

WOMEN & GIRLS LEAD



Film Catalog



About Women and Girls Lead



The Stories

Starting with more than 50 documentary films by the world's best independent filmmakers – and adding content from media makers and new partners along the way – Women and Girls Lead brings to life extraordinary leaders and citizens on the front lines of economic development, violence prevention, business and governance, education, and health.

Women and Girls Lead is spearheaded by the Independent Television Service [ITVS] with support from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, PBS and Eileen Fisher and from ITVS's Global Perspectives Project funded by Ford Foundation, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Wyncote Foundation, and Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Arts.

Women and Girls Lead is a multiyear public media initiative to focus, educate, and connect citizens worldwide in support of the issues facing women and girls. Combining independent documentary film, television, new media, and global outreach partnerships, Women and Girls Lead amplifies the voices of women and girls acting as leaders, expands understanding of gender equity, and engages an international network of citizens and organizations to act locally and reach out globally.

BACKGROUND

Women and Girls Lead brings to life the stories of extraordinary people captured by the world's best independent documentary filmmakers. As the largest provider of independent content – domestic and international – to U.S. public television, ITVS witnessed in recent years a groundswell of stories surfacing about women's and girls' leadership. At the same time, public dialogue about the growing fight against global poverty, violence, and extremism increasingly focused on women and girls. In this convergence of content and conversation, ITVS saw the opportunity to test a strategy to bring together and lift up independent voices, extending their reach in new and innovative ways.

By building a pipeline of some 50¹ public television documentaries and integrating content from partners across radio, commercial television, and beyond, Women and Girls Lead offers another model for public media to serve its mission in the 21st century, connecting key stakeholders to sustain productive dialogue and participation on the most critical issues facing local communities, the nation, and the world.

ACTIVITIES OVERVIEW

Women and Girls Lead combines coordinated media services and strategies that include:

- **Program funding and production services.**
- **Television and online broadcasts.** Programs air on PBS series such as *Independent Lens*, *Frontline*, *POV*, *Global Voices*, and other public television strands. Full-length and short form content along with interactive games and other new media will also be available online.
- **Outreach partnerships.** Outreach partners bring Women and Girls Lead to life in communities across the U.S. and around the world, connecting audiences everywhere working to help women and girls realize their potential. Learn more at womenandgirlslead.org
- **Opportunities for public television stations.** Community events, educational materials, mini-grants, partnerships, and more.
- **Leadership.** Women and Girls Lead is guided by a leadership council from media, entertainment, NGOs and government chaired by CPB President and CEO Patricia Harrison.

1 ITVS continues to confirm programs for the Women and Girls Lead catalog.

Pillar Programs



2011

COLOMBIA, BOSNIA, AFGHANISTAN, LIBERIA

Women, War & Peace

by Abigail Disney, Gini Reticker, and Pamela Hogan

Women, War & Peace, a bold new five-part PBS mini-series, is the most comprehensive global media initiative ever mounted on the roles of women in peace and conflict. A co-production of THIRTEEN and Fork Films, *Women, War & Peace* places women at the center of an urgent dialogue about conflict and security and reframes our understanding of modern warfare.



2012

WORLDWIDE

Half the Sky

by A Show of Force Production

Through the lives of extraordinary women in Asia and Africa, struggling and rising above profoundly dire circumstances, we see the key to progress in our world lies in unleashing women's potential. The forthcoming PBS miniseries is based on the bestselling book by journalists Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. An *Independent Lens* special presentation.



2013

UNITED STATES

Kind-Hearted Woman

by David Sutherland (co-production of *FRONTLINE*)

Robin Charboneau, a 31-year-old Oglala Sioux in North Dakota, struggles between saving her family and risking it all to help her Indian community and abused women. Acclaimed documentary filmmaker David Sutherland (*The Farmer's Wife*, *Country Boys*) followed her life over three years to reveal a life both endangered and bursting with potential.



UNITED STATES

Alice Walker: Beauty in Truth

by Pratibha Parmar and Shaheen Haq

An extraordinary woman who has been defined as a key international writer of the 20th century, Alice Walker made history as the first African American woman to win a Pulitzer Prize for Literature in 1983 for her novel *The Color Purple*, one of the few literary books to capture the popular imagination and leave a permanent imprint.

FEBRUARY 2014



PAKISTAN

Bhutto

by Duane Baughman

The incredible life story of Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, the first woman to lead an Islamic nation, ends with a 2007 assassination that reverberated around the world, transforming Bhutto from political messiah to martyr in the eyes of the common people.

MAY 2011



UNITED STATES

Black Power Mixtape 1967–1975

by Goran Hugo Olsson

Combining startlingly fresh and candid 16mm footage that had lain undiscovered for the past 30 years, with contemporary audio interviews from leading African-American artists, activists, musicians and scholars, this film looks at the people, society, culture, and style that fuelled an era of convulsive change.

FEBRUARY 2012



HUNGARY

Blessed is the Match

by Roberta Grossman

Narrated by Joan Allen, *Blessed Is the Match* is the first documentary feature about Hannah Senesh, the World War II-era poet and diarist who became a paratrooper, resistance fighter, and modern-day Joan of Arc. The film explores Hannah's childhood against the backdrop of significant historical events resulting in a rich portrait with several interlocking strands.

AUGUST 2013



ALGERIA

Chahinaz: What Rights for Women?

by Samia Chala and Patrice Barrat

Chahinaz, a 20-year-old student in Algeria, has mixed feelings about the Western world and its values, but she admires the freedom of Western women. Through her curiosity and voyage of self-discovery, Chahinaz begins to wonder what life is like for women in other Muslim countries and around the world and why things are slow to change in Algeria.

SEPTEMBER 2012



UNITED STATES

Daisy Bates: First Lady of Little Rock

by Sharon La Cruise (co-production with National Black Programming Consortium)

Daisy Bates: First Lady of Little Rock tells the story of a feminist and public supporter of nine black students who registered to attend the all-white Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, which culminated in a constitutional crisis – pitting a president against a governor and a community against itself.

FEBRUARY 2012



INDIA

The Day My God Died

by Andrew Levine and GERALYN DREYFOUS

This unforgettable examination of the growing plague of sex slavery weaves footage from Bombay brothels with stories of young girls whose lives have been shattered by the child sex trade.

NOVEMBER 2004



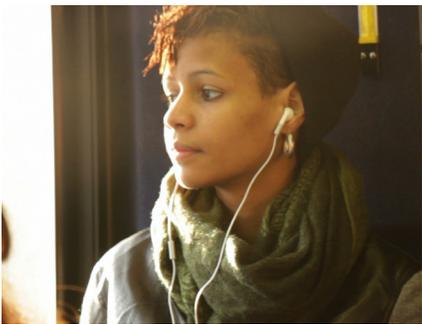
UNITED STATES

Girls on the Wall

by Heather Ross

When the teenage girls of an American heartland prison get an unlikely shot at redemption, they must relive their crimes, reclaim their humanity, and take a first step toward breaking free of the prison system.

DECEMBER 2009



UNITED STATES

The Graduates/Los Graduados

by Bernardo Ruiz

The Graduates/Los Graduados explores pressing issues in education today through the eyes of six Latino and Latina students from across the United States. More than a survey of contemporary policy debates, the bilingual, two-part film offers first-hand perspectives on key challenges facing Latino high school students and their families, educators, and community leaders. It is the story of the graduates who will make up America's future. The film follows six teenagers – three girls and three boys – each with their own unique obstacles to overcome.

OCTOBER 2013



UNITED STATES

Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes

by Byron Hurt (co-production with National Black Programming Consortium)

Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes tackles issues of masculinity, sexism, violence, and homophobia in today's hip-hop culture. Sparking dialogue on hip-hop and its declarations on gender, the film provides insight from divergent points of view, including rap artists, industry executives, rap fans, and critics from inside and outside the hip-hop generation.

FEBRUARY 2007



AFGHANISTAN

I Was Worth 50 Sheep

by Nima Sarvestani and Maryam Ebrahimi

I Was Worth 50 Sheep follows two teenage sisters and their struggle for human dignity and freedom in a war-torn country caught between ancient traditions and a modern world. With the help of a women’s shelter, these sisters hope to break the bonds set forth long ago by their fathers: their lives in exchange for 50 sheep.

SEPTEMBER 2012



UNITED STATES

The Interrupters

by Steve James

The Interrupters follows a group of men and women – most of them former gang leaders and ex-cons – trying to “interrupt” shootings and protect their communities from the violence they once employed.

FEBRUARY 2012



UNITED STATES

The Invisible War

by Kirby Dick

Every day, hundreds of women are raped and sexually assaulted – not on the streets, in their homes, or on college campuses, but in the US military. This documentary will follow the stories and experiences of three to five survivors with the courage to come forward, tell their stories, and let us into their lives.

MAY 2013



INDIA

Invoking Justice

by Deepa Dhanraj

Muslim women from a small town in southern India deliver justice in their own courts, posing a radical challenge to their traditional Muslim community and clergy.

JULY 2013



LIBERIA

Iron Ladies of Liberia

by Daniel Junge, Siatta Scott-Johnson, Henry Ansbacher, and Jonathan Stack (co-production of Steps International)

After 14 years of a brutal civil war, Liberia elects its first female president – Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, nicknamed the Iron Lady. With her predominately female cabinet, President Johnson Sirleaf struggles during her first year in office to rebuild a war-ravaged country, fight rampant corruption, and prevent a descent back into war.

MARCH 2008



MIDDLE EAST, UNITED STATES

Lioness

by Meg McLagan and Daria Sommers

Lioness profiles five women who saw action in Iraq's Sunni Triangle during 2003 and 2004, showing a portrait of soldiers who are also wives, mothers, and daughters, and who have long coped with the demands of military life, especially the sacrifices involved in leaving behind spouses and young children.

NOVEMBER 2008



UNITED STATES

MAKERS: Women Who Make America

by Kunhardt McGee Productions (developed with AOL)

MAKERS: Women Who Make America tells the story of the women's movement through the firsthand accounts of the leaders, opponents, and trailblazers who created a new America in the last half-century.

FEBRUARY 2013



UNITED STATES

Mary Lou Williams: The Lady Who Swings the Band

by Carol Bash

From the birth of jazz to the height of rock and roll, Mary Lou Williams was a leading musical innovator who was determined to create in a world that could not see past her race or gender.

TBD (PREMIERE)



UNITED STATES

Me Facing Life: Cyntoia's Story

by Daniel Birman

Cyntoia Brown could have been any average teenager in any American town. Instead, as the result of bad decisions and unfortunate circumstances, the 16-year-old was sentenced to 51 years to life for murder. This film challenges our assumptions about violence and explores how biology and family history doom some young people.

MARCH 2011



AFGHANISTAN

Motherland Afghanistan

by Catherine Gund, Sedika Mojadidi, and Jenny Raskin

Nearly one in seven Afghan women die in childbirth. Follow an Afghan American filmmaker and her father to his native Afghanistan, where he brings desperately needed medical attention and expertise to the women most susceptible to maternal mortality.

FEBRUARY 2007



UNITED STATES

The New Black

by Yoruba Richen and Yvonne Welbon

The New Black is a documentary that tells the story of how the African American community is grappling with the gay rights issue in light of the gay marriage movement and the fight over civil rights. The film documents activists, families, and clergy on both sides of the campaign to legalize gay marriage and examines homophobia in the black community's institutional pillar – the black church.

JUNE 2014



UNITED STATES

Patsy Mink: Ahead of the Majority

by Kimberlee Bassford

In 1965, Patsy Mink became the first Asian American woman and woman of color in the United States Congress. *Patsy Mink: Ahead of the Majority* looks at Mink's remarkable political journey, while often lonely and tumultuous, as she fought for the most disenfranchised and forgotten in society.

MAY 2009



ISRAEL

Pickles Inc.

by Nitza Gonen and Dalit Kimor

In the Israeli Arab village of Tamra, eight widows challenge social conventions and establish the Azka Pickle Cooperative, seeking financial independence for themselves and their children.

AUGUST 2005



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Pushing the Elephant

by Beth Davenport and Elizabeth Mandel

Rose Mapendo and nine of her ten children escaped violence engulfing the Democratic Republic of Congo, resettling in Arizona. Ten years later, she struggles to balance life as a mother and refugee advocate while confronting the past and defining what it means to be a survivor and an American.

MARCH 2011



UNITED STATES

Rebel

by Maria Agui Carter

Shrouded in mystery and long the subject of debate, the amazing story of Loreta Velazquez is one of the Civil War's most gripping forgotten narratives. While the U.S. military may have recently lifted the ban on women in combat, Loreta Janeta Velazquez, a Cuban immigrant from New Orleans, was fighting in battle 150 years ago – one of an estimated 1,000 women who secretly served as soldiers during the American Civil War.

MAY 2013



INDIA

The Revolutionary Optimists

by Nicole Newnham and Marin Grainger-Monsen

Amlan Ganguly, a lawyer turned social entrepreneur, empowers Calcutta's children to become leaders in improving health and sanitation. Using street theater, puppetry, and dance as their weapons, the children have helped dramatically reduce malaria and diarrhea rates.

JUNE 2013



UNITED STATES

Sentencing the Victim

by Liz Oakley and Joanna Katz

After surviving a vicious gang-rape attack, a South Carolina woman is transformed into a committed and eloquent activist challenging laws she believes favor prisoners' rights over victims' rights.

MARCH 2004



ISRAEL

Shadya

by Danny Hakim, Udi Kalinsky, and Roy Westler

Shadya Zoabi, a charismatic 17-year-old karate world champion, strives to succeed on her own terms within her traditional Muslim village in northern Israel. Even with her father's support, she faces the challenge of balancing her dreams with her religious commitments and other's expectations in a male-dominated culture.

JANUARY 2007



EGYPT

Shayfeen.com

by Leila Menjou and Sherief Elkatsha (co-production of *FRONTLINE*)

Shayfeen.com explores the recent multi-party elections in Egypt through the eyes of three women working to assure the election's legitimacy. The women provide unprecedented access to activists operating in and around the highest levels of both government and opposition groups.

JULY 2008



CAMEROON

Sisters in Law

by Kim Longinotto and Florence Ayisi

In a small courthouse in Cameroon, two women are working to change a village – and making progress that could change the world. *Sisters In Law* follows tough-minded state prosecutor Vera Ngassa and Court President Beatrice Ntuba as they help women in their Muslim village find the courage to fight difficult cases of abuse despite pressures from family and their community to remain silent.

NOVEMBER 2007



INDIA

Solar Mamas

by Jehane Noujaim, produced by Mette Heide, Plus Pictures

Solar Mamas follows three women with limited formal education as they take a life-changing journey from their home villages in Africa and the Middle East to study solar engineering in India. They journey back to their home villages, where, using their Barefoot College education, they install, operate, and maintain the solar panels necessary to provide their villages with electricity.

NOVEMBER 2012



UNITED STATES

Strong!

by Julie Wyman

A formidable figure, standing at 5'8" and weighing over 300 pounds, Cheryl Haworth struggles to defend her champion status as her lifetime weightlifting career inches toward its inevitable end. *Strong!* chronicles her journey and the challenges of an elite athlete, exploring popular notions of power, strength, beauty, and health.

JULY 2012



KENYA

Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai

by Lisa Merton and Alan Dater

How does the simple act of planting trees lead to winning the Nobel Peace Prize? Ask Wangari Maathai of Kenya, the 2004 recipient. In 1977, she suggested rural women plant trees to address problems stemming from a degraded environment. Under her leadership, their tree planting grew into a nationwide movement to safeguard the environment, defend human rights, and promote democracy.

APRIL 2009



UNITED STATES

Troop 1500

by Ellen Spiro and Karen Bernstein

At Hilltop Prison in Gatesville, Texas, a unique Girl Scout troop—Troop 1500—unites daughters with mothers serving time for serious crimes, giving them a chance to rebuild their broken bonds. Facing long sentences, the mothers struggle to mend their fractured relationships with their daughters.

MARCH 2006



BOLIVIA

Waiting for the Revolution

by Rodrigo Vazquez

For over 500 years, the indigenous people of the Andes have endured racism and discrimination. Now, with democracy on their side, the time has come for change. Following two newly elected indigenous leaders from the campaign trail to their first year in office, filmmaker Rodrigo Vasquez journeys into the heart of the democratic revolution in Bolivia.

AUGUST 2012



BRAZIL

Waste Land

by Lucy Walker, Charlotte Mickie, and David Koh

Rio de Janeiro artist Vik Muniz photographs an eclectic band of women and men known as catadores, or pickers of recyclable materials, and offers stirring evidence of the transformative power of art and of the dignity in personal determination.

APRIL 2011



UNITED STATES

We Still Live Here – Âs Nutayuneân

by Anne Makepeace

The Wampanoag nation of southeastern Massachusetts ensured the survival of the first English settlers in America, and lived to regret it. *We Still Live Here – Âs Nutayuneân* tells the story of the return of the Wampanoag language, the first time a language with no native speakers has been revived in this country.

NOVEMBER 2011



SIERRA LEONE, CAMBODIA, AND THE UNITED STATES

Welcome to the World

by Brian Hill and Katie Bailiff

How much is a child's fate determined by the circumstances and location of its birth? Accepted wisdom has it that much of what happens within 24 hours of birth dictates an infant's chances of survival. *Welcome to the World* investigates maternal and infant mortality in Sierra Leone, Cambodia, and the United States.

NOVEMBER 2012



UNITED STATES

When I Rise

by Mat Hames, James Moll, and Michael Rosen

Barbara Smith Conrad is cast in an opera to co-star with a white male classmate at the University of Texas, fueling a racist backlash from members of the Texas legislature. When Barbara is expelled from the cast, the incident escalates, becoming national news and prompting unexpected support from a pop superstar.

FEBRUARY 2011



UNITED STATES

Wonder Women! The Untold Story of American Superheroines

by Kristy Guevara-Flanagan

Wonder Women! The Untold Story of American Superheroines traces the fascinating evolution and legacy of Wonder Woman. From the birth of the comic book superheroine in the 1940s to the blockbusters of today, *Wonder Women!* looks at how popular representations of powerful women often reflect society's anxieties about women's liberation.

APRIL 2013



UNITED STATES

Young Lakota

by Marion Lipschutz and Rose Rosenblatt

In a small town in the heart of the Pine Ridge Reservation, Sunny Clifford, her twin sister Serena, and their neighbor, Brandon Ferguson, share a common dream of helping to create a better future for their tribe. When South Dakota passes a law criminalizing abortion, their tribal President, Cecelia Fire Thunder, challenges it with a threat to build a clinic on the reservation, drawing Sunny, Serena, and Brandon into a political storm that changes the course of each of their lives.

FALL 2013