



GIRL SOLDIER

PROJECT PROPOSAL

Caspian Pictures, LLC

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GIRL SOLDIER

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Objective

Our goal is to produce a film that will be critically acclaimed, socially informative, as well as commercially successful. We believe this story must be told, and at the same time it is vital that the film is made for a mainstream audience to generate the greatest audience reach and potential return to our investors.

Summary

This package proposal is intended for potential talent only.



GIRL SOLDIER

SYNOPSIS

A horrifying memoir of girl soldiers.

Northern Uganda, 1996

In the dead of night, a merciless band of armed rebels emerge from the jungle to raid St. Mary's Boarding School for Girls. In addition to raping and terrorizing, the rebels abduct 139 young girls to turn into soldiers and sex slaves. Summoning all her courage and faith, Sister Caroline, a teacher and school nun, tracks the savages back to their jungle camp to demand the girls' release. Impressed by the nun's bravery, the rebel commander releases 109 of the girls, but keeps 30 to present as gifts to his leader. Over the next few years the captured girls are beaten, raped and forced to commit horrific murders, while Sister Caroline desperately works to rally parents, the government, the United Nations and even the Pope to aid in rescuing not only her own girls, but the thousands of other children in rebel captivity. The child abductions continue to this day.



Strength and Determination

Girl Soldier is a sharp protest against the use of children in armed conflict and an authoritative account of how concerned parents, interfaith groups, and international politicians banded together in a struggle to rescue the girls and to mobilize a people, their country, and a global community. It's an incredible story of hope, strength and determination in the face of extreme adversity.



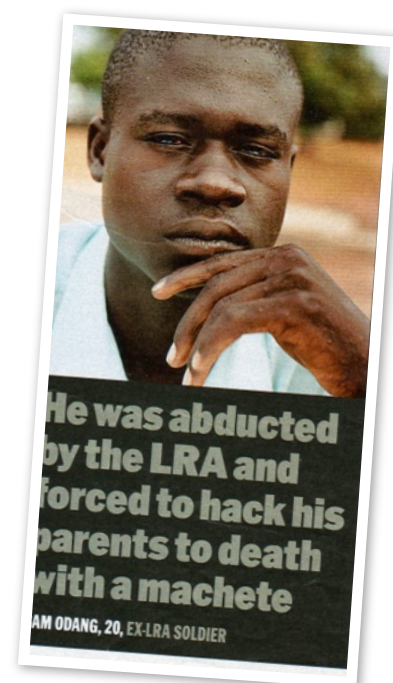
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FACTS



The Facts Are

- In a poll of humanitarian aid professionals, the atrocity the children soldiers face was named the second most "forgotten" humanitarian emergency in the world.
- As recently as July 2008, Joseph Kony, the rebel madman of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), which is one of the most cruel guerilla armies in the world, refused to sign the latest peace treaty. Children abductions have once again started.
- 80% of the LRA's army consists of abducted children under the age of 18. The girls are used as sex slaves to the commanders and made into brutal soldiers where they are forced to slaughter and mutilate villages, even their own parents, teachers and relatives. All unimaginable acts used to dehumanize these forgotten children.
- In June 2008 diplomats reported that the Lord's Resistance army bought new weapons and was recruiting new soldiers, by force as usual, adding 1,000 recruits to the 600 soldiers it already had.





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ABDUCTION OF THE ABOKE GIRLS

Abductions

Background

The Aboke abductions were the abductions of 139 female secondary school students by rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army (led by Joseph Kony) from St. Mary's College boarding school in Aboke, northern Apac District, Uganda on 10 October 1996. The deputy head mistress of the college, Sister Rachele (script name Caroline) of Italy, pursued the rebels and negotiated the release of 109 of the girls. The Aboke abductions and Sister Rachele's dramatic actions drew unprecedented, to that point, international attention to the insurgency in northern Uganda.

The Abduction Night

Rumors began to circulate through the countryside that the LRA was beginning to look at St. Mary's College as a likely target again. **8:15 p.m. on 9 October 1996** Ugandan Independence Day, the expected LRA soldiers had not yet arrived at the school. The Mother Superior and two Sisters held a meeting to decide on a plan of action. The option of moving the girls out of the school and dispersing them was discussed, but it was already dark and the possibility that LRA rebels would be waiting outside to attack, deterred the sisters from this course. An hour later the girls went to bed, though the Mother Superior stayed up until 11:30 pm to pray in the chapel. At 2:30 am, the night watchman at the college knocked on Sister Rachele's door stating: "Sister, the rebels are here."

If caught, the sisters knew that the LRA rebels would force them to open the doors, Sisters Alba and Rachele woke the one older nun, Sister Matilde, and together hid in the compound's stock house. Through the night, they heard the sounds of rebels moving through the compound but never the voice of one of the girls, giving them hope that the rebels had been kept out of the dorms by the iron reinforced doors

and windows. Later estimates put the number of armed rebels at about 200. They burned the school vehicle, ransacked the clinic and unsuccessfully attempted to burn several buildings.

6:30 a.m.

As dawn approached, the nuns heard the sounds of the rebels leaving. At first light sister Alba sighted a small group of girls wandering in the open. They reported to the sisters that the rebels had abducted classes one, two and three. 139 secondary school girls between 13 and 16 years of age had been taken.

7:00 a.m.

Rachele immediately volunteered to go after the girls and Sr. Alba agreed. Rachele changed clothes and took some money from the office to buy the girls' freedom. Rachele agreed to take one younger male teacher, Bosco, and was about to leave when she was stopped by a 13-year old student who had been raped. Leaving the child with Sr. Alba, Sr. Rachele and Bosco left the college at about 7 a.m. The rebels had looted a large amount of candy and drinks that the college had bought for the Independence Day celebrations and the pursuers found that they could follow a trail of candy wrappers and drink bottles across the bush.

Sister Rachele was depending on two factors: she was White and a nun. The former might lead the rebels to treat her with more caution than they would another Ugandan, while the second was a position of respect in a religious country when dealing with a group that was led by a mystic. Rachele had spent a year and a half in Gulu and knew enough of the Acholi language to begin speaking with the man who identified himself as the leader of the LRA band.

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Who is Joseph Kony?



Joseph Kony

(born ca. 1962) is the head of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a guerrilla group that is engaged in a violent campaign to establish a theocratic government in Uganda, which claims to be based on the Christian Bible and the Ten Commandments. The LRA, which earned a terrifying reputation for its brutality against the people of northern Uganda, has abducted an estimated 20,000 children since its rebellion began in 1987.

Beginning

Kony first came to prominence in January 1987, at age 26. His group was one of many premillennialist groups that sprang up in Acholiland in the wake of the wildly popular Holy Spirit Movement of Alice Auma (aka Lakwena). However, the conflict in the north began in the resentment among the Acholi at their relative loss of influence after the overthrow of Acholi President Tito Okello by Yoweri Museveni and his National Resistance Army (NRA) in "the war in the bush" ending in 1986. By 1992, Kony had renamed the group United Democratic Christian Army and it was at this time that they kidnapped 44 girls from the Sacred Heart Secondary and St. Mary's girls schools. Operation North was devastating to what would become the Lord's Resistance Army and with their number reduced from thousands to hundreds still engaged in brutal retaliatory attacks on civilians and NRA collaborators.



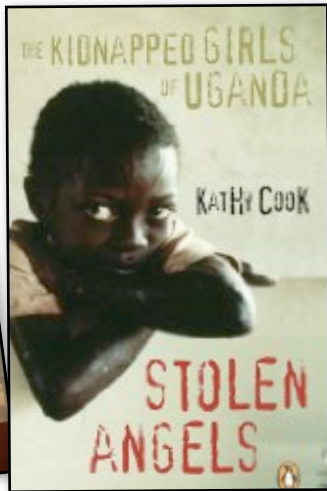
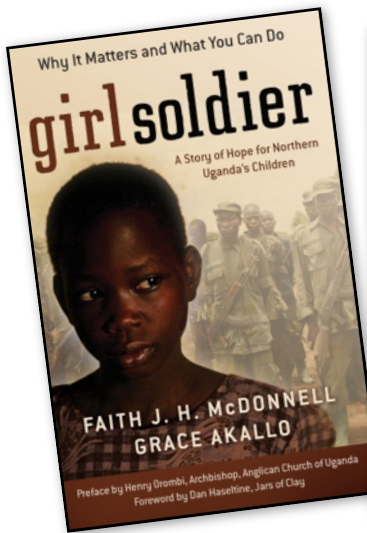
Terrorist

Many international attempts at peace, and to end to the child abductions by Kony and the LRA, occurred between 1996 and 2001. They all failed to end the abductions, rapes, mutilations, and civilian casualties - including multiple attacks on refugee camps. After the September 11th attacks, the United States officially declared the Lord's Resistance Army a terrorist group and Joseph Kony a terrorist.



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THE FILM



Filming on Location in South Africa

CURRENTLY

The development process began 6 months ago with the research and writing of the script

“Girl Soldier” by Stephanie Pinola. The option was purchased to the book “Stolen Angels” by renowned journalist Kathy Cook, and all rights and grants otherwise.



PRE-PRODUCTION

We intend to start prepping the Girl Soldier feature film in January, and to start shooting in South Africa by August of 2009.

PRODUCTION

Our goal is to produce a film that will be critically acclaimed, socially informative, as well as commercially successful. Every department head brought onto this project will be of the highest caliber in their respective field. Since this is not a “studio” film, we will have the freedom to push the envelope and produce a film that is as stunning cinematically as the amazing story it is based on.

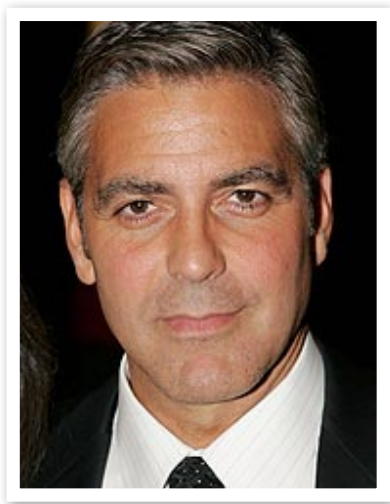


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CASTING STRATEGY

The producers aim to position the project as a cry for help for the tortured children of Uganda, and assemble a collection of A-list actors that can sympathize with the children of Uganda's plight.

***Attached to the project thus far is Uma Thurman, Souleymane Savane, and Bill Duke.**



George Clooney
as Ben Hoffman



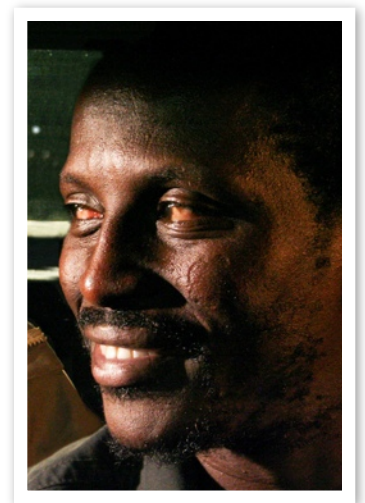
Uma Thurman
as Sister Caroline



Viola Davis
as Vivian Oyela



Bill Duke
as Ugandan President Museveni



Souleymane Sy Savane
as LRA Commander Bukenya

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THE FILMMAKERS



Will Rae - Producer / Director

Punk rock, surfing, computers, and cinema, heavily influenced his teenage years. In the early 90's, Will channeled his love for music and electronics as a keyboardist for different bands, one of which spawned the group Marilyn Mason.

During his early twenties, Will turned his focus towards filmmaking and enrolled in the film program at the Art Institute. From there, amidst the era of the ".com" boom, he created three national tech series for CNBC and Discovery Networks: Inside Technology, Technology Today, and Business & Technology Week.

As the Internet boom began to decline, Will returned to his passion for music and started Rock Docs, for which he produced and directed music videos including the critically acclaimed Marilyn Manson documentary Demystifying the Devil.

Shortly after, he became the president of Tupac Shakur's company, Urban Warrior Films and started the company TVX through which he produced and directed Sci-Fi Channel's Alien Gods, the popular A&E television series Criss Angel MindFreak, and Spike TV's 1000 Ways to Die. Will then jumped into the feature world and produced the motion pictures Honor, Broken Path, Raptor Ranch, For Christ's Sake, and directed The Exorcist Chronicles. In addition, Will has developed a strong reputation in post-production by working for various Indie films to help support fellow filmmakers. Currently, Will Rae is a managing partner of Caspian Pictures, a company devoted to producing high quality socially relevant films.

Diane Nabatoff - Producer

In 2000 Diane founded Tiara Blu Films. Since then she has produced Take The Lead, a New Line release, starring Antonio Banderas, and Narc, a Paramount release, starring Ray Liotta and Jason Patric. She Executive-Produced Gray Matters starring Heather Graham, Sissy Spacek, and Alan Cumming; Knights of the South Bronx starring Ted Danson (nominated for a SAG award) and Malcolm David Kelley for A&E; Racing For Time starring and directed by Charles Dutton for Lifetime as well as the series After Hours with Daniel for Mojo. She also Co-Executive Produced the pilot for the HBO series Baseball Wives by Tom Fontana and Julie Martin. She is currently developing projects at a number of studios and cable networks.



Prior to founding Tiara Blu Films, Diane was a Producer at Interscope Communications, where she developed and produced films that include: Very Bad Things, written and directed by Pete Berg and starring Christian Slater, Cameron Diaz and Daniel Stern; The Proposition starring Kenneth Branagh, Madeleine Stowe and William Hurt; Operation Dumbo Drop, starring Danny Glover, Ray Liotta and Denis Leary; Separate Lives starring Jim Belushi and Linda Hamilton; Holy Matrimony, starring Patricia Arquette; and Body Language starring Tom Berenger.

Prior to receiving a Masters of Business Administration from Harvard Business School, she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Harvard University.

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THE FILMMAKERS

Allan Mindel - Producer

Allan Mindel has produced some of Hollywood's more memorable films such as *Bed of Roses*, *My Own Private Idaho*, *Pie in the Sky*, *Bodies, Rest & Motion*, and *Julian Po*. He also directed the indie cult classic *Milwaukee, Minnesota*.



Genevieve Hofmeyr - Line Producer, South Africa

Genevieve Hofmeyr, partner and driving force behind Moonlighting Films, is one of South Africa's most respected and sought after Producers. She is hailed by the Hollywood Reporter as one of the three most influential women of South African cinema today. Genevieve has worked as a hands-on Producer, Line Producer, and Supervisor, on such films as: *Blood Diamond*, starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Djimon Hounsou, and Jennifer Connelly.



Tuomas Kantelinen - Composer

Tuomas studied classical composing in his native Finland and continues to make music for both cinema and concert audiences. He has scored orchestral film music for over 30 feature films, including the Oscar Nominated film for Best Foreign Picture - the Genghis Khan epic *Mongol*.

Other notable works include: Klaus Haro's award winning *Mother of Mine*, for which he was nominated Best Composer by the European Film Awards, and Renny Harlin's dark thriller *Mindhunters*.



Adriano Goldman - Cinematographer

Adriano was the Cinematographer of the award winning film *Sin Nombre*, which has just won Best Cinematography at this year's Sundance Festival.

In addition, he has won and been nominated for many other films for his work as a cinematographer. He is simply one of the best new cinematographers in the film industry today.



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SIMILAR FILMS



The Constant Gardener

Distributor:	Focus Features
Production Budget:	\$25 million
Domestic:	\$33.6 million
Overseas:	\$48.8 million
Worldwide (to date):	\$82.5 million



Hotel Rwanda

Distributor:	United Artists
Production Budget:	\$17.5 million
Domestic:	\$23.5 million
Overseas:	\$10.3 million
Worldwide (to date):	\$33.8 million



Babel

Distributor:	Paramount Vantage
Production Budget:	\$25 million
Domestic:	\$34.3 million
Overseas:	\$101 million
Worldwide (to date):	\$135.3 million



The Last King of Scotland

Distributor:	Fox Searchlight Pictures
Production Budget:	\$9.2 million
Domestic:	\$17.6 million
Overseas:	\$30.6 million
Worldwide (to date):	\$48.3 million

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CHARITABLE PROCEEDS

The filmmakers will donate 10% of the film's proceeds to the charitable organizations below.



Invisible Children

In the spring of 2003, three young filmmakers traveled to Africa in search of a story. What started out as a filmmaking adventure transformed into much more when they discovered a tragedy that disgusted and inspired them, a tragedy where children are both the weapons and the victims.

After returning to the States, they created the documentary "Invisible Children: Rough Cut," a film that exposes the tragic realities of northern Uganda's night commuters and child soldiers.

The film was originally shown to friends and family, but has now been seen by millions of people. The overwhelming response has been, "How can I help?" To answer this question, the non-profit Invisible Children, Inc. was created, giving compassionate individuals an effective way to respond to the situation. As a non-profit they work to transform apathy into activism. By documenting the lives of those living in regions of conflict and injustice, they hope to educate and inspire individuals in the Western world to use their unique voice for change.



ReSolve Uganda

By acting together, we can be the spark that transforms international neglect into the leadership needed for lasting peace in northern Uganda. With this in mind, Resolve Uganda was created to translate our individual conviction and concern into collective action for a long overdue end to the war. Recognizing and believing that a better world is possible, we are taking aim. Our target is peace.

Creative Visions Foundation

Creative Visions Foundation serves as an incubator for creative activists, providing them with vital support to raise social awareness and catalyze action of social, humanitarian and environmental issues. Founded by Kathy and Amy Eldon, mother and sister to artist and activist Dan Eldon, Creative Visions Foundation is as a continuation and dedication to Dan's philosophy: to reach beyond oneself and touch the lives of others with creativity and passion.



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THE COMPANIES



Caspian Pictures

To promote social activism through the art of film.

Started in spring 2008, Caspian Pictures was created by Will Rae and Brian Bullock to bring about films that make a difference - films that bring attention to the world we live in without sacrificing high quality, art, and entertainment.



South Africa Production

Moonlighting Films was established by Genevieve Hofmeyr and Philip Key and is South Africa's premier film production company. With production partners that include major Hollywood studios, the company has provided production services on 16 international feature films, several TV documentary series and is collaborating on a number of co-productions and independent films. Moonlighting offers Full production service for feature films, television and documentaries. Co-production partners through offices in Cape Town, Johannesburg and Namibia. Experience with shooting on location throughout Africa, including Mozambique, Kenya, Ghana, Cameroon and Nigeria.

For More Information about the feature film “Girl Soldier” please contact:

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Letter of Intent

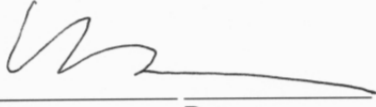
KARUNA DREAM
511 SIXTH AVE.
BOX 274
NEW YORK, NY 10011

Dear Will Rae,

This letter confirms that I am attached to perform as lead actress and producer for the motion picture currently entitled "Girl Soldier," subject to the successful completion of negotiations for my services, including, but not limited to script approval.

To be specific, I intend to (1) perform as the lead actress in playing the role of "Sister Caroline," and (2) furnish the services of producer on a first priority non-exclusive basis through the completion of principal photography.

All other terms shall be negotiated between us in good faith upon the successful set-up/financing of the picture.

Sincerely, 

Uma Thurman Date May 19th 09