

New documentary, The Cut, to educate about FGM, Female Genital Mutilation

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London, UK (RPRN) 09/05/09 — Freelance journalist and photographer, Linda May Kallestein, has produced a short documentary, **The Cut**, aimed at raising awareness of the suffering to women caused by female genital mutilation.

The Cut is a 12 minute documentary about Mary (fourteen years old) and Alice (early twenties) from Kenya. Both are affected by the traditional rite of passage into womanhood: genital cutting.

Mary and her community are preparing for her ceremonial cutting.

Alice is studying to be a social worker to work against female genital mutilation. As the first in her community to refuse the practice, she has paid a high price for her choice to break with tradition.

Alice tells of the different myths she encounters in the community around her, as to why circumcision is practiced. Mary, on the other hand, has no voice. She just goes through the preparations and rituals in silence.

Female Genital Mutilation - FGM - affects the lives of girls and women almost all over the world. This 5000 year old African practice has migrated and has become an increasing problem in Western countries. It is condemned and outlawed.

Yet it still goes on. Often underground. In order to eradicate FGM, it is important to understand why it is practiced. This is what **'The Cut'** aims to do.

'The Cut' focuses on the situation as it is in an African country. There are plans for a follow up documentary on the situation in Western countries.

Phantomfilm is the producer of both films. "The Cut" is directed by Linda May Kallestein.

The Cut has been accepted to the Stavanger Short Film Festival 2009. According to the organizers of the event, which takes place October 1 - 3, the documentary contributions this year are especially strong.

The film can be downloaded for free on <http://www.thecutdocumentary.org/> . Donations are welcomed and will go towards the production of the follow up documentary and to projects assisting victims of or protecting girls against female genital mutilation.

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About London Digital PR

Monique Lester of **London Digital PR**, began her professional marketing career 20 years ago in promotions. She has extensive experience in building and maintaining customer relations, having directed and developed her own sales companies in both finance and fashion. Her strength when developing her businesses has been through networking with like minded people, and building strategic partnerships which led to her becoming the *Digital Media Marketing Queen* for London Digital PR.

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