign with white lettering is positioned in the lower right corner, reading 'MBANZA ACADEMY'. The overall scene is bright and sunny, suggesting a pleasant day.

MBANZA  
ACADEMY



So, that's our show. Something new, yes?

Our aim is to delight, building on existing folklore in a wholly unexpected way, while telling resonant stories that mean a lot to us and our audience. We want to make our audience's favourite show. One where every episode leaps off the screen, onto the playground, and into their dreams.

As we say in the old tongue:

Ta inose tse ta zan'mbe!

May the ancestors light  
your way!

# DIPRENTE<sup>TM</sup>

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