

N'AP BOULE (THROUGH THE BARRICADES)



This document summarizes a film and lecture as part of the Island Lecture Series, University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, January 21, 2025.

N'AP BOULE (nap bool) means “we’re burning”, which is used in Haiti as a greeting (slang) that represents “we’re hanging out”.

The Island Lecture Series event involved the film and a discussion with the creators, who shared their stories and experiences.

The film portrays challenges faced by the island nation of Haiti and its people. While this is a fictional work, it is not only based on real events but reflects a common experience within modern Haiti, where the vulnerable suffer most; where unrest, violence and crime are rampant; and healthcare is unjust and inadequate.

QUOTES

“We have to start somewhere, [and] this movie is our way” - Ericka Julie Jean Louis, Actress (Rose)

“I didn’t want to make a drama... [reality] is the same thing in the film... we made a documentary” - Alexandrine Benjamin, Director

LINKS

N’ap Boule has won three awards and is currently waiting to be distributed. Keep up to date with the links below.

- [N Ap Boule IMDb](#)
- [N Ap Boule Official Trailer](#)
- [Alexandrine Benjamin | LinkedIn](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Artists Institute Haiti](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Interview - Alexandrine Benjamin - Telling Stories Through Film — Jeune Magazine](#)

ISLAND IMPACTS

The Republic of Haiti is a densely populated country with a tumultuous history. It provides the setting of a film that contains themes of externality and internality, self-reliance and dependence, and the importance (and threats) of culture and community. Artistic and academic productions are a way to share the lived experiences of a place and their impact in society and can help raise awareness of realities within.

External influences have shaped the Haitian reality. A history of colonialism, slavery and malevolent aid and debt offer a stark parallel to the external threats that Rose and Jean face, from the influx of American-made firearms to economically motivated healthcare that refuses to help Rose. Voodoo culture and violent neighbours also form internal threats, contrasted with the help and empathy of other community members.

HOW TO HELP

It can be challenging to find Haitian humanitarian efforts that are reliable, honest and effective. The summary authors have found three groups that appear to have positive impacts; however, it is vital to do your own research and ensure the organizations you donate to are transparent, legitimate and needed.

- [Lide Haiti](#) (Education)
- [Extollo International](#) (Construction & Education)
- [Midwives For Haiti](#) (Health Training)

Acknowledgement

This research initiative is an assignment in the UPEI course IST-6010 Island Studies: Themes and Perspectives.

ABOUT THE SUMMARY AUTHORS

Magdalena Rojas Vences, Louise Norton, Yun Wang and Quinton Burrows are graduate students at the University of Prince Edward Island.



UNIVERSITY
of Prince Edward
ISLAND