

LITTLE STONES Press Kit



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View Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/187500137>
Official Site: www.littlestones.org

  @littlestonesdoc

LOGLINE

LITTLE STONES weaves together the personal stories of four women artists, from across the world, who dedicate their lives to empowering women and survivors of gender based violence to express and help eradicate the atrocities of domestic violence, human trafficking, extreme poverty, and female genital mutilation, with their unique art forms.

SYNOPSIS

"I always feel the movement is a sort of mosaic. Each of us puts in one little stone."

—Alice Paul, Women's Rights Activist

LITTLE STONES Little Stones unites the personal narratives of four women around the world using art to create positive change in their communities. From a graffiti artist speaking out against domestic violence in the favelas of Brazil to a dancer rehabilitating sex-trafficking survivors in India, each of these women is contributing a stone to the mosaic of the women's movement through their art.

This 87-minute documentary directed by EMMY® Award-winning filmmaker Sophia Kruz has been screened over 70 times globally, including at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, and on capitol hill for members of congress. LITTLE STONES won Best Documentary at the Vail Film Festival, Best Foreign Documentary at the Female Eye Film Festival, Best of Festival at the Zonta Film Festival, the Audience Award for Best Documentary at the Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival, the Humanitarian Award at DOCUTAH, and an Award of Excellence from Impact Docs.

FEATURED ARTISTS

LITTLE STONES weaves together the personal narratives of four women around the world who are using art to create positive change in their communities.

Panmela Castro

Graffiti artist Panmela Castro has risen to the top of the male-dominated graffiti world in Brazil by blazing her own trail, and using street art to raise awareness about an issue that hits very close to home: domestic violence.



Sohini Chakraborty

Sohini Chakraborty began volunteering at a shelter for sex trafficking survivors in India in 1996. As a dancer and sociologist, she knew instinctively that dance could help girls reclaim their bodies after the trauma of trafficking, and over the past two decades, Chakraborty has touched the lives of over 65,000 survivors.

Fatou Diatta aka Sister Fa

Senegalese hip-hop star and activist Sister Fa is a controversial figure throughout West-Africa, where she regularly tours, using her fame to spark a dialogue around female genital mutilation, which is still too taboo to discuss in many communities.



Anna Taylor

American fashion designer Anna Taylor was a college student when she met an unemployed Kenyan seamstress named Judith in one of Nairobi's slums. Anna hired Judith to sew her clothing designs, and went on to found Judith & James which trains and employs impoverished Kenyan women to produce high fashion clothing. In 2013, at the age of 22, Taylor debuted her collection at New York Fashion Week.

Download High Resolution Production Stills:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/4ag4yk6f2wpvf0e/AAA-sk6gYqHiqKFG1h9wfF27a?dl=0>



Brazilian graffiti artist Panmela Castro's work around Rio de Janeiro. Credit: "Little Stones"

Download High Resolution Production Stills:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/4ag4yk6f2wpvf0e/AAA-sk6gYqHiqKFG1h9wfF27a?dl=0>



Above: Sohini Chakraborty dances in Kolkata, India. Below: Jhulan, a dance movement therapist and survivor, dances at Kolkata Sanved's 10th Anniversary Celebration. Credit: "Little Stones"

Download High Resolution Production Stills:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/4ag4yk6f2wpvf0e/AAA-sk6gYqHiqKFG1h9wfF27a?dl=0>



Above: Sister Fa performs in Berlin, Germany. Below: Sister Fa is interviewed on German radio. Credit: "Little Stones"

Download High Resolution Production Stills:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/4ag4yk6f2wpvf0e/AAA-sk6gYqHiqKFG1h9wfF27a?dl=0>



Above: Judith sews a Judith & James skirt in Nairobi, Kenya. Below: A baby models the Judith & James skirt in a photoshoot in Little Rock, Arkansas. Credit: "Little Stones"

Download High Resolution Production Stills:

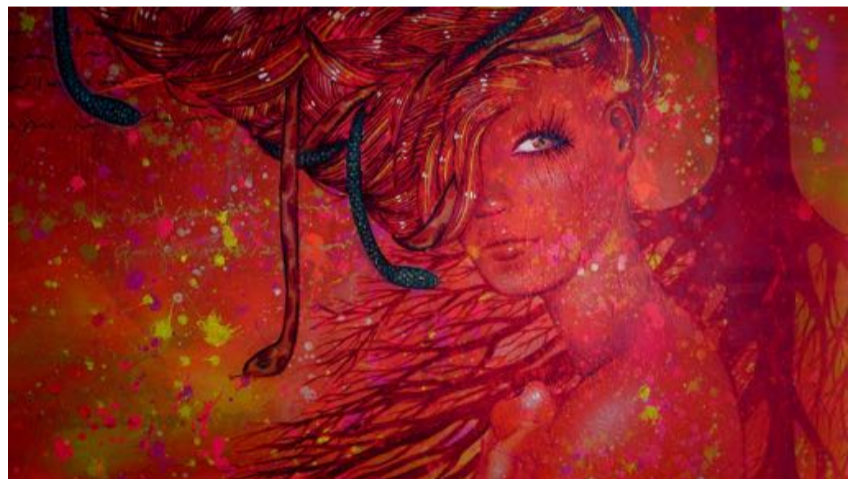
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/4ag4yk6f2wpvf0e/AAA-sk6gYqHiqKFG1h9wfF27a?dl=0>



An anonymous trafficking survivor talks about how dance helped her heal after she was sold into a brothel in Kolkata, India. Credit: "Little Stones"



Anna Taylor's clothing line Judith & James on the runways of New York Fashion Week. Credit: "Little Stones"



Brazilian graffiti artist Panmela Castro's haunting studio art. Credit: "Little Stones"



Brazilian graffiti artist Panmela Castro's work around Rio de Janeiro. Credit: "Little Stones"

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

LITTLE STONES follows four women whose lives are dedicated to empowering survivors of gender based violence and eradicating the atrocities of domestic violence, human trafficking, extreme poverty and female genital mutilation. These women are therapists, activists, missionaries, and entrepreneurs.

These women are artists.

Art is what drives these four women, provides an avenue for self-expression, and allows them to heal other women and girls in their communities. Each artist featured in LITTLE STONES is a creative visionary, and I wanted to tell their stories with the same aesthetic care as they give their own life's work, which is why I selected Meena Singh as the film's cinematographer. Singh has a background in narrative filmmaking, and our plan was to approach the photography of LITTLE STONES from a cinematic view, focusing on detail and aesthetics, playing with visual transitions and juxtapositions, and interweaving the four stories through a compelling visual narrative. From the hazy orange skies in Sohini's Kolkata to the hot pink paint of Panmela's graffiti, the bright primary colors of Anna's Kenyan prints to the dry hot yellow desert sun of Senegalese villages on Sister Fa's tour, viewers get a taste of traveling around the world, hearing stories of social injustice that are strikingly similar while culturally unique.

Singh and I traveled alone with our camera gear or occasionally with the support of a local interpreter or driver. In this way, we were able to take a fly-on-the-wall approach to our subjects; safe and intimate, without making the women feel self-conscious about being filmed. We stayed close to, or in some cases, in our subjects' homes, being granted intimate access to their personal lives. This approach allowed us to capture previously unseen footage inside India's government shelter homes, villages in rural Senegal, and heart-wrenching interviews with sex-trafficking and domestic-violence survivors. We tried to make our subjects feel comfortable by working with only female interpreters and an all-female production team, ensuring interviews and verité scenes were honest and emotional in societies where genital mutilation, prostitution, and even sexuality are taboo.



From left: Meena Singh, Anna Taylor and Sophia Kruz in Kenya, 2015.

I wanted to continue to highlight the work of female artists by selecting women to perform the film's key creative post-production positions. Sundance Composing Lab alumni Amritha Vaz wrote an original score featuring female Gambian kora player Sona Jobarteh and female bansuri player Sheela Bringi. Karoliina Tuovinen was the film's finishing editor, and a nearly-all female team at Technicolor studios finished the film's color correction and sound mix. In short, LITTLE STONES is a film about women who are using art to create social change, by women artists who believe their creativity can help other women in their own communities, and around the world.

The film's title comes from suffragist and women's rights activist Alice Paul's 1974 quote, "I always feel the movement is a sort of mosaic. Each of us puts in one little stone." The sentiment, that we all have a role to play in the global fight for equal rights, to me perfectly encapsulated the work of each artist featured in the documentary, and my own goals for LITTLE STONES. I hope the documentary encourages creative dialogue and expression around issues of global gender based violence, and that through Driftseed, the 501c3 non-profit organization which Singh and I founded during production, we will continue to grow the mosaic of the women's movement, stone by stone.

Sophia Kruz
Director, LITTLE STONES

FILMMAKER BIOS



Sophia Kruz
DIRECTOR & PRODUCER

www.sophiakruzproductions.com

Sophia Kruz is an EMMY® Award-winning documentary filmmaker and TEDx speaker. Her work has been broadcast nationally and screened at film festivals and museums around the world. Her film, LITTLE STONES, has been screened over 70 times globally, including at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, and on capitol hill for members of congress.

Previously, Kruz produced Ride the Tiger, a nationally-broadcast PBS documentary about neuroscience and bipolar disorder. She also produced, directed, and edited the EMMY Award-winning film A Space For Music, A Seat For Everyone.

In 2015, Kruz co-founded Driftseed, a nonprofit which seeks to empower women and girls in the U.S. and around the world through the art of documentary storytelling. Kruz was the recipient of the 2015-2016 University of Michigan Center for the Education of Women Visiting Social Activist fellowship, and her documentary work has been supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs, Womanity Foundation, and many others.



Meena Singh
CO-PRODUCER & CINEMATOGRAPHER

www.meenasingh.com

Meena's documentary work has taken her all over America, and most notably, she shot scenes for 2013 Oscar winning documentary Twenty Feet From Stardom. Born in Chicago to an Indian father and an American mother, Meena finds a balance between her eastern heritage and western upbringing through cinema. Her background of global influences has helped her bring a unique perspective to the projects she takes on. This, coupled with her high level of technical knowledge and training, and her desire to bring affecting stories that matter to the screen in a visually compelling way, have made her a highly valuable asset and long-term collaborator with the directors she's worked with.

She studied cinematography at Columbia College Chicago and relocated to Los Angeles to attend the prestigious American Film Institute. Her work has received numerous awards and critical acclaim, and has screened at film festivals around the world. Meena is a member of the International Cinematographer's Guild.

CREW LIST

Written and Directed by	SOPHIA KRUZ (imdb)
Cinematographer and Co-Producer	MEENA SINGH (imdb)
Editor	KAROLIINA TUOVINEN (imdb)
Composer	AMRITHA VAZ (imdb)
Title Design and Art Direction	OLIVER UBERTI
Animation	DAVID HARTWELL
Additional Photography	ROB MIGRIN (imdb)
Digital Intermediate by	TECHNICOLOR CREATIVE SERVICES
Digital Intermediate Colorist	NICHOLAS HASSON (imdb)
Digital Intermediate Producer	DENISE WOODGERD (imdb)
Digital Intermediate Project Manager	MORNINGSTAR SCHOTT (imdb)
Sound Services by	TECHNICOLOR SOUND
Supervising Sound Editor and SFX Editor	JOHN SNIDER (imdb)
Dialogue Editor	NAAMAN HAYNES
Re-Recording Mixer	VICKI LEMAR (imdb)
Score Mixer	BRAD HAEHNEL (imdb)
Orchestrator	AIME DOHERTY (imdb)
Musicians	KAMALJEET AHLUWALIA santoor SHEELA BRINGI bansuri SONA JOBARTEH kora THE MACEDONIAN RADIO ORCHESTRA



FEATURED EXPERTS



PHUMZILE MLAMBO-NGCUKA

Executive Director, United Nations Women



ALYSE NELSON

President and CEO, Vital Voices



MOLLY MELCHING

Founder and CEO, Tostan



MUSIMBI KANYORO

President and CEO, Global Fund for Women

EDUCATION ADVISORS

ELIZABETH MOJE

Interim Dean, School of Education, University of Michigan

DARIN STOCKDIL

Center for Education Design, Evaluation and Research, School of Education, University of Michigan

VICTORIA HAVILAND

Center for Education Design, Evaluation and Research, School of Education, University of Michigan

CATHY FLEISCHER

Professor, English Language and Literature, Eastern Michigan University

GLYNDA A. HULL

Professor, Graduate School of Education, University of California Berkeley



The filmmakers, University of Michigan staff and Driftseed team at the U-M Symposium, October 2016.

INFLUENCER SCREENINGS & UNIVERSITY SYMPOSIUMS

The non-profit organization Driftseed, founded by the LITTLE STONES filmmakers, partnered with numerous organizations (see next page) to host over 70 screenings and events, including high-profile screenings at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, and on Capitol Hill. These high profile events and university symposiums raise awareness about the human rights issues facing women globally, and encourage art as a form of activism and social change.

EDUCATIONAL TOOLKIT

The University of Michigan School of Education and Driftseed, created robust educational materials to be used in high school and university classrooms across the U.S. and internationally. The purpose of the classroom initiative is to educate and inspire future leaders, not only raising awareness to the underlying issues involved in violence against women, but also to inspire innovative, collaborative, and non-traditional means of outreach through the arts.

Grants from the Michigan Council on Arts and Cultural Affairs and the Verizon Wireless Foundation supported the development of these classroom materials, which include 8 lesson plans, 2 arts workshops, a Take Action Resource Guide, classroom and community discussion guides, and bonus videos.

All education materials can be downloaded for free at: littlestones.org/resources



OUR IMPACT PARTNERS INCLUDE:

- **American Dance Therapy Association** - was founded in 1966 as an organization to support the emerging profession of dance/movement therapy and is the only U.S. organization dedicated to the profession of dance/movement therapy. The ADTA also advocates nationally and internationally for the development and expansion of dance/movement therapy training and services.
- **American Jewish World Service** - is the first and only Jewish organization dedicated solely to ending poverty and promoting human rights in the developing world. Through philanthropy and advocacy, they address some of the gravest global problems of our time—genocide, AIDS, violence against women and girls, hatred of LGBT people, and the horrific consequences of natural and human-made disasters.
- **Art Works for Change** - harnesses the transformative power of art to promote awareness, provoke dialogue, and inspire action through traveling exhibitions of national and international scope appearing in some of the world's leading museums and art institutions.
- **Driftseed** - A 501c3 non-profit organization founded by the LITTLE STONES filmmakers which seeks to empower women and girls through documentary storytelling.
- **Global Fund for Women** - finds, funds, and amplifies the courageous work of women who are building social movements and challenging the status quo. By shining a spotlight on critical issues, Global Fund for Women rallies communities of advocates who take action and invest money to empower women.
- **Promundo** - promotes gender justice and prevents violence by engaging men and boys in partnership with women and girls in Brazil and around the world, working with individual men and women, using campaigns and local activism to build community support, and advocating with institutions and governments to adopt policies and scale up programs that reinforce personal and social change.
- **International Expressive Arts Therapy Association (IEATA)** - supports expressive arts therapists, artists, educators, consultants and others using integrative, multimodal arts processes for personal and community growth and transformation.
- **University of Michigan School of Education, Center for Education Design, Evaluation and Research**, - wrote the LITTLE STONES classroom materials for international educational purposes, including high school lesson plans, university discussion guides, and arts-infused community screening event toolkits.
- **University of Michigan Center for the Education of Women** - supported Sophia Kruz during LITTLE STONES post-production through the 2015-2016 Visiting Social Activist Fellowship, and will promote the film's educational materials and educational DVD release.
- **Vital Voices** – Co-founded by Hilary Clinton and Alyse Nelson, Vital Voices identifies, trains and empowers emerging women leaders and social entrepreneurs around the globe with a team of over 1,000 partners. Vital Voices has trained and mentored more than 14,000 emerging women leaders from over 144 countries since 1997, including LITTLE STONES subjects Sohini Chakraborty and Panmela Castro.
- **Zonta International** - empowers women worldwide through service and advocacy to improve the legal, political, economic, educational, health and professional status of women at the global and local level. Zonta International has 30,000 members in 66 countries.

Specifications

Genre: Documentary
Total running time: 87 minutes
Language: English and English with subtitles
Filming Locations: USA, Brazil, Senegal, Kenya, Germany, India
Shot on Canon C300, Canon C100
Mastered and delivered in high-definition (1080p 23.98) on DCP or HDCAM-SR with a 5.1 audio mix.

View Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/187500137>

Official Site: www.littlestones.org

Facebook & Twitter: @littlestonesdoc

Download High Resolution Stills:

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Marketing the Film

Genre/Sub-genres

Women and Girls
Art
Global/World
Human Rights
Social Justice

Tones: Inspirational, empowering, educational

Educational Materials - University of Michigan School of Education and Driftseed non-profit will supply the following free materials:

- High School Lesson Plans
- High School, University and Community Discussion Guides
- Resource Guides (arts therapy & gender based violence)
- Community screening PR and marketing templates (press release, posters, emails)
- Bonus Videos
- Moderated Facebook Page

Niche Market

- Women's rights activists
- Artists and arts therapists
- Dancers and dance movement therapists
- Women's organizations and associations (global)
- Arts and arts therapy organizations and associations (global)
- University departments, including:
 - ✦ Women's Studies
 - ✦ Art & Design
 - ✦ Journalism
 - ✦ International Studies
 - ✦ International Development
 - ✦ Public Health (global)
 - ✦ Social Justice
 - ✦ Economics
 - ✦ Business & Social Entrepreneurship

Contact

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