



Dreamcatcher

A film by Kim Longinotto

2015, 97 minutes, UK, HD



Sundance Award Winner:

Directing Award: World Cinema Documentary



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SYNOPSIS

For twenty-five years Brenda Myers-Powell called herself 'Breezy' and she dominated her world, or that's what she thought. It was a world that had turned her into a teenage, drug-addicted prostitute. After a violent encounter with a 'john,' Brenda woke up in the hospital and decided to change her life. Today she is a beacon of hope and a pillar of strength for hundreds of women and girls as young as fourteen who want to change their own lives. 'Dreamcatcher' explores the cycle of neglect, violence and exploitation which each year leaves thousands upon thousands of girls and women feeling that prostitution is their only option to survive. By following the very charming, charismatic and truly empathic Brenda, we enter the lives of young women and see in verite footage their realities from their points of view. While the world may overlook these women and men, thankfully Brenda has not, providing an unflinching expose which contrasts seeming hopelessness against the difference that one person can make in the lives of many.



DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Kim Longinotto is a British documentary film maker, well known for making films about extraordinary women and also the plight of female victims of oppression or discrimination.

Longinotto studied camera and directing at the National Film and Television School in Beaconsfield, England, where she now tutors occasionally. At the age of 10 she was sent to a draconian all-girls boarding school, where she found it hard to make friends due to the mistress forbidding anyone to talk to her for a term after she became lost during a school trip.

After a period of homelessness Longinotto went on to Essex University to study English and European literature and later followed friend and future filmmaker Nick Broomfield to the National Film and Television School.

While studying, she made a documentary about her boarding school that was shown at the London Film Festival, and has continued to be a prolific observational documentary film maker ever since. She has received a number of awards for her films over the years, including a BAFTA for her documentary *Pink Saris*.

DIRECTORS STATEMENT:

When you're a child, you're very vulnerable. You don't realize that your life is different from any other child's life. If you're having a terrible childhood, you might think it's your fault.

We've all experienced feeling small and not valued, that you can't tell adults things because no-one will listen to you. We learn to keep things to ourselves. A child can feel very separate from other people and the world seems so hard to understand. Perhaps we carry some of these feelings for the rest of our lives. As Terry Pratchett said "I've spent my whole life feeling like I'm in a movie and I've missed the first reel".

In Dreamcatcher we meet women who have experienced terrible abuse in their childhood. We see Brenda offering encouragement and support to women who have never had a voice and who feel lost and abandoned. She says "I can't judge you because I am you, I've been right where you are now". We witness the change that can happen when people find the courage to speak out.



KIM LONGINOTTO FILMOGRAPHY

Pride of Place (1976) - Director / Camera (as Kim Longinotto Landseer)
Theatre Girls (1978) - Director/Cinematographer
Underage (1982) - Director/Cinematographer
Eat the Kimono (1989) - Director/Cinematographer
Hidden Faces (1990) - Director/Cinematographer
The Good Wife of Tokyo (1992) - Director
Dream Girls (1994) - Director/Cinematographer/Producer
Shinjuku Boys (1995) - Director/Cinematographer/Producer
Rock Wives (1996) (TV) - Director / Camera
Divorce Iranian Style (1998) - Director / Camera
Gaea Girls (2000) - Director/Cinematographer/Producer
Runaway (2001) - Director/Cinematographer
The Day I Will Never Forget (2002) - Director/Cinematographer
Sisters in Law (2005) - Director/Cinematographer/Producer
Hold Me Tight, Let Me Go (2007) - Director/Cinematographer/Producer
Rough Aunties (2008) - Director/ Cinematographer
Pink Saris (2010) - Director / Camera
Salma (2013) - Director / Camera
Love is All - Director (2014)
Dreamcatcher (2015) - Director

Brenda Myers Powell



Co-Founder and Executive Director, Ms. Myers-Powell was a product of human trafficking at the age of 14 where she escaped an abusive home life and learned to navigate the streets of Chicago. Living through physical, mental, and sexual abuse not only made her numb to the adversities she faced, they also equipped her to survive as a testament for the young women she was to mentor out of the life. With 25 years as a teenage and adult prostitute, Ms. Myers-Powell brings the insight and depth to help others change their lives and successfully live their dreams.

Equipped with a message that has touched the hearts of many individuals and challenged the culture of many communities, Ms. Myers-Powell educates on the perils of human trafficking with a raw edge not for the faint at heart. Survivor of abuse, drugs, and prostitution, she provides perspective for women to reach new levels of accomplishments for their future. Also researching with Jody Rapheal of DePaul University, Ms. Myers-Powell's work and knowledge of the human trafficking industry has shed light on the struggle and continues to promote awareness in the Chicagoland area.

PRESS:

★★★★ 'Compelling' - [CineVue](#)

★★★★ - [FilmUforia](#)

'Raw, powerful, and downright inspirational' - [IndieWire](#)

'Intensely moving...a real-world version of movie-star magnetism' - [Variety](#)

'It deserves all the respect and praise' - [The Hollywood Reporter](#)

'A quietly moving portrait' - [The Salt Lake Tribune](#)

'rigorous and compassionate' - [ScreenDaily](#)

'Inspired' - [IndieWire](#) - [Sydney's Buzz](#)

'Astonishing in its intimacy and wrenching in its emotional rawness' - [Anthony Kaufman, IndieWire](#)

Sundance: THR Critics Pick Their 12 Favorite Films (So Far) - [The Hollywood Reporter](#)

Meet the 2015 Sundance Filmmakers #1: Kim Longinotto's 'Dreamcatcher' Tackles Tough Issues - [IndieWire](#)

Kim Longinotto on fostering intimacy with her subjects and giving a voice to women's stories in Dreamcatcher - [Sundance Labs](#)

Filmmakers Respond to the Threat of Censorship - [IndieWire](#)

Being there for the exploited in "Dreamcatcher" - [Park Record](#)

Sundance Women Directors: Meet Kim Longinotto - 'Dreamcatcher' - [IndieWire](#)

Sundance preview: Diverse lineup unspools in Park City - [LA Times](#)

My Top 10 Films (and then some) from Sundance 2015 - Anthony Kaufman, [IndieWire](#)

Directed by	Kim Longinotto
Music by	Stuart Earl
Sound by	Nina Rice
Produced by	Teddy Leifer, Lisa Stevens
Associate Produced by	Will Spears, John Stack
Edited by	Ollie Huddleston
Production Company	Rise Films, Green Acres Films, Vixen Films

Technical Info:

Screen Ratio	16:9
Sound	Stereo
Frame Rate	25
Shooting Format	XD Cam
Screening Format	HD CAM DCP DIGIBETA BLURAY

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