Forgotten Sex Slaves
Comfort Women in the Philippines

Documentary, HD, 46 minutes, Tagalog/English with English subtitles
A film by: Björn Jensen
Production: Ginger Foot Films, 2015
Country: Germany

Press Kit

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During the Second World War thousands of women in Asia were forced to work as prostitutes for Japanese soldiers. Some of them were still teenagers. They were raped, often beaten and abused. The Japanese called them “ianfu” or Comfort Women. After the war the survivors struggled to continue with their lives, hiding what many considered to be a “shame”. After having been silent for more than 50 years they have started to tell their stories. Until today, they are waiting for an adequate compensation and official acknowledgment of their victimization. They are in their Eighties and Nineties now and time is running out for them.

This intimate, touching film tells the story of nine comfort women in the Philippines and follows their efforts to find justice before they die.

LOGLINE
Documentary portrait of victims of Japanese rape camps in the Philippines during World War II, who are still fighting for official recognition, adequate compensation and an apology.

BACK STORY OF THE FILM
“Forgotten Sex Slaves” is the first international documentary on the issue of Comfort Women in the Philippines. The project was pitched at several festivals and markets, including GZDOC in Guangzhou, Latin Side of the Doc, Mexico City and Asian Side of the DOC Kuala Lumpur. The film has been completely self financed with a crowd funding campaign and in-kind contributions. No TV station or film fund supported the production of this film. It took several years to be finished.

BIOGRAPHY OF THE DIRECTOR
In over 25 years, Björn Jensen worked as supervising producer, executive producer and consultant on dozens of documentary and feature films, many of them award-winning. Credits include “Quiet Days in Hollywood” with Hilary Swank, “Montreal Symphony” (winner best Canadian documentary at FIFA), “Under the Ice” (winner best documentary at Kuala Lumpur Festival), “Scientists Under Attack” (winner 11 international festival awards) and many more. He holds a Master Degree in German and English Literature (MA) and an International Business MBA and is board member of several film associations. Björn worked for 15 years as Head of Production for the production company Kick Film GmbH before he founded Ginger Foot Films in 2007. With Ginger Foot Films he offers consulting services to documentary and feature film producers in the areas of development, financing, production and distribution. For German Documentaries Björn Jensen organizes delegations of German independent documentary producers to international festivals and markets. He is consultant for the distinguished market Sunny Side of the Doc for the Asian market and the Chinese production company China Film Assist. As treasurer he is member of the board of directors of AG DOK (the largest association of independent film professionals in Germany), member of the advisory council of German Films, member of the tax expert committee of the German Cultural Council, member of the evaluation committee of Bild-Kunst, member of the friend's association of Munich University of Television and Film and member of the friend's association of Dok.Fest Munich. Björn moderates panel discussions and pitchings. He co-developed the Asian-European training initiative DOCROADS, teaches at film schools in Europe and Asia and holds regularly international workshops in production, financing and pitching.

Forgotten Sex Slaves is his first longer film as a director.

COMPANY PROFILE
Ginger Foot Films is an International Media Consulting and Film Production company. Since 2007 we offer consulting services to documentary and feature film producers in the areas of development, financing, production and distribution. Based on years of experience in setting up numerous international productions we will help you to develop your story for an international audience, prepare you for pitching sessions and assist you in setting up calculation and financing plans, which meet the requirements of national film funds as well as international co-production treaties. We can help you to finance your films by providing access to international co-production partners, TV stations and distributors.
This film is dedicated to the courageous women, who shared their stories with us

The original drawings have been done by
Lola Remedios Felias

The song “It’s so hard to be a Comfort Woman” was written and performed by
Lola Pilar Frias

with
(in order of their appearance)

Lola Pilar Frias
Lola Hilaria V. Bustamante
Lola Virginia Villarma
Lola Simeona N. Ramil
Lola Carmencita Ramel
Lola Narcisa Claveria
Lola Anastacia C. Cortez
Lola Benita Alaganza
Rechilda A. Extremadura
Lola Ortencia Martinez

and many more

Interviews Crisanta Alcaraz-Jensen
Cinematographer Björn Jensen
Editor Alexander Laudien
Composer Jörg Winkelmann
Sound Mixer Björn Jensen
Gino Abarintos
Narrator Joel Olano
Re-recording Mixer Dario Manns
Original Drawings Remedios Felias
After Effects Dario Manns
Title Design Adrian von Sparr
Color Grading Dario Manns
Translations Crisanta Alcaraz-Jensen
Production Assistants Nicolas von Hänisch
Johannes Scherzinger
Anna Seeßlen
Claudia Seibl
Rafael Selzer
Adrian von Sparr
Promotional Trailer Anna Seeßlen
Social Media Claudia Seibl
Driver Jay-R
Noli Neyra
Legal Advice Christian Füllgraf
THE PRODUCTION WOULD LIKE TO THANK

Rechilda A. Extremadura

Alcaraz Family
Bettina Ehrhardt
Evelyna Galang
Armin Moritz
Dr. Walter Ziegler

LILA-Pilipina
Gabriela Philippines
Asian Women's Fund
Die Medienakademie
Holiday Inn Ortigas, Manila
Audio Network, Jean Paul Ditmarsch
Footage Farm Ltd., Gintare Kriauceliunaite

CROWD FUNDING FINANCEERS
Ronald Apple
Deborah Bowman
Ava Darling
Jacqui Hocking
Ulrike Landt
Jörg Langer
Sonja Malinka
Jennifer Vaughn
Carol Welch

Music composed and performed by Jörg Winkelmann
courtesy of Alcaraz Musikverlag, © 2015

Public Domain Footage: “This is the Philippines”
U.S. Army / Internet Archive

Original drawings: Remedios Felias
courtesy of LILA-Pilipina

Photographs: courtesy of LILA-Pilipina

The film is available on
www.onlinefilm.org
TECHNICAL DETAILS
HD, 46 minutes, stereo, 16:9
Year of production: 2015
Language: English and Tagalog (Filipino)
Versions: English narration and English subtitles, German subtitles
Screening formats: DCP, Blu-Ray

TRAILER AND ONLINE SCREENER
The trailer of “Forgotten Sex Slaves” is available here:
https://vimeo.com/124329187

The online screener of the film (HD with English subtitles) is available here:
https://vimeo.com/119540615

To receive the password, please contact us under this email: jensen@gingerfoot.de

STILLS AND PHOTOGRAPHS
To receive stills and photographs or the password for the online screeners, please contact us under this email: jensen@gingerfoot.de

WEBSITES
Film website: http://www.gingerfoot.de/forgotten_en.html

Password protected online screener: https://vimeo.com/119540615

Password protected online screener: https://filmfreeway.com/project/forgotten

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