

SWEET DREAMS

a documentary film

by lisa and rob fruchtman

www.sweetdreamsrwanda.com

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running time: 88min

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SYNOPSIS:

Powerful sounds pierce the silence of the Rwandan countryside. Curious children gawk outside the gate. This is something new in Rwanda—a group of women, 60 strong, pounding out rhythms of power and joy.

In 1994 Rwanda suffered a devastating genocide. Close to a million minority Tutsis were killed by neighbors, friends, even family. Horror swept the land. And when it was over, those who remained were broken, dead inside. The country has made great strides in economic recovery, but "people are not like roads and buildings" says Kiki Katese, pioneering Rwandan theater director. "How do we rebuild a human being?"

Kiki decided to start *Ingoma Nshya*, Rwanda's first and only women's drumming troupe, open to women from both sides of the conflict. There was only one requirement: to leave the categories of the past at the gate.

For Marta, a Hutu whose Tutsi husband was killed; Seraphine, who was eight when she lost her whole family; Regine, whose parents are killers, in prison as perpetrators - the troupe has been a place to begin to live again, to build new relationships, to heal the wounds of the past. Yet the struggle to survive and provide for their families still persists.

So when Kiki came up with the idea to open Rwanda's first and only ice cream shop, the women were intrigued ... What was ice cream exactly and how would they do it? Kiki invited Jennie and Alexis of Brooklyn's Blue Marble Ice Cream to come to Rwanda to help the drummers open their shop, which they aptly named *Inzozu Nziza* (Sweet Dreams).

"Sweet Dreams" follows this remarkable group of Rwandan women as they emerge from the devastation of the genocide to create a future of hope and possibility for themselves.

For Kiki, "Reconciliation is not just about two peoples. People have to reconcile with themselves, with happiness, with life.. "

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DIRECTORS' STATEMENT:

"Ice Cream, Coffee, Dreams"

That's what it says on the sign of the shop called *Inzozu Nziza* (Sweet Dreams) in the small town of Butare, Rwanda. Rewind to 2010, when we first heard about Kiki, the drummers and the unusual project unfolding half a world away.

What we knew of Rwanda was the devastation of 1994 Genocide – 800,000 minority Tutsis killed in one hundred days, many by those they knew, neighbors and friends. How, we asked ourselves, was it possible for Rwandans to move forward from that? And how did drumming and ice cream fit in? We got on a plane to Rwanda to find out.

When we landed in Rwanda, we saw a country of contrasts - a beautiful land that is also an impoverished one: a country where the exciting strides of economic development are coupled with trauma and tremendous sadness. The mandate of the government is for Hutus and Tutsis to rebuild the country together, yet can this really be done without somehow rebuilding the spirits which were shattered?

Both the drumming and ice cream projects embody the idea that Rwandans need not only the means to survive, but also the means to live...ways to reconnect with joy, hope and previously unimagined possibilities.

Over the course of a year and a half we returned to Rwanda four times - each time filming another facet of the story.

Following the women together in rehearsal and performance, we experienced the beauty and transformative power of their drumming. In intimate interviews we entered their lives and came to understand their painful histories.

We filmed the emergence of the women as budding entrepreneurs, their struggles to build their cooperative, their delight as they learn to make and taste ice cream for the first time. And when the cohesion of the group is threatened by the difficulties inherent in starting a business, we saw the tensions lurking within the society and the group begin to emerge. During April, the national month of mourning, the country is plunged into a dark time as the trauma of the past fills the present.

While other films have documented the atrocity of the Rwandan genocide, "Sweet Dreams" is telling a new kind of story... the story of a remarkable group of women who dare to dream of new possibilities for themselves and their country.

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MEET KIKI AND THE WOMEN OF INGOMA NSHYA:

KIKI KATESE is a theater director, actor and playwright. She is the founder of Ingoma Nshya, Rwanda's first and only womens drum troupe, and the visionary behind the Inzozu Nzizi ice cream project. Her newest project is "The Book of Life" - letters from the living to the dead.

The extraordinary women of *Ingoma Nshya*, both Hutu and Tutsi women ranging in age from 16 – 60, have been drumming together since 2005.



FOUNDERS OF BLUE MARBLE ICE CREAM:

Jennie Dundas and Alexis Miesen



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MEET THE FILMMAKERS:

Brother and sister Lisa and Rob Fruchtman bring extensive feature film and documentary experience to the project.



PRODUCER/DIRECTOR: Lisa Fruchtman is an Academy Award winning editor who has worked in both feature film and television. Among her many film projects are *Apocalypse Now*, *The Right Stuff*, *Children of a Lesser God*, *The Godfather Part III*, *The Doctor*, *My Best Friend's Wedding*, *Dance with Me* and *The Woodsman*. For television, she has edited such HBO films as *Truman*, *Witness Protection*, *Point of Origin* and *Normal*. Her awards and honors include an Oscar for *The Right Stuff*, Academy Award and BAFTA Nominations for Best Editing for both *Godfather Part III* and *Apocalypse Now*, an Emmy Nomination and a Cable ACE Award for *Truman*.



PRODUCER/DIRECTOR: Rob Fruchtman is an award-winning director, producer and editor of documentaries and television programs. He won the Documentary Director award at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival for his feature film, *Sister Helen*, which aired on HBO. He has won three Emmys for his work with PBS. His film, *Trust Me*, a documentary produced for SHOWTIME, follows Christian, Jewish and Islamic boys at an interfaith camp in North Carolina. Fruchtman directed and produced *Seeing Proof* in 2007, a film about Cambodia's brutal Khmer Rouge regime and its lingering effect on Cambodia's society, for George Soros' Open Society Institute. His documentaries have explored the arts, history, world cultures and social justice issues and have aired in festivals and on television around the world.

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EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS:

RUSSELL LONG is an environmental activist. He founded *Bluewater Network* in 1996 and was responsible for numerous state and federal laws including the United States' first law to reduce greenhouse gases. He currently serves on the Board of Friends of the Earth. Turning his attention to film, Russell was executive producer on the award-winning *Someplace with a Mountain* (PBS 2011) and *A Sheltered Sea* (PBS 2009), and was co-executive producer of *The Island President* (Sundance 2012), about former Maldives President Nasheed's efforts to stop global warming.

TIFFANY SCHAUER is the executive director of *Our Children's Earth* (OCE), a San Francisco based non-profit, which she founded in 1998. The maverick public charity is recognized for its effectiveness in human justice campaigns and litigation. She served as executive producer on Mai Iskander's *Words of Witness*, as well as Mai's previous film *Garbage Dreams* and was co-executive producer on *The Island President*.

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PRODUCTION CREDITS:

DIRECTED AND PRODUCED BY

Lisa Fruchtman
Rob Fruchtman

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

Russell Long
Tiffany Schauer

CINEMATOGRAPHY

Rob Fruchtman
Lex Fletcher

EDITED BY

Lisa Fruchtman
Rob Fruchtman

ADDITIONAL CAMERA

Jean de Dieu Minani

CAMERA ASSISTANT

Hyppolite Ntigurirwa

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Chelsea Walton

RE-RECORDING MIXERS

Malcolm Fife, Skywalker Sound/San Francisco
a LucasFilm Ltd. Company
Tom Efinger, Dig It Studios/New York

MUSIC RECORDING CONSULTANT

Marlan Barry

MUSIC RIGHTS COORDINATOR

Sandrine Legrand

INZOZI NZIZA PROJECT MANAGER

Nikki Grey Rutamu

INTERPRETERS (RWANDA)

Hyppolite Ntigurirwa
Ernestine Kamarora
Aime Nshizirungu

TRANSLATORS (RWANDA)

Aime Nshizirungu
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Deo Rutamu
Grace Tsuni Uwase
Zayana Uwase
Seraphine Habimana

TRANSLATORS (NEW YORK)

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Simeon Bikolimana
Nadine Ingabire
Felicite Fulani

RWANDAN SUPPORT

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Deo Rutamu
Gloria Magambo
Center for Arts and Drama,
National University of Rwanda
Rwanda Ministry of Sports and Culture
CNLG: National Commission for the Fight
against Genocide
Generation Rwanda

HD POST-PRODUCTION

ZAP Zoetrope Aubry Productions-San Francisco

ONLINE EDITOR

Ri Crawford

TITLES

Elisa Tanaka

COLOR FINISHING

Gary Coates

POST-PRODUCTION OUTREACH ASSISTANT

Rebecca Saladoff

ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE

ITN News Source
CameraPix

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PRODUCTION CREDITS (continued):

STILLS/PHOTOS

Lex Fletcher
Piper Watson

POSTER DESIGN

Gabriele Wilson

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In association with

Chicken & Egg Pictures
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Ariel Postone
Zach Postone
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Chris Burkel Plutte
Andrea Thompson
Elisabeth Sardin Dutrisac
Thierry Rutamu
Judy Seidlin
Mel Dagovitz

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SONGS

"Mulisa" and "Mbese Muraho"
composed by Alif Naaba
from the play *"Ngwino Ubeho ou La pluie et les Larmes"*
by Odile Gakire Katese
produced at the UCAD, National University of Rwanda
performed by Thierry Murinda, Emmanuel Bahati, Samuel Kamanzi,
Biraguma Tharcisse, Mutangana Moise

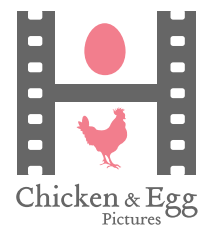
"Sara"
performed by Rokia Traore
courtesy of Nonesuch Records
by Arrangement with WMG Film and TV Licensing

"Kanan Neni"
performed by Rokia Traore
courtesy of LableBleu

"Mabahotze" and "Impaganza"
performed by Florida Uwera

"Zarwaniyinka"
performed by Jean-Marie Muyango

"Mama Don't Ever Go Away"
performed by Dee Dee Bridgewater and Bambera



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