

**WHITE PINE PICTURES presents**

# **FIGHT LIKE SOLDIERS DIE LIKE CHILDREN**

Director: **Patrick Reed**

Producers: **Patrick Reed & Peter Raymont**

Produced by **White Pine Pictures**

in association with **TVO, Canal D, Knowledge Network, documentary, CTS**  
with the participation of **Canada Media Fund, Ontario Media Development Corporation, Telefilm Canada** and **Rogers Theatrical Documentary Fund**

**Running Time: 83 Minutes**

**World Premiere: 2012 International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam**

**Logline:**

The Rwandan genocide continues to haunt Canadian General Roméo Dallaire. His new mission: Ending the use of child soldiers.

**Short Synopsis (50 Words):**

When you've been to hell and back, how do you shake the memories? This question has haunted General Roméo Dallaire since he was UN Commander during the Rwandan genocide, explored in our documentary ***Shake Hands with the Devil***. Dallaire's now on a new mission: Ending the use of child soldiers.

**Medium Synopsis (85 Words):**

When you've been to hell and back, how do you shake the memories?

This question has haunted General Roméo Dallaire since 1994, when he was UN Force Commander during the Rwandan genocide, explored in our award-winning documentary *Shake Hands with the Devil*.

Now Dallaire has found a reason to live: embarking on a global mission to eradicate the use of child soldiers.

Will Dallaire succeed where others have failed? Or will he once again be forced to look on as the world turns away?

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**Long Synopsis (260 Words):**

When you've been to hell and back, how do you shake the memories?

This question has haunted General Roméo Dallaire since 1994, when he was UN Force Commander during the Rwandan genocide, explored in our award-winning documentary ***Shake Hands with the Devil***.

Now, Dallaire has found a reason to live: embarking on a global mission to end the use of child soldiers.

Will Dallaire succeed where others have failed? Or will he once again be forced to look on as the world turns away?

The subject of child soldiers understandably attracts interest. There is nothing as troubling as a stolen childhood. How do you recover after being compelled to kill—a fate facing 300,000 children, boys and girls, fighting in 30 conflicts around the world?

This phenomenon has been explored in documentaries before, of course. However, as we experienced making ***Shake Hands***, there is something uniquely compelling about Dallaire—his charisma, candor, and experience captivates an audience. This is a film about child soldiers, but with Dallaire as the entry-point: why he's consumed by this issue; what he's learned and is learning; and why, after all the horrors he's seen, he remains driven.

We follow Dallaire on an unforgettable mission to some of the frontlines of Africa (Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan, in particular) meeting with recently demobilized child soldiers, and their commanders, one soldier to another.

If the Kony 2012 viral video and subsequent fall-out left you either unabashedly inspired or profoundly cynical, pause a moment and reconsider. Think you have the child soldier issue figured out? Think again.

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**DIRECTORS STATEMENT:  
PATRICK REED**

General Roméo Dallaire changed my life. I hesitate to admit this because it suggests hero-worship on my part—never a good relationship for a filmmaker to have with his subject. Too much awe generally leads to shockingly bad films. Regardless, he did change my life—not in a sentimental way, but very practically.

When I went to Rwanda in 2004 with Peter Raymont and General Dallaire to make ***Shake Hands with the Devil***, I had never been to Africa. Since then, I have returned many times, making a number of films, including ***Triage***; ***Tsepong***; and ***The Team***.

Before this, I was splitting my time between trying to finish a PhD in genocide studies, and working on documentaries. After ***Shake Hands*** I left academia and focused on filmmaking for one simple reason: I saw the impact a well-crafted film can have on an audience. The power of the medium was undeniable, hitting people in their gut, connecting with their heart, and engaging their mind.

That being said, I've never been interested in making activist films for an activist audience. It's rather easy—and to my mind, quite tedious—to prove a point to like-minded individuals; it's much more challenging and rewarding to help an audience lose themselves in a story and in the process find themselves.

As Dallaire writes: "Instead of asking yourself, 'What do I want to do with my life?' ask, 'If I had one or two years to devote to something, what would that something be?'" My answer in this case was a simple one: make this film.

Why? It's a difficult subject that's been done before (child soldiers)—and I've seen many of the other films on the subject, and read many of the memoirs, often compelling. The terrain may be well-trodden but it was only when I read Dallaire's book on the subject, and subsequently spent time with him discussing the project, that I saw the potential for something innovative.

In many ways, it takes a soldier to fully understand child soldiers; and it takes a man who was once broken, such as Dallaire, to break new ground, to change the narrative, to engage a new audience.

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## FILMMAKER'S BIOGRAPHY:

### PATRICK REED DIRECTOR/PRODUCER/WRITER

Over the past decade, Patrick Reed has collaborated on and championed several award-winning documentaries for White Pine Pictures. These films have appeared at the most prestigious festivals, been broadcast around the world, and theatrically released. Many of Reed's films explore human rights issues, following compelling characters as they struggle with the past and present.

One of Reed's first assignments with White Pine was researching and producing ***Shake Hands With The Devil: The Journey of Roméo Dallaire***, which won the World Cinema Documentary Audience Award at Sundance 2006, and Best Documentary Emmy in 2007.

In 2007, Reed produced a ratings winner for CBC's flagship documentary strand. This documentary, ***Tar Sands***, offers an in-depth look at Fort McMurray, Alberta, a boomtown where the streets are literally drenched in oil. He followed this up with a second CBC documentary, ***Pets on Prozac*** that casts a suspicious eye on the growing phenomenon of pet pharmaceuticals.

His film, ***Triage***, followed Dr. James Orbinski on an emotionally difficult journey back to Somalia and Rwanda where he was at the centre of far too many life and death decisions during those countries years of upheaval. ***Triage*** had its world premiere at the 2007 International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA), where it was voted an audience favourite; and screened at the Sundance Film Festival 2008, and HotDocs, winning a number of international awards. It was released theatrically in Canada by KinoSmith.

Reed also directed ***Tsepong: A Clinic Called Hope***, a cinema vérité chronicle of the work of doctors and nurses fighting the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Lesotho, Africa. ***Tsepong*** received multiple Gemini Award nominations in 2007, and has been screened internationally at numerous festivals.

Reed's recently completed feature documentary, ***The Team***—following the making of a soap opera in Kenya designed to bridge ethnic divides—had its world premiere at IDFA in 2010, as part of the prestigious Feature-Length Competition program. The film has subsequently screened at various festivals, including Human Rights Watch Film Festivals (London and New York); Full Frame; HotDocs; Silverdocs; among others.

Reed has just completed a feature documentary with White Pine about General Romeo Dallaire and child soldiers, ***Fight Like Soldiers Die Like Children***.

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## PRODUCER'S BIOGRAPHY:

### PETER RAYMONT DIRECTOR/WRITER/PRODUCER

Filmmaker, journalist, writer, activist, Peter Raymont has produced and directed over 100 films and TV series during his 38 year career.

Raymont's films have received 42 international awards including 13 Gemini Awards (45 nominations), several Gold and Silver Hugos, The Sesterce d'Argent and other international honours. His documentary feature, ***Shake Hands with the Devil: The Journey of Roméo Dallaire*** received the 2007 Emmy for Best Documentary and the Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival.

Raymont is the Executive Producer and co-creator of the award-winning TV drama series ***The Border*** (38 X 1 hr), produced for the CBC, sold to 25 broadcasters and versioned into 11 languages. He is currently in production on a new CBC drama series ***Cracked***, which will air in January 2013.

Raymont's films are often provocative investigations of "hidden worlds" in politics, the media and big business. His films are informed with a passion for human rights and social justice.

Other films directed by Raymont include ***A Promise to the Dead: The Exile Journey of Ariel Dorfman*** which premiered at the 2007 Toronto International Film Festival and was shortlisted for an Academy Award. The film has won 9 international awards, including the DGC Award for Best Documentary and the 2008 Donald Brittain Gemini Award for Best Social Political Documentary.

***Genius Within: The Inner Life of Glenn Gould***, which Raymont directed with long-time collaborator Michèle Hozer, premiered at the 2009 Toronto International Film Festival, was short-listed for an Academy Award, and has been released theatrically in Canada, USA, Germany and Australia.

***West Wind: The Vision of Tom Thomson*** was completed in Fall 2011, has been released theatrically across Canada in over 40 cities, and has a companion interactive website launching in October 2012.

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**EDITOR'S BIOGRAPHY:  
MICHÈLE HOZER**

Michèle Hozer, a two-time Gemini award-winning documentary editor, has been working in the Canadian film industry since 1987.

In the spring of 1996, Hozer moved to Toronto, working as a freelance editor for well-known production companies and major broadcasters. She received her first Gemini in 2000 for *The Nature of Things* on their millennium special *Race for the Future*.

In August 2001, Hozer established The Cutting Factory, ensuring the best possible editing environment within the audio post facility of Kitchen Sync. She has cut over 50 documentaries, including award-winning series. With a constant focus on story-telling, Hozer applies her unique editing style to a variety of genres, whether arts documentaries, or social issue films such as *Tsepong: A Clinic Called Hope*, or historical subject matter such as the feature length *Arctic Dreamer: The Lonely Quest of Viljalmur Stefansson* (both with White Pine Pictures).

She has worked with Peter Raymont for 8 years, winning her second Gemini for editing the critically-acclaimed feature length documentary *Shake Hands with the Devil: The Journey of Roméo Dallaire*.

*Triage: The Dilemma of Dr. James Orbinski*, another feature documentary edited by Hozer, had its world premiere at the Sundance Film Festival, and has been screened internationally.

Hozer edited the feature length documentary *A Promise to the Dead: The Exile Journey of Ariel Dorfman*, which had its world premiere at the 2007 Toronto International Film Festival, was short-listed for an Oscar, received two Gemini awards, including Best Social Political Documentary, as well as a number of other international awards.

On *Genius Within: The Inner Life of Glenn Gould* Hozer shared directorial honours with Peter Raymont. They continued this partnership on *West Wind: The Vision of Tom Thomson*, for which she received the C.C.E. feature length documentary editing award and the Amsterdam Film Festival Documentary Editing award.

Hozer has just completed editing *Fight Like Soldiers Die Like Children*, which had its international premiere at IDFA 2012.

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## **VOICE OF CHILD SOLDIER: MICHEL CHIKWANINE**

A former child soldier, Michel Chikwanine has already endured and overcome unimaginable pain and struggles. His passion and belief in the possibility for change makes him a truly remarkable individual and humanitarian.

Born in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Michel grew up amid the terror of the Great War of Africa. He witnessed the torture of his father, who was singled out for his political beliefs, the rape of his mother and endured torture of his own. Much of Michel's childhood was ravaged by the death and decay of a war that claimed the lives of 5.8 million people, his father included. Forced to leave his home as a refugee at the age of 11, Michel has since travelled to many African countries, witnessing first-hand the problems facing the developing world, but also the beauty of the communities and people who live there.

Today, Michel is an accomplished motivational speaker, addressing audiences across North America. He has spoken to over 100,000 people and has shared the stage with such distinguished speakers as Free The Children founders Craig and Marc Kielburger, Dr. Jane Goodall, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., former Prime Minister Paul Martin, His Holiness The Dalai Lama, former U.S Vice-President Al Gore, Reverend Jesse L. Jackson Sr., Nobel Peace Prize laureate Betty Williams, actress Mia Farrow and musician K'naan, just to name a few. He was also a speaker on Oprah's O Ambassadors Roots of Action speaking tour, largely reaching students at resource-poor schools.

Sharing his personal story, Michel has captured the attention of national media, including CBC, CTV and major daily newspapers as he inspires people to believe in their ability to create change. Michel leaves audiences with a new perspective on life, a sense of hope through social responsibility and a desire for change.

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Excerpts from General Romeo Dallaire's book, ***They Fight Like Soldiers, They Die Like Children***. Random House: 2010.

"The ultimate focus of the rest of my life is to eradicate the use of child soldiers and to eliminate even the thought of the use of children as instruments of war."

"The child, face and hands caked in red earth, wearing a dirty, ill-fitting bush uniform with a cross dangling from a chain around his neck, furtively aimed a machine gun at me. As bullets started to spew from the barrel, the child's eyes flared in hate. Where is that child today?"

"I saw them being tended to in their field medical stations, their young bodies ripped apart by fragments of artillery shells.... They fought like soldiers, like warriors for a cause they and their families believed in, but in their torn and bloodied soldiers' uniforms, they died like children."

**"I will not rest until we end the use of child soldiers once and for all. Join us. The challenge is before you, screaming for you to take it on. The time is now and the moment is yours to grasp." —Roméo Dallaire**

**Roméo Dallaire on the film** When I decided to dedicate the rest of my life to finding a way to end the use of child soldiers, I knew that I had to go back to Africa and face my ghosts once again. So when Patrick approached me to make this film, I jumped at the opportunity. This trip proved essential: to speak directly with young people who are being forced to fight adult wars, to discuss strategies with military men and women who face these children on the battlefield every day, to see first-hand the valiant efforts being made by armed forces and police, innovating to counteract the use of children as a weapons system; and discovering deficiencies in missions and national efforts. I hope the film makes people uneasy. We should all be unsettled by the unspeakable wrongs being done to children in conflict zones around the world. This journey has strengthened my resolve—and it is my sincere hope that by engaging new audiences, we can help build the political will to finally end the use of child soldiers. The entire White Pine Pictures team has been outstanding. Patrick is quite simply a masterful storyteller—and I am thankful for his work to help shed light on one of the critical issues of our time.

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**CREDITS:**

Director/Producer: Patrick Reed

Producer/Executive Producer: Peter Raymont

Executive Producer: Janice Dawe

Editor: Michèle Hozer

Cinematographer: John Westheuser

Sound: Sanjay Mehta

Production Supervisor: Geoff Ewart

Animators: Nick Sewell and Hector Herrera

Voice of the Child Soldier: Michel Chikwanine (former child soldier)

Composer: Mark Korven

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## FACT SHEET

- Over 250 000 child soldiers currently used in over 30 conflicts around the world
- “Fight Like Soldiers Die Like Children” African portion of shoot took place over four weeks, spanning March-April 2012
- Our crew accompanied General Romeo Dallaire (ret'd) to two regions where child soldiers are frequently used: the easternmost part of Democratic Republic of Congo (ongoing regional conflict for nearly 20 years); and northern Democratic Republic of Congo and western South Sudan, an area afflicted by Joseph Kony and his Lord's Resistance Army, or LRA.
- Dallaire visited this region because of the prevalence of child soldiers here; the fact that his organization, the Romeo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative, does on-the-ground training for security sector actors in the region; and, most importantly, because of his connection to the area dating back to 1994 when he was Force Commander for the UN Mission in Rwanda. As the world turned away, Dallaire was forced to witness the slaughter of over 800 000 Rwandans in less than 100 days.
- During the 1994 Rwandan genocide, many of the atrocities were committed by militia forces, including many killers who were under the age of 18.
- Both the government forces and the rebels (Rwandan Patriotic Front)—who ultimately liberated the country and ended the genocide—used child soldiers during the 1994 Rwandan civil war and genocide.
- The ongoing conflict in eastern DR Congo is directly traced back to the end of the Rwandan Genocide. Many of the perpetrators of the Genocide escaped across the border, and have been attempting to overthrow the Rwandan government since. Most active among this group are the FDLR (Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda). The FDLR often uses child soldiers.
- A number of militia groups also operate in eastern DR Congo, typically using child soldiers. According to many commentators, some of these militia forces operate as proxy forces for the Rwandan government. Among these is M-23, a group that split from the Congolese Army in open rebellion in April 2012. We were in Goma, DR Congo (the largest city in eastern DRC) when this happened.
- One of the leaders of the M-23 is General Bosco Ntaganda. Since 2006, there has been an International Criminal Court warrant out for his arrest, charging him with a number of War Crimes, including using child soldiers. Bosco voluntarily surrendered on 18 March 2013, at the US Embassy in Kigali, Rwanda. He asked to be transferred to the ICC in The Hague, Netherlands.

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- Lord's Resistance Army and its leader Joseph Kony became a household name due to the Kony 2012 campaign by US NGO Invisible Children. This video is most viral video of all time with 100 million views in first 6 days.

- Kony and the LRA have been around for over 25 years. First in conflict with Ugandan gov't, struggling to split from Uganda and create a separate independent state. In more recent years, the Ugandan military has pushed the LRA out of Uganda, and they're currently operating in northern DRC, South Sudan, and the Central African Republic, where most are based.

- It is estimated that Kony and LRA have used over 30 000 child soldiers throughout the last 25 years

- Many believe bulk of LRA forces are hiding out in Central African Republic

- The African Union along with 100 US military advisers are operating in South Sudan and Central African Republic (CAR) to track the LRA

- March 2013, the CAR government of President Bozize was overthrown by the CAR military in a coup

- April 2013 African Union and US forces withdraw from CAR and put hunt for Kony on hold. Kony remains at large.

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### **About White Pine Pictures:**

**White Pine Pictures** is an independent Canadian film, television, and new media production company based in Toronto, Canada. Headed by award-winning filmmaker, Peter Raymont, the company is recognized internationally as a high quality production house with a reputation for compelling visual styles and depth of content. **White Pine Pictures** prides itself on its longtime relationships with Canadian talent and key industry players worldwide. **White Pine** has produced over 100 films, including the Emmy award-winning feature documentary ***Shake Hands With The Devil: The Journey of Roméo Dallaire***, the Oscar-shortlisted ***A Promise to the Dead: The Exile Journey of Ariel Dorfman***, and the award-winning documentary ***Triage: Dr. James Orbinski's Humanitarian Dilemma***. **White Pine** is also producer of the award-winning TV drama series ***The Border***, produced for the CBC, sold internationally to 25 broadcasters and versioned into 11 languages. A new CBC drama series ***Cracked*** was shot in October 2011.

### **About Roméo Dallaire Child Soldier Initiative:**

Today, there are 250,000 children who have been recruited—often by force—to take part in armed conflicts around the world. Many of these girls and boys have been stolen from their families, maimed, raped, drugged or otherwise abused. The **Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative** is a global partnership committed to ending the use and recruitment of child soldiers worldwide, by researching practical solutions, advocating for policy change, and conducting comprehensive, prevention-oriented training. Its unique approach working with military, police and peacekeeping forces—often the first point of contact for child soldiers—is ground-breaking, and a critical part of interrupting the cycle of recruitment of children by armed groups. By equipping first responders and humanitarian agencies with the necessary tools and training to demobilize child soldiers and protect children at risk of recruitment, the Initiative aims to end this crime against humanity, community-by-community, country-by-country, once and for all.

### **WEBSITES:**

Film Page - <http://www.whitepinepictures.com/all-titles/fight-like-soldiers-die-like-children/>

White Pine Pictures - <http://www.whitepinepictures.com>

Trailer - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RrXFdXIoS2c&feature=youtu.be>

Roméo Dallaire Child Soldier Initiative [www.childsoldiers.org](http://www.childsoldiers.org)

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