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IN THE NAME OF YOUR DAUGHTER

The award-winning documentary *In the Name Of Your Daughter* premiered to sold-out audiences and to great acclaim at the prestigious CPH:DOX documentary film festival in Copenhagen in March 2018. Since then it has received the jury prize for Best Canadian Feature Documentary at NorthWestFest, won an Impact Docs Award of Excellence, and has received nominations for best editing and best original music score. The film has been called 'powerful,' 'compelling,' and 'heartbreaking and heart-wrenching' by reviewers and audiences alike; one young 13-year-old Danish girl, Regitke, even called it 'life-changing.' It was initially funded with an Indiegogo crowd-funding campaign which raised \$75,000 U.S. in donations from hundreds of people in thirty countries. Afterwards the BBC, SVT Sweden, DR Denmark, Ikon TV in Holland, and YLE in Finland came on board and the film is screening in these countries—and others in 2018/2019. The film is scheduled to screen at numerous other film festivals in the coming months, and has been bought by Sweden's Education ministry for use in Swedish schools. The film is beginning to have impact both in Tanzania and elsewhere, and is turning into a powerful tool for change, fulfilling director Giselle Portenier's vision for *In The Name Of Your Daughter*.

SYNOPSIS

Heartbreaking and Heartwarming, *In The Name Of Your Daughter* is an intimate fly-on-the-wall story about some of the most courageous girls in the world, children like feisty 12-year old Rosie Makore who ran away from her home in Northern Tanzania to save herself from female genital mutilation (FGM) and the child marriage her parents had planned for her.

Terrified of stories of girls bleeding to death during the chillingly named 'cutting season' during the school holidays in December, these young African girls, some as young as eight, must face the most difficult choice of their young lives: submit to being cut or risk their lives and run away, not knowing if they'll ever see their families again.

Rhobi Samwelly, one of Africa's most charismatic women, protects the girls - Christians, Pagans and Muslims - at a Safe House, and travels around the countryside fighting against this thousands-year-old tradition.

Hers is a tough and dangerous job. FGM is illegal in Tanzania, but old customs die hard. Men believe that girls' clitorises must be cut off to reduce promiscuity, and mutilated girls command twice the bride price in cows as uncut girls. In partnership with the Safe House, Mugumu police officer Sijali Nyambuche and her team start cracking down on FGM. In night-time raids they rescue girls at risk and arrest parents and cutters.

As the year's cutting season winds down, in dramatic and heart-breaking reconciliation meetings, parents have to decide if they'll spare their daughters and take them back, and young girls like Rosie must decide if they'll be safe if they return home.

Set in the stunning landscape of East Africa's Serengeti district, this is ultimately an inspiring and hopeful story of brave young girls standing up for their human rights and fighting for change in their community.

AWARDS

Best Canadian Feature Documentary, NorthWestFest

Award of Excellence, Impact DOC Awards

FILM BACKGROUND

In late 2016 Giselle Portenier ran a successful Indiegogo crowdfunding campaign which raised close to \$75,000 U.S. in donations from four hundred people in thirty countries. Using an all Tanzanian crew, Portenier filmed for two months during Tanzania's chillingly called 'cutting season' during the Christmas holidays at the end of 2016 and early 2017. Portenier and her team followed the stories of the young girls as they arrived after having run away from home, efforts by local campaigners like Rhobi Samwelly to protect the girls, and the police as they rescued girls in dramatic raids.

The film's premiere was in Copenhagen on March 20th, 2018, and TV broadcasters in Sweden, Finland, Denmark, the Netherlands, Israel, Spain and the BBC in the U.K. have all bought the film.

DIRECTOR and PRODUCER

Giselle Portenier is a Canadian journalist and documentary filmmaker who is passionate about human rights, especially the human rights of children and women. Her ground-breaking films have shown globally and have received numerous prestigious accolades, including two Peabody Awards. More importantly, they have helped local activists change minds, hearts and laws. Honour Killings in Pakistan, Child slavery in Africa, Female Infanticide in India, and Sex Slavery in Thailand are among the tough topics she tackled while based in London for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC.)

In The Name Of Your Daughter is Portenier's second feature documentary. She is hoping to turn this film about the most courageous girls in the world running into a powerful tool for change. Portenier now lives in Vancouver with her husband Christopher Browne.

KEY CREATIVE CREDITS

Giselle Portenier, Director, Producer, Executive Producer

Editor, Cathy Gulkin

Deborah Parks, Co-Producer

Samson Kapinga, Cinematographer

Laurent Kiria, location sound

Boaz Mashauri, assistant cameraman

Hadija Hassan, researcher and translator

Sam Obae, production manager, Tanzania

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

Reviews:

Guy Lavalee, Festival Programmer, NorthWestFest, Edmonton, Canada

“The audience reaction to the film was incredible - we had numerous patrons come up to us after the show, simply to tell us how moved they were by your film!”

Catherine Griwowsky, The Star, Edmonton

“Equally heart-wrenching and heart-warming”

Sierra Bilton, VUEWEEKLY, Edmonton

“A Powerful Documentary”

CPH:DOX Documentary Film Festival Copenhagen

“Heartbreaking and Heartwarming”

Testimonials

Hibo Wardere, Human Rights Activist, Author, FGM survivor, London, England

What I love about this documentary is that it puts the children first. The girls are at the centre of the film, not the parents, not the community. It's about what the girls think, and that is the film's power. The girls' voices are not just heard, the girls voices are respected; the film shows that the girls matter, that their thoughts are valued, that they as human beings are valued. The girls are all amazing, and I'm in awe of all of them, but what stuck with me is Rosie and the fire in her. I wish there was somewhere I could have gone and seek help when I was six, I really wish that. Watching this documentary, that six-year old me came out. I look at these girls, and sometimes I'm crying, and sometimes I'm smiling, they are just beautiful beautiful babies. Rhobi Samwelly, the woman who runs the Safe House and puts her life in danger, she is a beautiful person inside and out. She is a mother hen to the girls, to all of us, even to me. The whole world needs to see this documentary and to stand up for girls who don't want to be cut.

Rhobi Samwelly, Human Rights Activist, FGM Survivor, director, Hope Centre, Tanzania

My dream is to save girls from being cut, and I will never stop until FGM is history in my community. This film is very very important because it will help raise awareness not just in our community, but in the district and even in other countries that are receiving African people who have the same tradition of cutting. It may help make our people change. It will also give our girls a voice, people will be able to hear the children, because they've never been heard before.

Karen Musalo

Professor, Director of the Center for Gender & Refugee Studies, University of California Hastings, and attorney for Fauziya Kassindja, whose case established the legal landmark in the United States that fear of FGC was the basis for refugee protection

*The documentary dispels the myth that FGC is accepted – and even desired – by the girls on whom it is inflicted, and by giving these girls a voice, *In the Name of Your Daughter* will make a monumental contribution to the struggle for women's human rights.*

Flora Terah-Igoki, Canadian/Kenyan Human Rights Activist, President, The Wanawake Foundation, East Africa

*In my own estimation, Giselle's film *In The Name Of Your Daughter* will be a huge contribution in the fight against FGM and forced child marriage.*

F.M. A Canadian Survivor of FGM, Cranbrook, B.C.

It was the worst experience ever. No girl should ever have to go through that horror. These are our lives and the children's voices need to be heard and respected. I believe this film will help give our children that voice.

Jessica Neuwirth, Donor Direct Action, U.S.A.

Giselle Portenier's beautiful film portrays the heart-breaking challenges faced by so many millions of girls around the world who are at risk of undergoing female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage. I hope everyone sees it and will be inspired also to support the activists working on the front lines to end this extremely harmful traditional practice" -

Raheel Raza, Human Rights Activist, President, Council For Muslims Facing Tomorrow and Founding Member, Muslim Reform Movement.

As a human rights activist, I fully support the work being done by Portenier and thank her for bringing critical issues to the forefront without worrying about being politically correct. Her work is imperative to the battle for women's human rights globally.

Julian Marcus, former Chair, Overseas Development Trust, Tanzanian Development Trust, funder of the Tanzanian Safe House

"In the Name of Your Daughter" is the most powerful, compelling, and honest documentary that I think I have ever seen. I came to it with both apprehension and anticipation. Could a film do them justice? Might it gloss over the problems and difficulties? Within a few minutes any doubts were swept away. Giselle Portenier and her team have shown a sympathetic understanding of communities bound by local traditions but also of the huge cost to the girls who must suffer FGM to become child brides and then be denied secondary education, But this film is not a dry polemic- it is a story of brave young girls daring to flee from home, often because they know more than their parents about the dangers of FGM. It is sometimes sad, occasionally funny, always deeply moving. The cinematography - all Tanzanian- is excellent and very beautiful at times and the music fits ideally. It must be said also that this film is not Westerners telling Tanzanians what to do. It's a film that gives a voice to young women with the courage to say 'No!' . Their Tanzanian Government wants an immediate end to FGM. The girls know it's illegal. Can they convince their parents?"

Sarah Pilkington, teacher, St. Joseph's Catholic School, Copenhagen

" In the Name of Your Daughter" is, quite simply, essential viewing for teenagers all over the world. And if we are lucky they will someday play some role in ensuring this deadly practice is stopped.

Filippa Olrik, 13

The movie "In the name of your daughter" is not just any other movie! It was a complete train wreck of a heartbreaking documentary! It touched me in ways not many movies do. I was inspired by the bravery of the girls and how different their lifestyle is compared to ours here in Denmark. It deserves to get its story around, they have fought harder battles than we probably ever will.

Regitze Steenberg, 14

'In the name of your daughter' was incredibly moving. I would call it life-changing. It's a film that puts everything into perspective, we are all so privileged to live a life like ours, compared to the girls fighting against FGM. The girls from Tanzania have an amazing story that the whole world should be aware of.

Maxim Shinkarev, 14

The film has really changed my mind and opened my eyes. Without this documentary I would never know how much danger the girls in some parts of Africa are facing and how tough it is for them to survive. The bravery of girls has inspired me in many ways, and I think, undoubtedly, that the film has to be seen by other students all over the world.

FGM STATISTICS AND INFORMATION

Main Facts:

Every 11 seconds a girl is mutilated

More than 3 million girls are at risk each year

There are 200 million survivors of FGM

FGM has no benefits, and does only harm.

Girls regularly die, or suffer infection and lifelong problems, including difficulty urinating, menstruating, increased risk of maternal and child death, and pain during sexual intercourse

FGM occurs primarily in Africa, but is also prevalent in the Middle East and Asia, and is present in pockets elsewhere—India, Colombia, Peru, Russia, Iran, Iraq

There are different kinds of mutilation, ranging from cutting part or all of the external genitalia, to sewing what remains of the genitalia shut and leaving only a pinhole for urination and menstruation.

Websites:

UNICEF Summary 2016

https://www.unicef.org/media/media_90033.html

FULL UNICEF Report 2016

[https://www.unicef.org/media/files/FGMC 2016 brochure final UNICEF SPREAD.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/media/files/FGMC_2016_brochure_final_UNICEF_SPREAD.pdf)