

MY FATHER'S SHADOW

27th
Year!

Autumn
Season
2026

Release: 2025

Cert (UK): 12A

Country: Nigeria

Language: English and Yoruba with English subtitles

Runtime: 1 hour 34 mins

Director: Akinola Davies

Written by: Wale Davies, Akinola Davies

Cinematographer: Jermaine Canute Edwards

Cast: Sope Dirisu, Chibuike Marvellous Egbo, Godwin Egbo



"My Father's Shadow" pulls off a miraculous, double-edged feat with a rather simple structure. The film spans one day in the life of two young boys traveling with their father from a small village in rural Nigeria to the bustling capital city Lagos. However, as the audience is taken in by this intimate and well-observed drama, the rug gets pulled from beneath them by revealing the violence and strife that was simmering underneath. It's a trick so devastating that it completely upends the movie, elevating it into a deeply humanist narrative' - Murtada Elfadl, Variety.

The day they spend in Lagos happens to be election day, 1993; the country is about to elect its first president since the military coup in 1983. Will this be a new start, or a disaster? *'On the streets, there is chatter of fuel shortages; the military ominously rolls through the streets; and people crowd around television sets, awaiting political news in a fast-moving situation. The "streets are hot", one character warns — not referring to the sweltering weather' - John Nugent, Empire.*

By picking this day, the director allows the country boys to see a big city, to revel in its wonder, but also to feel the unrest; was their father involved in the uprising? London-born Sope Dìrísù plays the father - *'He's an object of idolatry, as any father is in the eyes of his children. Dìrísù, in a revelatory performance that should put him at the top of casting lists, grounds that fantasy with a realistically intense but quiet performance... The filmmakers' other master stroke is in casting brothers Chibuike Marvellous Egbo and Godwin Egbo to play the boys. There is a natural and effortless authenticity to their interactions' - Murtada Elfadl again.*

