

# WOMEN & GIRLS LEAD

*An innovative campaign  
using 60 films to engage  
American audiences*

IMPACT REPORT 2011–2015

Robin Poor Bear  
*Kind Hearted Woman*



FORD FOUNDATION

MacArthur  
Foundation

Wyncote  
Foundation

EILEEN  
FISHER

## DEAR READER,

On behalf of ITVS, and with gratitude to CPB, PBS, and all of our wonderful partners, we are pleased to share with you this report on the Women and Girls Lead campaign.

Focusing primarily on the impact achieved in the United States from 2011 to 2015, this report showcases the impact of our 60 documentary films empowering women and girls that were seen by millions of people. The campaign was one of the largest gender-focused efforts in the history of American television. We impacted the public across many platforms, series, partners, and platforms. We sparked conversations and inspired action. The progress was real, and the success of our model paved a path for the launch of a new action-focused international project, Women and Girls Lead Global, that continues the work overseas, also described briefly in this report.

At the heart of Women and Girls Lead lies an old and simple premise: strong storytelling can open our eyes and inspire us to change the world.

Since we funded our first film 25 years ago, we've seen individual documentaries that have moved the dial on specific issues, and we've long believed that a larger collective of stories, told in tandem, could do more. This report is filled with data points and moments alike that together are much greater than the sum of their parts. Celebrity-studded blockbusters

like *Half the Sky* and *Makers* made an indelible mark and the tangible impact of quieter stories added up, inspiring audiences with heroines like the Oglala Sioux mother in *Kind Hearted Woman*, the Calcutta girls of *The Revolutionary Optimists*, and the veterans of *The Invisible War*.

With a campaign of this scale, it's impossible to mention every film and filmmaker that made a difference, every person that made change possible, every organization and station that connected their work to ours. We are grateful for the incredible support, the amazing stories, and the ongoing, heroic efforts to improve the lives of women and girls. This report strives to capture the contribution that Women and Girls Lead made to those efforts, providing strategic insight into ways that media can amplify, broaden, and inspire future conversations and actions to make a difference.

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## TOPLINE FINDINGS: LESSONS FROM THE FIELD

From 2011 to 2015, the public media campaign Women and Girls Lead focused on the power of documentary films, community engagement, and innovative partnerships to help transform the national conversation about gender equality.

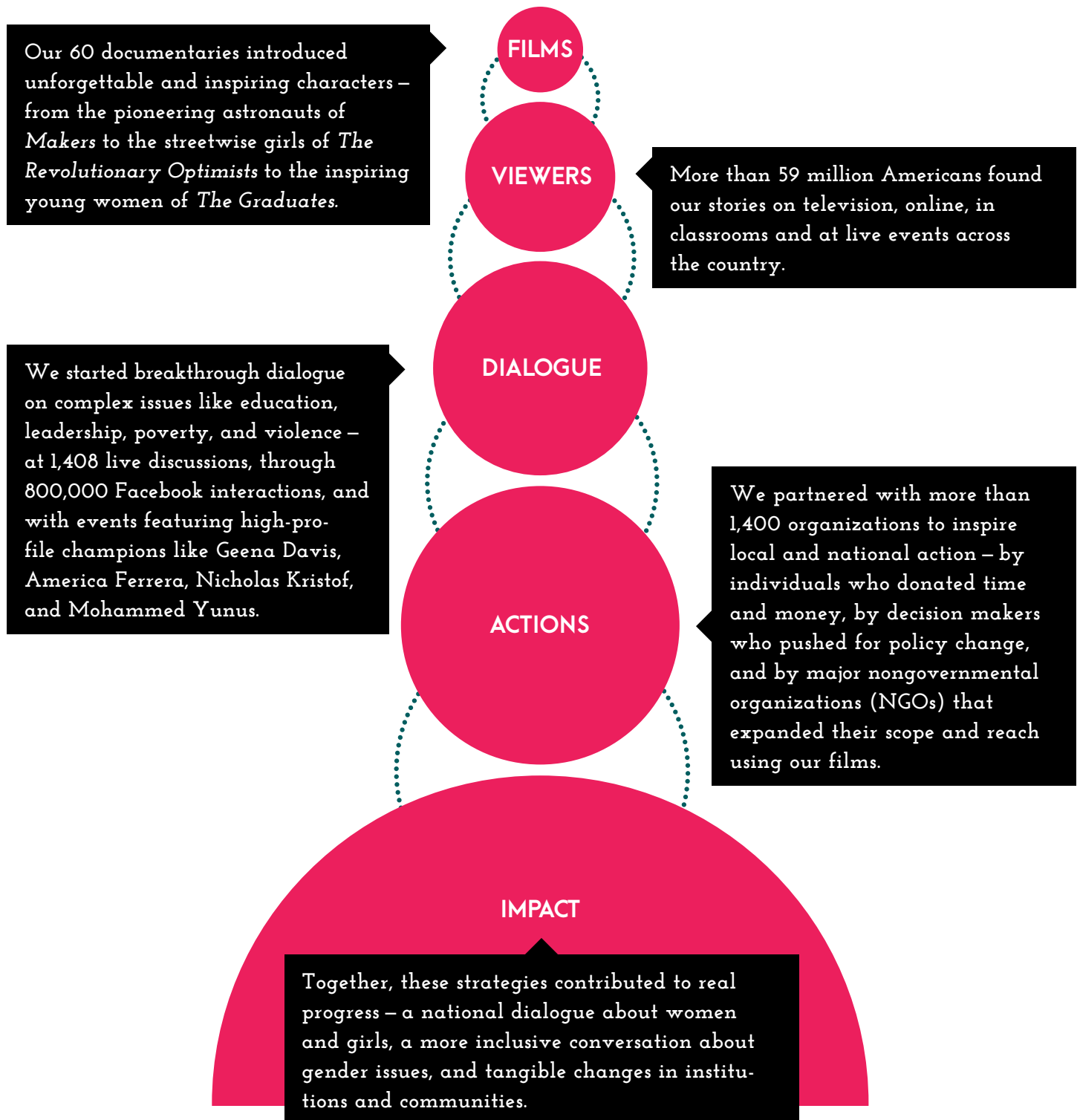


### TOPLINE FINDINGS INCLUDE:

- **We amplified the conversations** surrounding women and girls, bringing an unprecedented 60 films to more than 59 million Americans.
- **We allowed missing voices to lead the conversation about gender**, both on the screen and in the audience. Eighty-five percent of our content focused on diverse communities, and people of color comprised 40 percent of the audiences.
- **We inspired a wave of action** that led to millions of dollars in donations to gender causes and changed the landscape through policy reforms on military combat and sexual assault and through social programs, like the Girl Scouts' services for 17,000 incarcerated youth.
- **Our new global partnership** is a catalyst that impacts child marriage in Bangladesh, decreases gender-based violence in Jordan, promotes new leaders in Kenya, and reduces teen pregnancy in Peru.

# THE MODEL

Women and Girls Lead sparked conversations, inspired action, and helped fuel a movement to empower women and girls across the United States and around the world.





## FILMS: IGNITING A MOVEMENT

Through 60 unforgettable films, Women and Girls Lead shared stories that resonated with people across the globe.

### ***Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide and A Path Appears***

Based on books by Pulitzer Prize-winners Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, and starring celebrity advocates that included America Ferrera, Eva Mendes, and Ashley Judd, *Half the Sky* and *A Path Appears* brought to life inspiring women and girls from around the world overcoming enormous obstacles. Airing on PBS in 2012 and 2014, the two documentary miniseries were the most significant programs about

global gender issues ever presented on American television. Ten million viewers tuned in to the television broadcast. Twitter registered more than a billion impressions. A barrage of media coverage from outlets like *The New York Times*, *The Today Show*, and *ABC News* worth \$50 million brought global women's issues front and center.



A documentary that makes a teenager feel  
that way deserves a standing ovation.

**-Half the Sky viewer**



**TL**-*A Path Appears*: Kenya; **TC**-*A Path Appears*: Nashville; **TR**-*A Path Appears*: Boston; **B**-*Half the Sky*.

### Cheryl Haworth, *Strong!*

An Olympic weightlifter and 11-time National Champion, Cheryl connected with viewers in *Strong!* winner of the 2012 *Independent Lens* audience award. Funny, fiercely competitive, and weighing almost 300 pounds, Cheryl excels as an elite athlete, yet still faces stigma and self-doubt in a culture where “real” women are not large, loud, and bold. On screen and at live events across the country, she inspired frank conversations about women, sports, and body image. At a screening at Pitchess Detention Center, men cheered and clapped for Cheryl, expressing admiration for her physical and mental strength. As one inmate wrote, “[Cheryl is] an example of not giving up, being comfortable in your own skin with who you are as a person.”



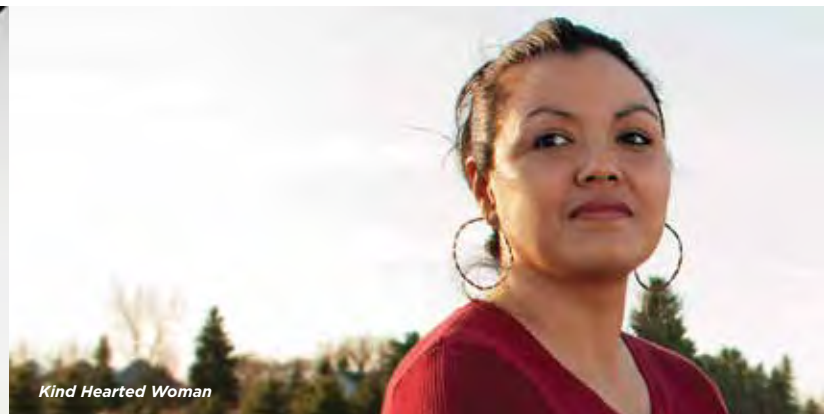
I don't feel like a freak anymore.

—a high school boxer told the crowd she could finally celebrate her own body at a screening of *Strong!* Mancos, Colorado



It let me know I'm not struggling alone.

—A viewer thanked PBS for airing *Kind Hearted Woman's* tale of abuse and alcoholism, online comment



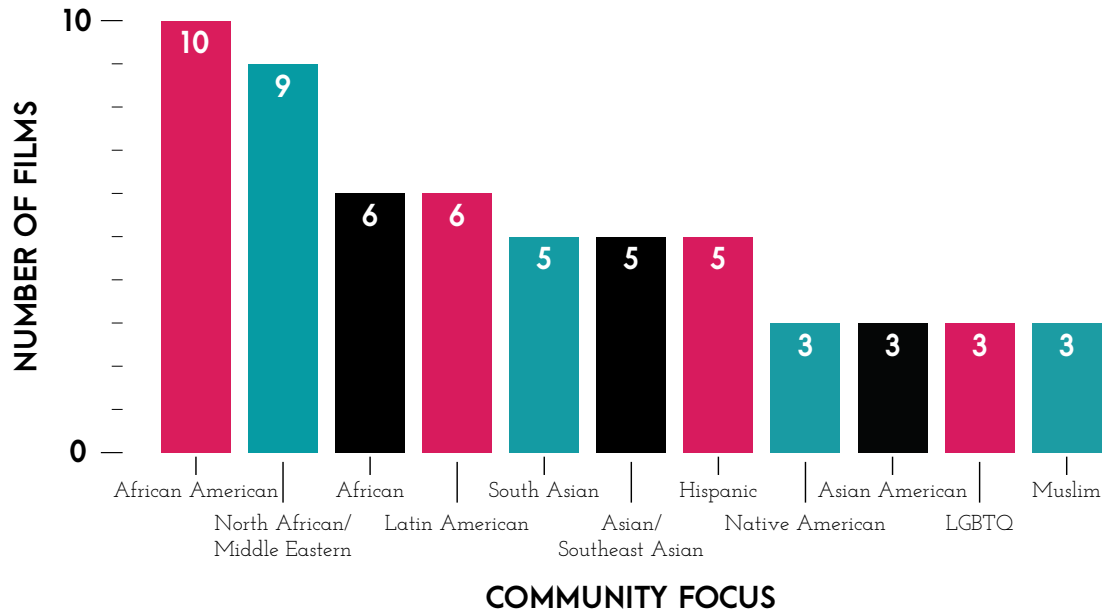
### Robin Poor Bear, *Kind Hearted Woman*

At age 32, divorced, a single mother, and an Oglala Sioux woman living in North Dakota, Robin shared her experiences of abuse, alcoholism, and healing in *Kind Hearted Woman*, which aired on *Frontline* in 2013. Five million viewers tuned in, and press coverage of Robin's story was strong, including pieces in *Good Morning America*, the *Boston Globe* and the *Los Angeles Times*. Viewers responded to Robin's story, sharing comments like: “If one were looking for a role model or heroine, they need look no further.” Robin Poor Bear passed away on November 30, 2015. May her memory continue to be a shining light and inspiration to women and girls who have been victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse.

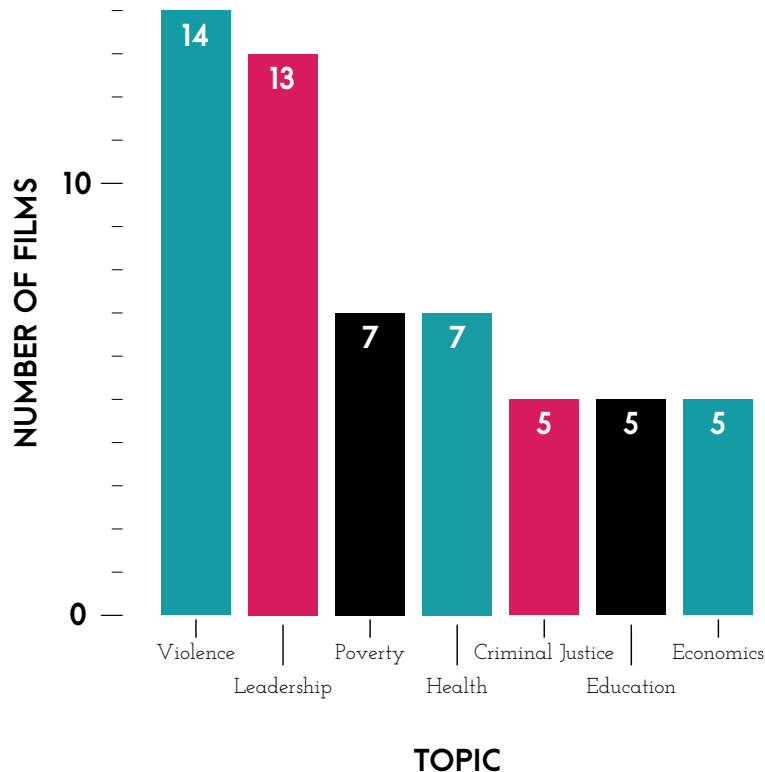
## FILMS: IGNITING A MOVEMENT

Diversity matters. We brought missing voices and untold stories to mainstream media, expanding the range of visions represented and issues raised on screens across the country.

### STORIES OF DIVERSE COMMUNITIES



### STORIES FOCUSED ON KEY ISSUES FACING WOMEN & GIRLS





## VIEWERS: REACHING AUDIENCES

Women and Girls Lead created a more inclusive conversation, using multiple audience development strategies to reach into underrepresented communities. The data below show how Women and Girls Lead content reached a higher percentage of diverse and younger audiences than the PBS average percentage.

### MORE DIVERSE AUDIENCE PBS RESEARCH

#### BLACK HOUSEHOLDS

**17%** v. PBS Primetime average of **9%**

#### HISPANIC HOUSEHOLDS

**7%** v. PBS Primetime average of **5%**

### YOUNGER AUDIENCE PBS RESEARCH

#### 18-39

**15%** v. PBS Primetime average of **8%**

#### 40-49

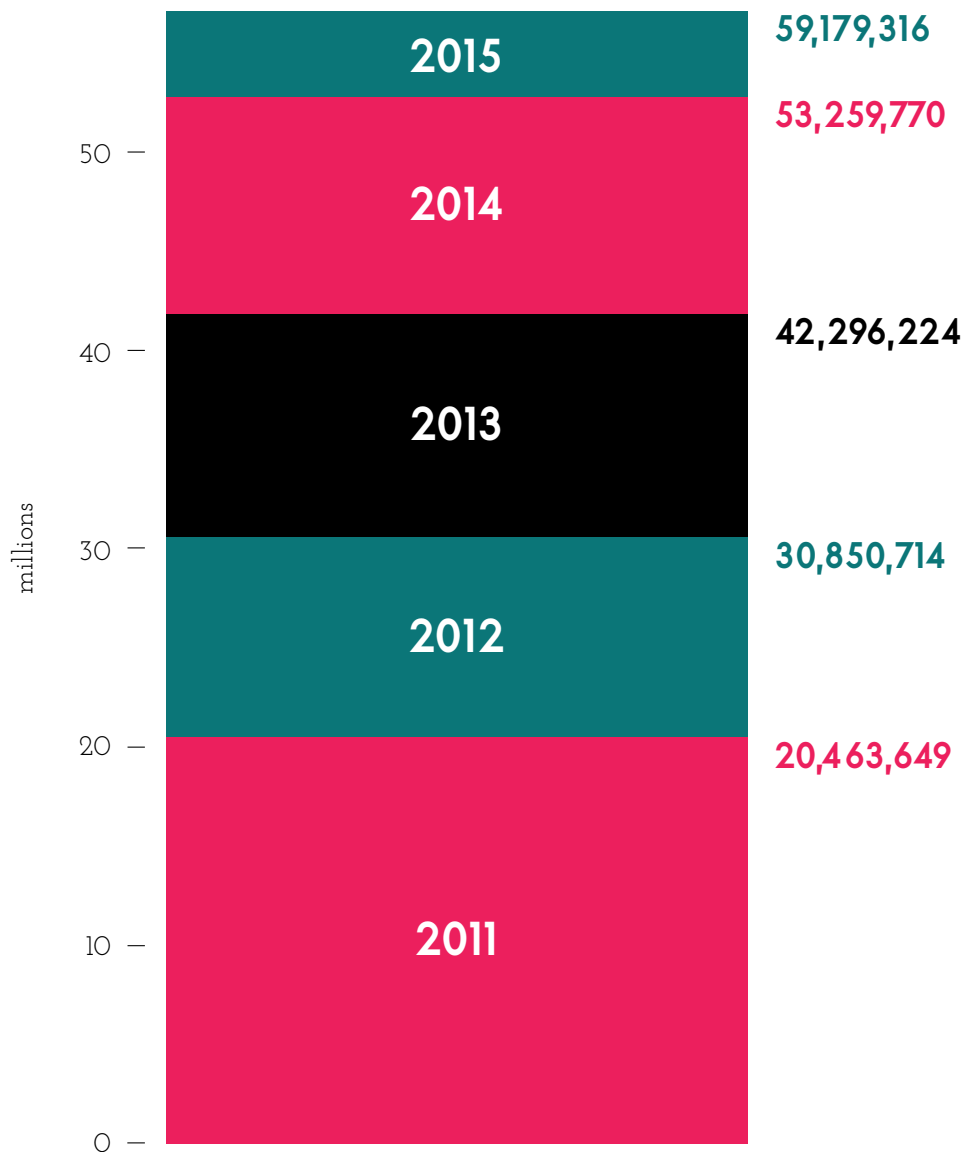
**13%** v. PBS Primetime average of **9%**

Note: Data determined by averaging the average audience household composition of Women and Girls Lead and *Independent Lens* premiere titles only. PBS Primetime average information is from the Audience Insight 2014 report (primetime profile from 9/23/13 to 9/21/2014).

## VIEWERS: REACHING AUDIENCES

From the inaugural 2011 broadcast of *Women, War & Peace* to the final airing of *A Path Appears* in early 2015, Women and Girls Lead uncovered powerful, often unseen stories of hope and transformation for millions of Americans across multiple platforms.

### TOTAL AUDIENCE



#### PUBLICITY:

*A Path Appears* earned \$47 million in publicity value and raised awareness about poverty and solutions.

#### LIVE EVENTS:

More than 6,800 people attended community screenings for *Kind Hearted Woman* and talked about the Native American experience and domestic violence.

#### SOCIAL MEDIA IMPRESSIONS:

One billion Twitter followers learned about global gender inequality through *Half the Sky*.

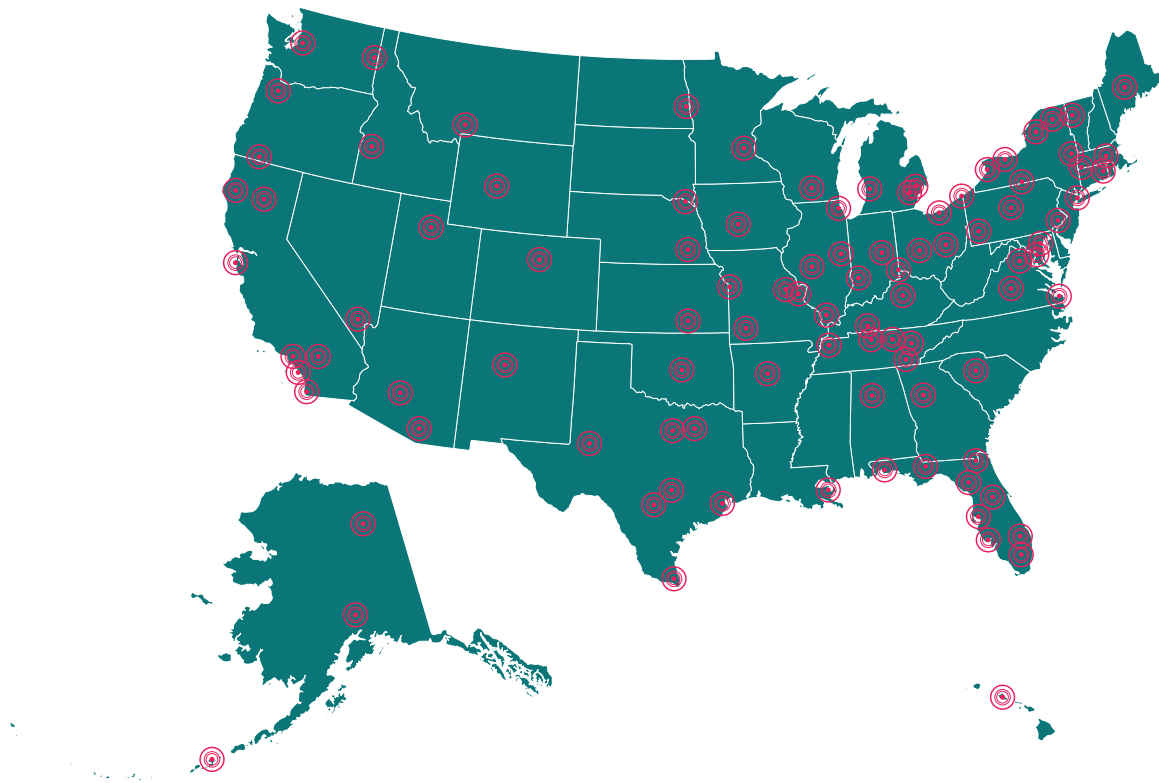
#### TELEVISION VIEWERS:

More than 12.5 million watched *Women, War & Peace*.

## DIALOGUE: AMPLIFYING THE CONVERSATION

Collaborating with more than 100 public television stations and community partners across the country, we gathered 80,051 people at 1,408 live events to talk face-to-face about issues affecting women and girls in their community, across the country, and around the world.

LIVE EVENTS + SKILLED FACILITATIONS = COMMUNITY DIALOGUE



*[Makers: Women in Space]* taught me a lot about women inequalities and how we can change it.

– High School Student, St. Louis, MO

## DIALOGUE: AMPLIFYING THE CONVERSATION

Women and Girls Lead generated online conversations on issues ranging from women in business to child marriage, girls fighting to stay in school to Liberia's first woman president, and everything in between.



- Utilizing **OVEE**, ITVS's cinematic social TV tool, 8,500 viewers engaged with each other to discuss gender equity at live online events and posted 13,898 comments.
- Over two nights of the broadcast of *Kind Hearted Woman*, film subject Robin Poor Bear participated in social media chats seen by more than 101,000 people, driving 2,000 comments and tweets.
- #halfthesky trended nationally on Twitter (twice) and generated comments, likes, and tweets from 66 million people worldwide.
- During *Makers: Women in Space*, #MAKERSfilms received 37 million impressions while featuring social media shares by highly engaged friends like Ellen DeGeneres, Sheryl Sandberg, Kerry Washington, Margaret Cho, Shonda Rhimes, Christiane Amanpour, and many others.
- During March 2013 and 2014, Women and Girls Lead and Eileen Fisher, Inc., honored Women's History Month by hosting #SheDocs, an online film festival featuring incredible stories of leadership by women and girls. Twenty-two films were viewed by 157,662 individuals.

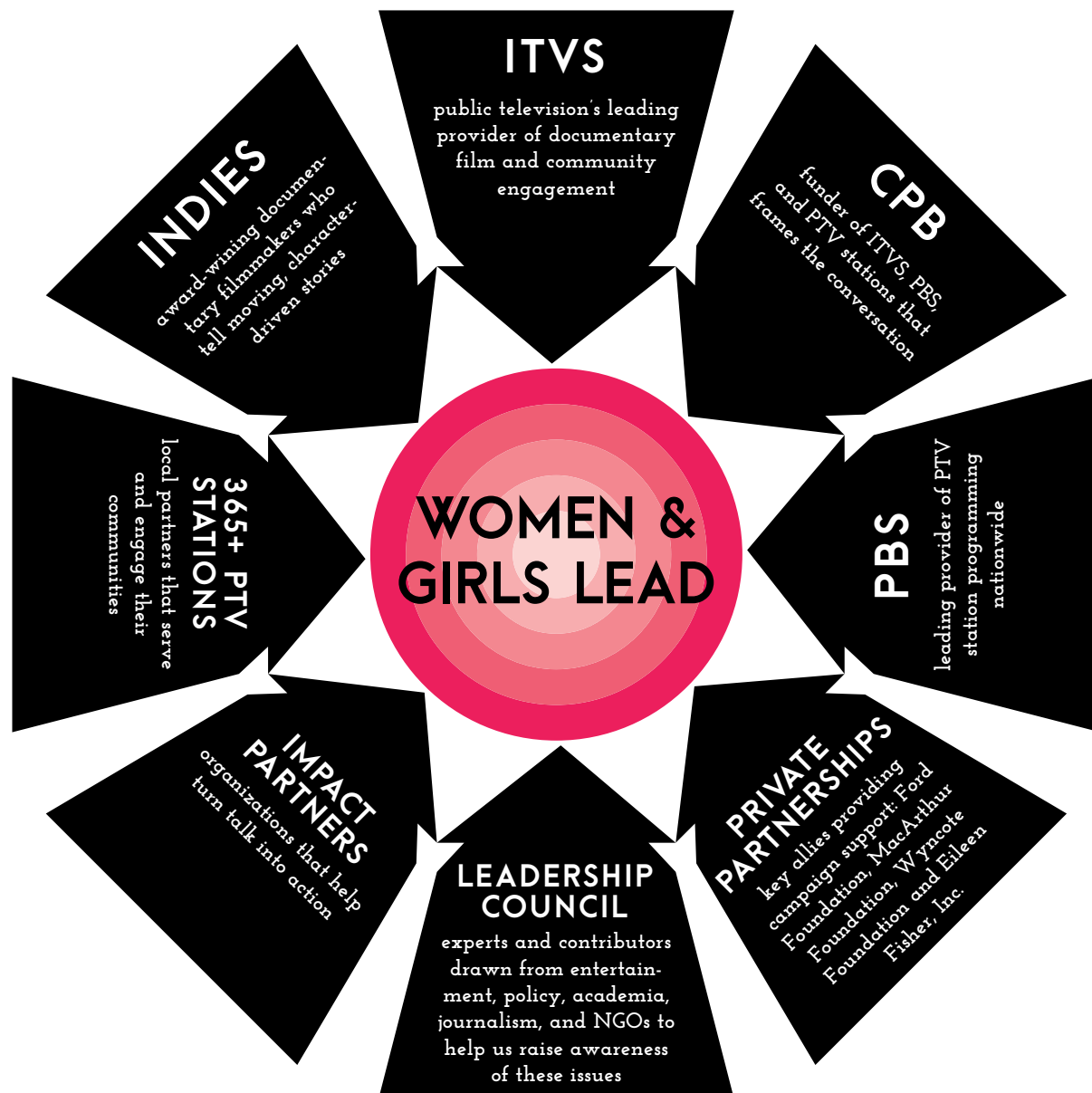


L-MAKERS: *Women in Space* OVEE event; R-#SheDocs Online Film Festival and International Women's Day promotional images

## ACTIONS: WHO MADE IT HAPPEN

The success and growth of Women and Girls Lead between 2011 and 2015 was built on an extraordinary partnership of organizations committed to using the power of storytelling to improve the lives of women and girls worldwide.

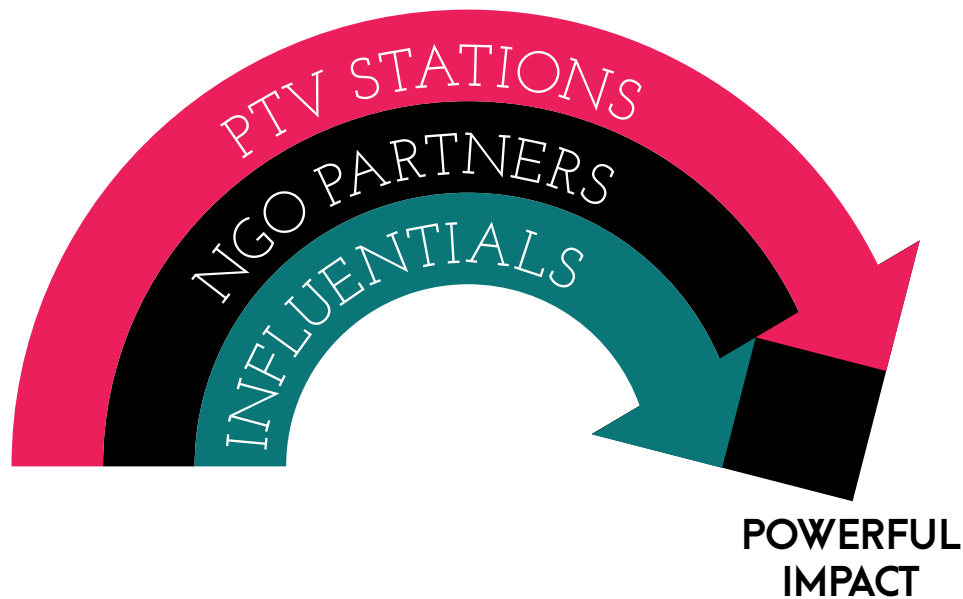
At the heart of this success lies the commitment, connections, and creativity of the nation's local public television stations, which ensured that these stories and efforts would resonate with viewers at home.





## ACTIONS: WHO MADE IT HAPPEN

Our partners were fundamental in helping us move the dial on issues that matter at the national, community, and international levels.



Had it not been for [Women and Girls Lead], I sincerely doubt we would have made this important connection between our programming and community.

—Lindsey Foat, KCPT-Kansas City

## IMPACT: WHAT HAPPENED

### BUILDING CAPACITY FOR PUBLIC TELEVISION STATIONS

- Rocky Mountain PBS and Public Media WGVU created women's boards and councils to address local human trafficking and gender-based violence issues.
- Kansas City Public Television and Public Media for North Texas increased their local press coverage of women's issues.
- Ozarks Public Television and Austin PBS leveraged the campaign to raise funds for local women's programming.

### BOOSTING NGO IMPACT

- With CARE and Women World Banking (WWB), we helped mainstream global women's issues, boosting WWB's social media website referrals by 8 percent and tripling their peak engagement Twitter mentions.
- With Muslima, Muslim Women's Art and Voices, and the International Museum of Women, we created spaces for interactions around gender, race, and Muslim identity within the global women's movement.
- With the Man Up campaign, we started dialogue among men and boys about their role in the gender equality movement.

### ENGAGING HIGH-PROFILE INFLUENCERS

- With actor-advocates like America Ferrera, Gabrielle Union, and Ashley Judd, we attracted public attention.
- With public policy leaders like Melanne Vermeer, Raj Shah, and Queen Noor, we engaged thought leaders in gender and global development work.
- With politicians like House Representative Nancy Pelosi, Senator Ben Cardin, and California State Senator Mark Leno, we engaged decision makers on Capitol Hill and beyond.



**T:** Panelists Sadaf Sayed and Maimouna Geurressi – Muslima event  
**B:** Geena Davis, Global Symposium on Gender in Media 2014



[Taught me more about sexual assault than] forty  
years of military briefings

—A high-ranking officer after seeing *The Invisible War*, Washington, D.C.

# IMPACT: WHAT HAPPENED

## IMPACTING POLICY AND PRACTICES

- With the Geena Davis Institute for Gender in Media, we sparked dialogue about women in Hollywood — on screen, on the set, and behind the scenes — contributing to active efforts to increase gender equity in the media and entertainment business.
- With the teams of *Lioness* and *The Invisible War*, we built support for policy change to recognize the role of women soldiers in combat and to oppose the U.S. military's sexual assault epidemic.
- With the Girl Scouts Beyond Bars program, we created core curriculum to serve 17,000 incarcerated girls in an evidence-based program that addresses the challenges and needs of women and girls impacted by the criminal justice system. After watching a module adapted from *Me Facing Life: Cyntoia's Story*, a young girl from the Girls Scouts in Detention Center Program in Solano County reflected on the film: “[It] got to my heart [and] made me see that the streets are not where I want to be.”



The most amazing documentaries out there to reach high school students about sexism, oppression, socially imposed gender roles...

-Teacher, Palm Beach County, Florida

# THE ROAD AHEAD

## WOMEN AND GIRLS LEAD IS A GLOBAL MOVEMENT

In 2013, we extended our reach to a global stage, joining forces with USAID, the Ford Foundation, and CARE to bring Women and Girls Lead Global to eight countries.

In the first phase of our international work, from 2013 to 2016, we are bringing 10 films each year (including many of the same films we shared with U.S. audiences) to television viewers around the world while working on the ground with impact partners in five countries.

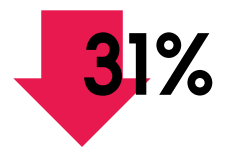


### BANGLADESH

We're fighting child marriage and promoting girls education in 200 schools and counting.



child marriage rate

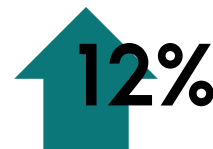


girl dropout rate



### INDIA

We're helping men and boys see women, girls and gender-based violence (GBV) in a new light.



disapproval of GBV

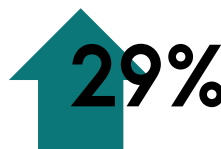
**15,890**

participants



### JORDAN

We're raising awareness about gender-based violence and creating new spaces for dialogue.



GBV awareness

**849,000**

television viewers



### KENYA

We're building a pipeline for women leaders and decision makers.

**2.7  
MILLION**

television viewers

**2.3  
MILLION**

radio listeners

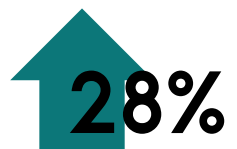


### PERU

We're tackling teen pregnancy and education.



clinic usage



awareness

Women and Girls Lead was made possible by ITVS with generous support from:



Corporation  
for Public  
Broadcasting



PBS



FORDFOUNDATION

MacArthur  
Foundation

Wyncote  
Foundation

EILEEN  
FISHER



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

## NGOS

ITVS would like to thank the NGO partners who committed to a multiyear effort and lent time, expertise, and resources to build a movement and amplify the stories of women and girls around the world.



## PUBLIC TELEVISION STATIONS

A big thank-you to stations across the country who served as on-the-ground ambassadors that sustained grassroots activities, dialogue, and vital support of pillar programs.

## LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

A special thank-you to the Leadership Council members led by CPB President and CEO, Patricia de Stacy Harrison, whose passion for media and storytelling raised the profile and reach of the campaign.

**See page ii for a complete list of members.**

# CREDITS

We would like to give special acknowledgment to all ITVS staff whose dedicated efforts have made Women and Girls Lead a media and social impact model in the public media system. Below are the individuals leading the movement.

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## APPENDIX

# APPENDIX

## WOMEN AND GIRLS LEAD: LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



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Loreen Arbus



Lidia Bastianich



Jimmie Briggs



Nancy Brinker



Christy Turlington  
Burns



Maro Chermayeff



Geena Davis



Rohit Deshpandé



Abigail E.  
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Rebecca Eaton



Marian Wright  
Edelman



America Ferrera



Eileen Fisher



Ernestine Fu



Anne Fulenwider



Nikki Giovanni



Christine Hakim



Maria Hinojosa



Dolores Clara  
Fernandez Huerta

# APPENDIX

## WOMEN AND GIRLS LEAD: LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



Bianca Jagger



Mae Jemison



Paula Kerger



Peggy Kerry



Shelby Knox



Nicholas D. Kristof



Maria Teresa  
Kumar



Susan Lacy



Dyllan McGee



Pat Mitchell



Georgette  
Mosbacher



Jennifer Siebel  
Newsom



Her Majesty  
Queen Noor



Norah O'Donnell



Farah Pandith



Doris Roberts



Sharon Percy  
Rockefeller



Zainab Salbi



Reshma Saujani



Amartya Sen



# APPENDIX

## WOMEN AND GIRLS LEAD: LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



Premal Shah



Anne-Marie  
Slaughter



Megan Smith



Tara Sonenshine



Hari Sreenivasan



Stanley Tucci



Melanne Veveer



Mary Wilson



Sheryl WuDunn



# WOMEN & GIRLS LEAD

FILM CATALOG



2011–2015

## 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 miniseries, 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: TURNING OPPRESSION INTO OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN WORLDWIDE**

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 that the key to progress in our world lies in unleashing women's potential. The forthcoming PBS miniseries is based on the best-selling book by journalists Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl Wu-Dunn. An *Independent Lens* special presentation.



**2013**

UNITED STATES

### **KIND HEARTED WOMAN**

by David Sutherland (*Independent Lens* and *FRONTLINE* co-production)

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.



## 2014

### UNITED STATES

# MAKERS

Executive Produced by Dyllan McGee & Peter Kunhardt

*Makers* is a six-part PBS series profiling the impact women have had over the past 50 years in six industries — comedy, politics, space, war, business, and Hollywood. A landmark television and digital-video initiative in collaboration with AOL, *Makers* aims to be the largest and most dynamic collection of women's stories ever assembled



## 2015

### WORLDWIDE

# A PATH APPEARS

by Maro Chermayeff

From the team that brought you the groundbreaking *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*, *A Path Appears* goes to Colombia, Haiti, Kenya, and the United States to uncover the harshest forms of gender-based oppression and human rights violations, and solutions being implemented to combat them.





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 fueled 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 Senesh'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



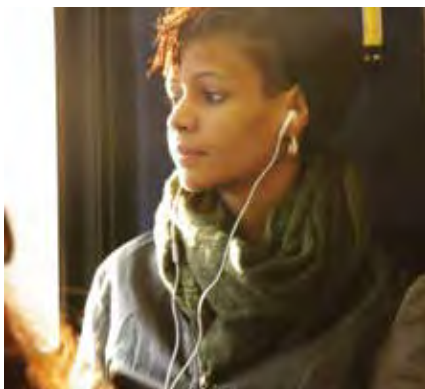
UNITED STATES

## 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 firsthand 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



GUATEMALA

## GRANITO: HOW TO NAIL A DICTATOR

by Pamela Yates and Paco de Onis

*Granito* is a story of destinies joined by Guatemala's past and how a documentary film from 1982, *When the Mountains Tremble*, becomes forensic evidence to help prove a genocide case against a military dictator.

FEBRUARY 2007



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 U.S. 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.

**SPRING 2015**



**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 U.S. Congress. *Patsy Mink: Ahead of the Majority* looks at Mink's remarkable, but often lonely and tumultuous political journey, 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 10 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 María 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 others' 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 multiparty 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 more than 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



JORDAN, JAMAICA, UNITED STATES

## THROUGH HER LENS

*Through Her Lens* is a collection of dramatic short films exploring international stories and content about women and made by women. The three short films explore social issues facing women and girls worldwide through a character-driven narrative. The short films include: *Not Another Word*, by Cherien Dabis; *Good Country People*, by Tanya Hamilton; and *Half of Her*, by Paola Mendoza.

ONLINE 2013





## 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 more than 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 town in the Pine Ridge Reservation, Sunny Clifford, her twin sister Serena, and their neighbor, Brandon Ferguson, share a dream of creating 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



# HER STORY IS UNSTOPPABLE

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We helped change the conversation about women and girls – and our work continues to help individuals, communities, and leaders transform their lives and world.

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Find out more about our work at  
[www.womenandgirlslead.org](http://www.womenandgirlslead.org)