

WAR CHILD

AN 18th STREET FILMS PRODUCTION

www.warchildmovie.com

WAR CHILD, a feature documentary film, chronicles the tumultuous, shocking, inspiring, and ultimately hopeful life of Emmanuel Jal, a former child soldier of Sudan's brutal civil war and emerging international hip-hop star with a message of peace for his war-torn land and his beloved Africa. Jal's life story, in many ways, mirrors his homeland: tragedy and terror mingling with hope and restoration.

In the early 1980s, at the age of seven, Jal was swept into Sudan's civil war, becoming one of 10,000 child soldiers conscripted on both sides of the two decades' long conflict. Orphaned and adrift, firing a gun he could barely hold aloft, trekking through empty deserts in search of food and shelter, he was eventually adopted by British aid worker Emma McCune who famously married Sudanese guerilla commander Riek Machar. Shortly after she adopted Jal, McCune died in a car crash, leaving Emmanuel "orphaned" once again. Jal's rise from orphan to child soldier to refugee to rap star with a message of peace represents one of the 21st centuries' most inspiring and hopeful journeys, and a metaphor for the broader African predicament.

Emmanuel's journey is, in many ways, just beginning. His dream of *Gna*, peace, in Sudan, and prosperity in Africa, is threatened by corrupt leaders, genocidal warlords, and Western indifference. Hopefully, Emmanuel's peace – his quest to make the world a better place through his music and activism – will prove to be far more significant than Emmanuel's former war.

This documentary will tell the story of Emmanuel Jal's life through his own words and his music, explore Sudan's tormented modern history of civil war, assess the prospects for peace after the country's January 2005 ceasefire agreement, highlight the growing problem of war children, and shine a light on the growing African hip-hop scene that is tackling some of the continent's most serious ills through its music.

Jal's life and music, Sudan's modern history, and the African predicament will intertwine in this gripping story that will both haunt and inspire viewers who scarcely understand the conflicts and tragedies roiling Africa today.

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In Association with:

- Interface Media Group
- The Global Fund for Children

With the Support of:

- The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
- The World Security Institute
- The Conflict Zone Film Fund – A Lee & Gund Foundation Project
www.makefilmsnotwar.org

Shooting Locations:

South Sudan: Bentiu, Juba, Leer, Rumbek
Kenya: Kakuma Refugee Camp, Lokkichoggio, Nairobi
USA: Washington, DC, New Orleans, New York

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WAR CHILD



EMMANUEL JAL

Emmanuel Jal (born ca. 1980), a former child soldier in Sudan, has won worldwide acclaim for his unique style of rap music with its message of peace and reconciliation. Emmanuel was taken from his family home in 1987, at the age of seven, and sent to fight with the rebel army in Sudan's bloody civil war. For nearly five years, Emmanuel carried an AK47 taller than himself. He was sent to war in Ethiopia and Southern Sudan, one among thousands of children uprooted from their villages to fight.

Emmanuel has been featured in Time magazine, USA Today, The Times, The Guardian, the Washington Post, CNN, Fox, VOA, BBC, MTV, and Sky amongst many others news outlets. As a spokesman for Amnesty International and Oxfam, Emmanuel has held two press briefings at the United Nations in New York. He also addressed congressional staffers on Capitol Hill about the plight of the people of Darfur and the need for an international response to stop the genocide.

Emmanuel has won an American Gospel Award as well as a community service award in Kenya for his work promoting peace among youth. As part of the African Soul Rebel tour, Emmanuel performed in 10 cities around the UK last year. He has also performed at the Eden Project in Cornwall at Live8 in 2005. His music soundtrack has been featured in three *ER* episodes, the documentary *God Grew Tired of Us*, and most recently in the feature film *Blood Diamond* starring Leonardo DiCaprio.

C. KARIM CHROBOG – DIRECTOR & PRODUCER

Karim Chrobog is a first-time Director/ Producer. He started his career in the media industry working at TimeWarner's international public policy office, where he closely worked with the company's Warner Bros., HBO, Fortune and Turner divisions. In 2005, Karim launched *Tangier Pictures*, an independent feature film company. *Tangier Pictures* is producing a feature film on Ibn Battutah, a colorful, but forgotten 14th century Moroccan adventurer. Ibn Battutah's epic journey is retold by two modern-day figures who embark on a journey through the contemporary Middle East. The project is in pre-production. He is also working on a documentary based on a personal experience. "Kidnapped" tells the story of his family's kidnapping during a vacation gone awry in the South of Yemen three years ago.

Karim holds a degree in International Politics and a Certificate in International Business Diplomacy from the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. He speaks German, Arabic and English. Karim resides in Washington, DC.

AFSHIN MOLAVI – PRODUCER

A critically acclaimed author and journalist, Mr. Molavi has written widely on globalization, development, and Middle East affairs. His articles and essays have been published in the New York Times, the Washington Post, Foreign Affairs, the Herald Tribune, National Geographic, and others. A graduate of the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, he is a fellow at the New America Foundation, a think tank devoted to pragmatic policy solutions to global problems, and was also selected by the World Economic Forum in Davos as a Young Global Leader. He is currently conducting a study on hip-hop and globalization and co-founded the Banu Foundation, an organization that supports grass roots initiatives that empower women in the developing world.

DAL LAMAGNA – EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Dal LaMagna has been the Executive Producer of four movies dealing with the Iraq War: *War Tapes*, *Iraq For Sale*, *The Ground Truth*, and *Meeting Resistance*. He also executive produced the movie *Something Special*. He

is a Principal of EZTakes.com, a company that distributes movies online. He was the Founder and C.E.O. of Tweezerman Corporation.

He is Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Bambridge Graduate Institute, a school that offers an M.B.A. in sustainable business. He is on the Board of Icestone, a company that produces countertops from recycled glass. He ran for U.S. Congress in 1996 and 2000 and is currently a candidate for President of the USA. Dal holds a M.B.A (1970) and MPA (2002) from Harvard University.

RICHARD BODEN – EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Richard Boden is a seasoned executive with over twenty-five years of financial, operational and consulting experience. Mr. Boden has worked as an advisor and consultant to emerging businesses and established organizations both private and public. Most recently he has served as the interim CFO and strategic advisor for a number of high-tech, services and retail, manufacturing, government and biotech companies, such as MyBizHomePage, Inc., a startup web based services company that provides a financial dashboard and community space to the small business markets globally; Coverstories, LLC, a company that owns the exclusive licensing arrangement with Wenner Media to print and market Rolling Stone Magazine covers as posters and art prints and; Zachary Oxman Studios, an internationally recognized art studio and gallery. Mr. Boden sits on the Advisory Board for the Harry F. Byrd School of Entrepreneurship Shenandoah University, VITAL a task force for the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the Friends Steering Committee of the Corcoran Gallery of Art.

S. J. STANISKI – DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Stanley Staniski is a well-traveled producer/director/cinematographer with over thirty-five years experience in film and television. He has worked on productions in fifty-two countries mostly in Asia and Africa.

Over the last ten years, Stanley has worked on projects for the World Bank in China, Peru, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, and Mauritius. In 1997 he traveled to Mozambique for a film on landmines, and in 2001 to Thailand for a film on trafficking in women. Both programs aired on PBS. Also for PBS and Turner Broadcasting, Stanley worked on the series “Avoiding Armageddon”, traveling to Sri Lanka to examine how that country has dealt with suicide bombers. For three years, he worked as cinematographer and field producer for the Learning Channel’s “Archeology” series filming in Jordan, Egypt, Israel, and Ghana.

ULF GARTZKE – ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

Ulf Gartzke is Director of the Washington Office of the Hanns-Seidel-Foundation, a political not-for-profit foundation affiliated with Germany’s ruling Christian Social Union (CSU) party. He has also worked at the World Economic Forum in Geneva, DaimlerChrysler’s Washington Affairs Office, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), the World Bank in Paris, and the CSU party in Munich. He studied political science and international relations at the University of Augsburg in Germany, Georgetown University, the Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po) in Paris, and the London School of Economics. He is also a Visiting Scholar at Georgetown University’s BMW Center for German and European Studies, a Senior Fellow at the Duesseldorf Institute for Foreign and Security Policy (DIAS), and a member of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP), and the Toennissteiner Kreis. He is fluent in German, English, French, and Spanish.

NELS BANGERTER – EDITOR

Nels is a documentary film editor with an eye for his subjects’ revealing moments. A 2005 graduate of USC’s MFA film production program, he is currently in the cutting room on a second feature-length doc - his first was Judy Irola’s award-winning Cine Manifest, for which he also did animation and graphics work. Nels has worked as an editor with Whoopi Goldberg and Penelope Spheeris on a series of short documentaries for Mississippi Rising in Biloxi after Hurricane Katrina; with director Charlene Wang on All the Splendour of the Years, a Taiwanese-language short fiction film; with Dave O’Brien on the vibrant gay and lesbian rap documentary Hip Hop Homos; and with Charles Haine on Oblivion, Nebraska, an experimental fiction film based on a Pushcart Award-winning short story. His bachelor’s degrees in Electrical Engineering and English from Rice University uniquely qualify him to use computers to bring stories to life.