

# LITTLE STONES

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

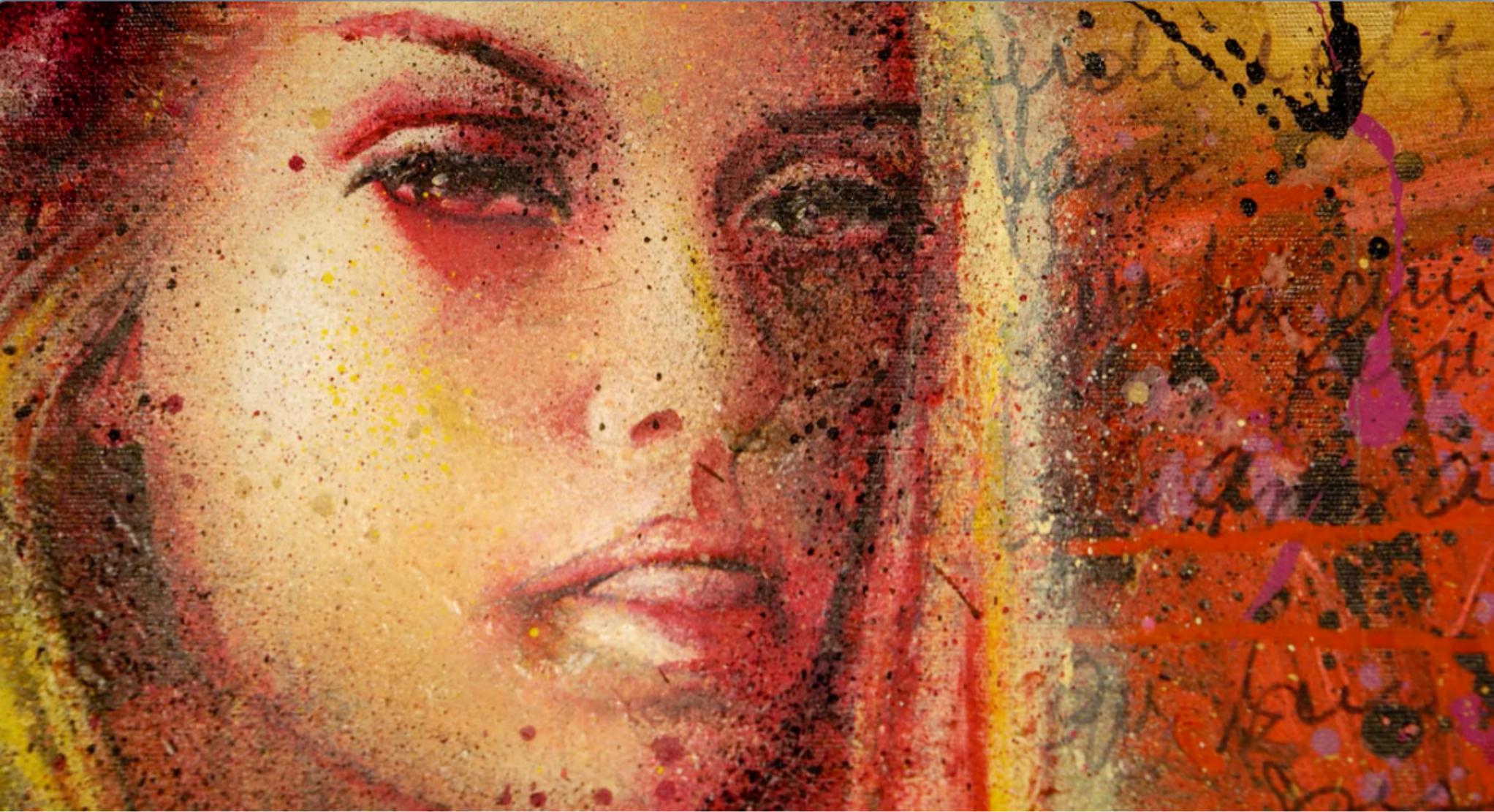
Women's rights activist, Alice Paul

IN ASSOCIATION WITH DRIFTSEED A FILM BY SOPHIA KRUIZ "LITTLE STONES" FEATURING PANMELA CASTRO, SOHINI CHAKRABORTY, ANNA TAYLOR AND SISTER FA  
EDITED BY KAROLIINA TUOVINEN DESIGNER AMRITHA VAZ JOURNALIST MEENA SINGH PRODUCED BY SOPHIA KRUIZ, MEENA SINGH DIRECTED BY SOPHIA KRUIZ

[www.littlestones.org](http://www.littlestones.org) f t i @driftseed\_films

## LITTLE STONES Press Kit

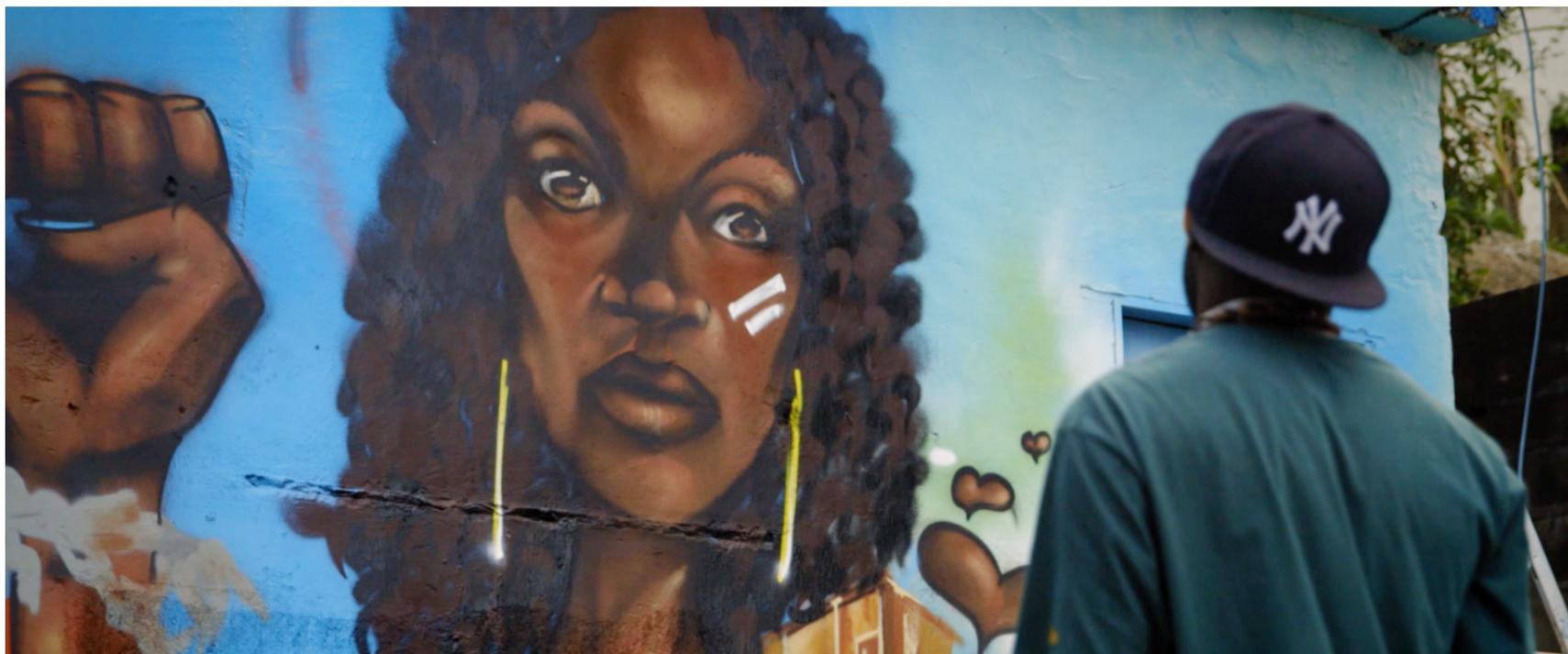
2017 - Feature Documentary



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

**Official Site:** [www.littlestones.org](http://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

From a graffiti artist speaking out against domestic violence in the favelas of Brazil to a dancer rehabilitating sex-trafficking survivors in India, LITTLE STONES profiles four women, each of whom are contributing a stone to the mosaic of the women's movement through their art. These four artists show that the world is full of little stones waiting to be discovered.

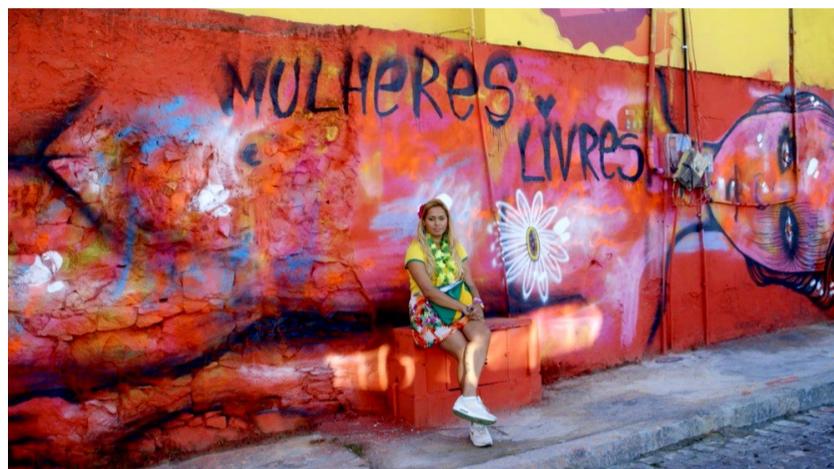
This 87-minute documentary directed by EMMY® Award-winning filmmaker Sophia Kruz and cinematographer Meena Singh (HOLLIDAYSBURG, 20 FEET FROM STARDOM), with music by Sundance Composing Lab alumni Amritha Vaz (500 DAYS OF SUMMER), was produced over a period of 18 months in Senegal, Kenya, Brazil, Germany, India and USA. The film and accompanying education initiative have been designed to raise awareness about global women's rights issues, and to celebrate creative, entrepreneurial, and arts-therapy based solutions to the most pressing challenges facing women globally.

## 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

Brazilian graffiti artist Panmela Castro rocked the hip-hop community when she became the first woman to win a Hutuz Award in 2008, and in 2010 was named best Artist of the Decade. Castro has risen to the top of the male-dominated graffiti world in Brazil by charting her own path, and using street-art to raise awareness about an issue that hits very close to home: domestic violence.



### Sohini Chakraborty

Sohini Chakraborty was a dancer and sociologist in 1996 when she began volunteering at a shelter for sex trafficking survivors in India. She knew instinctively that dance could help girls reclaim their bodies after the trauma of trafficking, and over the past 2 decades, Chakraborty has touched the lives of over 7000 survivors throughout South-East Asia, training over 50 survivors to become professional dance movement therapists.

### Fatou Diatta aka Sister Fa

Senegalese singer and activist Sister Fa is a survivor of childhood female genital mutilation. She's now based in Berlin, but is a controversial figure throughout West-Africa, where she regularly tours, using her fame to spark a dialogue around genital mutilation, which is still too taboo to discuss in many communities.

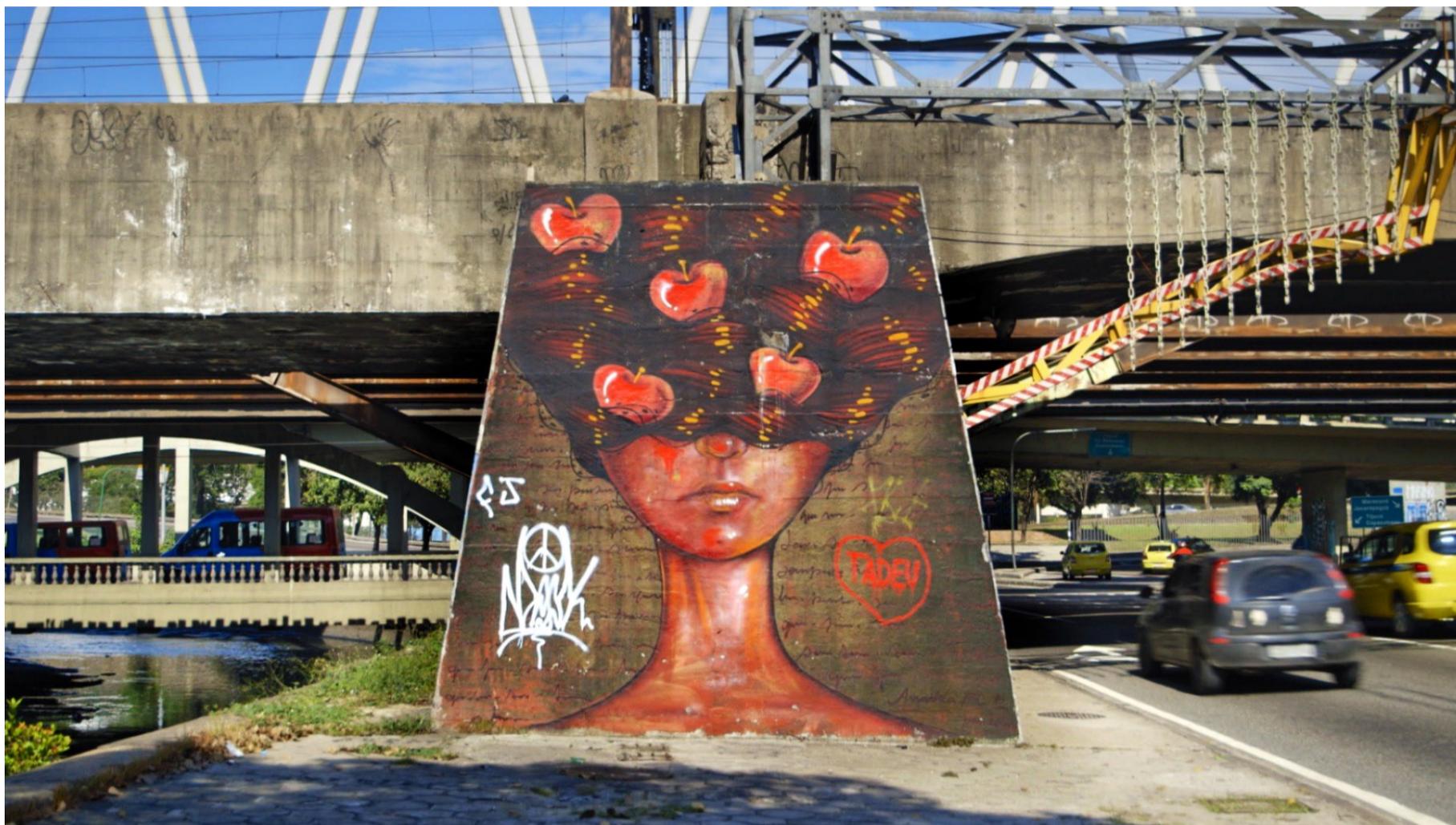


### Anna Taylor

American fashion designer ANNA TAYLOR first moved to Kenya to work in Nairobi's slums when she was in high school. There, she met an unemployed seamstress named Judith, whom she hired to sew her clothing designs. In 2011, Taylor founded Judith&James to train and employ 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:

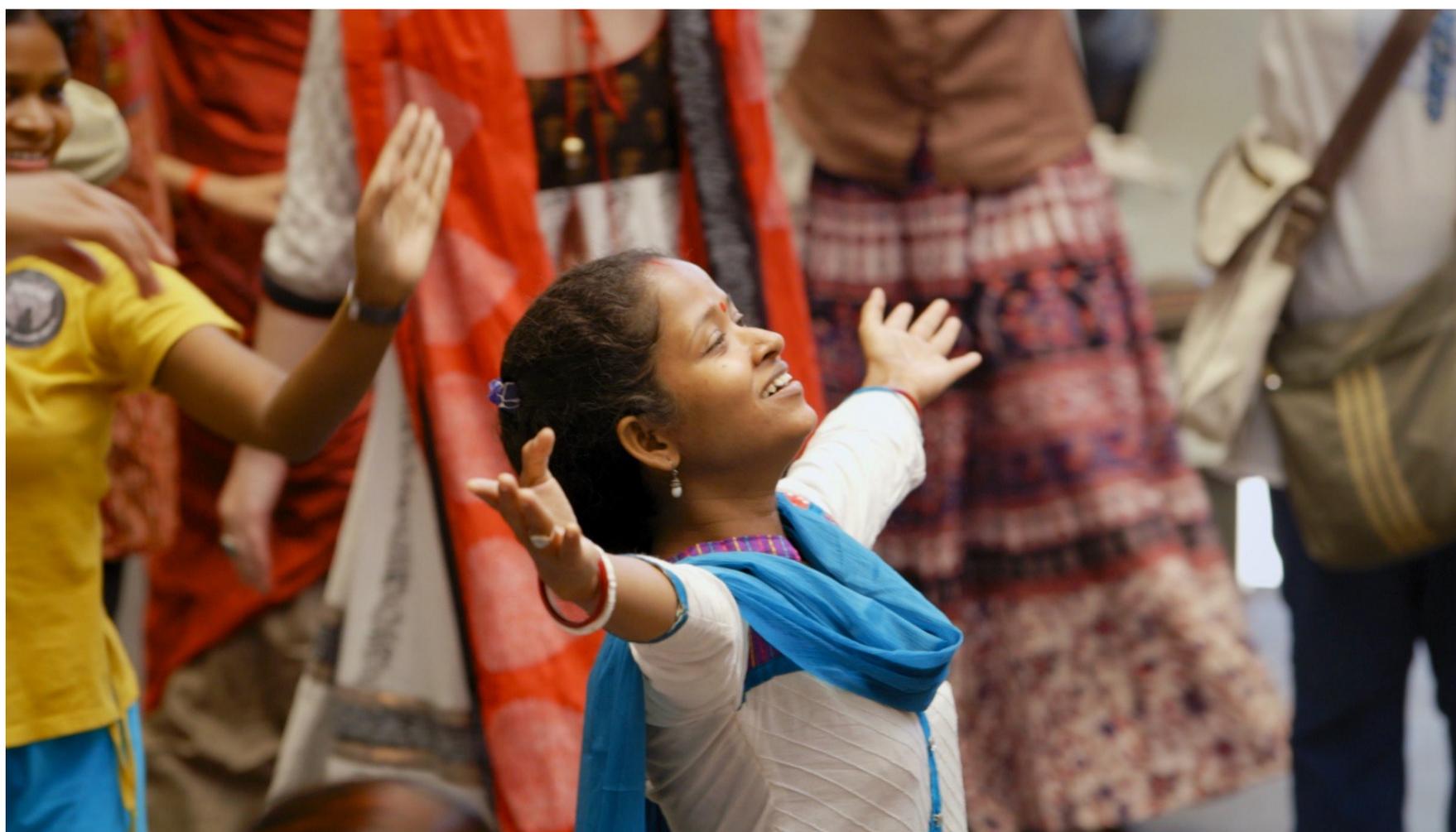
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Brazilian graffiti artist Panmela Castro's work around Rio de Janeiro. Credit: "Little Stones"

## 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>



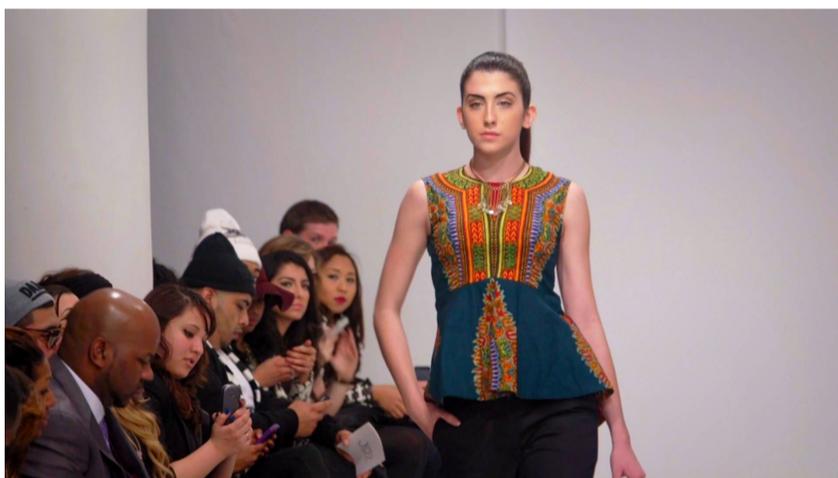
Above: Judith sews a Judith & James skirt in Nairobi, Kenya. Below: A baby models the Judith & James skirt in a photoshoot in Little Rock, Arkansas. Credit: "Little Stones"

## Download High Resolution Production Stills:

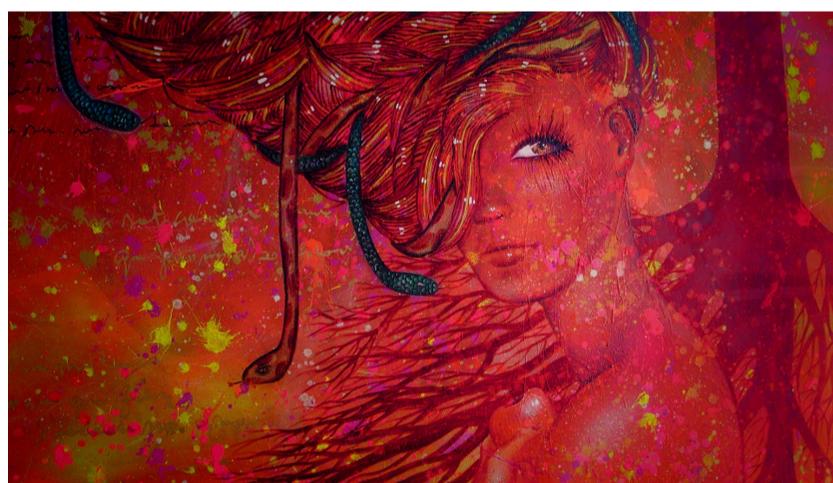
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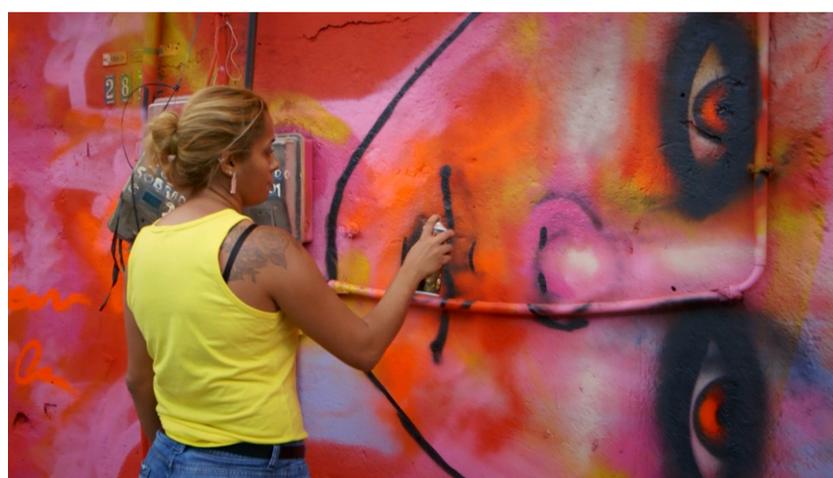
An anonymous trafficking survivor talks about how dance helped her heal after she was sold into a brothel in Kolkata, India. Credit: "Little Stones"



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](http://www.sophiakruzproductions.com)

EMMY® award-winning documentary filmmaker Sophia Kruz has a passion for non-fiction storytelling. Her work has screened at film festivals, museums, libraries, community centers, and health-care facilities nationwide, and is broadcast regularly on PBS stations. Kruz's documentary work is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs, Marian Chace Foundation, International Expressive Arts Therapy Association and the Womanity Foundation. She is currently a co-founder of the non-profit Driftseed and the University of Michigan Center for the Education of Women 2015-2016 Visiting Social Activist.

Formerly a producer in PBS Detroit's National Documentary Unit, Kruz produced *RIDE THE TIGER* (2016), a documentary on neuroscience and bipolar disorder and *BEYOND THE LIGHT SWITCH, Hour 3* (2015), for national PBS broadcast. From 2010-2013, Kruz held the position of Video Producer & Editor at UMS, the University of Michigan's international performing arts presenter. She earned her BA in Screen Arts & Cultures at the University of Michigan.



**Meena Singh**  
CO-PRODUCER & CINEMATOGRAPHER

[www.meenasingh.com](http://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 shot her first two feature films before the age of 21. Following her early success, she 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, is currently working with partner organizations (see next page) to host high-profile screenings of the documentary at international policy and development forums, such as the United Nations and on Capitol Hill. These high profile events and university symposiums will raise awareness about the human rights issues facing women globally, and encourage art as a form of activism and social change.

The first symposium was held at the University of Michigan in partnership with the Center for the Education of Women October 5-6, 2016 and included a test-screening of the documentary for over 1500 adults and university students, a filmmaker Q&A, small group discussions about the film, and a 'letters to the artists' table. The following day, 100 high school students from Detroit and Ann Arbor, MI watched the documentary in the morning, and then created art (graphic design and poetry) about social issues they care about.

## **EDUCATIONAL TOOLKITS**

The University of Michigan School of Education and the nonprofit organization Driftseed, are in the process of creating 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 will support the development of these classroom materials, including lesson plans, resource and discussion guides, and bonus videos.



**OUR OUTREACH PARTNERS INCLUDE:**

- **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. The organization has worked with Sister Fa in the past, and has agreed to host community screenings in museums around the world, including Nepal, South Africa and San Francisco.
- **Center for Education Design, Research and Evaluation (CEDER), University of Michigan School of Education** - will create the film's classroom materials for international educational purposes, including high school lesson plans, university discussion guides, and arts-infused community screening event toolkits. Will promote the film's educational materials and educational DVD release.
- **Center for the Education of Women, University of Michigan** - Supported Sophia Kruz during LITTLE STONES post-production through the 2015-2016 Visiting Social Activist Fellowship. Will promote the film's educational materials and educational DVD release.
- **Driftseed** - A 501c3 non-profit organization founded by the LITTLE STONES filmmakers which seeks to empower women and girls through documentary storytelling.
- **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. The organization's Brazil director Tatiana Moura was interviewed for Little Stones and intends to host community screenings of the documentary throughout Brazil, the Congo (DRC), Washington D.C., and Portugal.
- **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. The association has committed to hosting at least 10 community screenings of the documentary around the world.
- **Study Hall Educational Foundation** - establishes high quality primary, secondary and higher secondary schools in rural and urban settings all over India, by working with the State and Central Government and other NGO's in the areas of curricular enrichment and reform, teacher education, research in innovative education. Study Hall will host at least one community screening of the film in India.
- **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. CEO Alyse Nelson was interviewed for the film, and is interested in supporting a screening in Washington D.C.
- **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. Kruz will present LITTLE STONES and the free community screening materials at the Zonta International North American Conference in June 2017. Zonta District 15 will host community screenings of the film throughout Michigan and Canada.

## 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](http://www.littlestones.org)

**Facebook & Twitter:** @littlestonesdoc

**Download High Resolution Stills:**

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

## 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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734-904-3538