



LISA RUSSELL FILMS, LLC

125 Ryerson Street, Brooklyn, NY 11205 USA | +1-917-554-4126 | www.lisarussellfilms.com

BIO:

Lisa Russell is an Emmy® Award-winning documentary filmmaker and global health advocate who has 10+ years producing films and creative projects/outreach campaigns with UN/NGO agencies. Given her wide platform in the intersection of arts, creativity and global development, she is a nationally renowned keynote and TEDx speaker, writer, creative curator and global storyteller and is a regular presenter at leading universities, international conferences and youth leadership programs.

After completing her Masters in Public Health (MPH) in 1998, Lisa began her career as a humanitarian aid worker in Kosovo and Albania during the 1999 war. It was there she became inspired to become a storyteller and set out to learn all aspects of the filmmaking craft. Since then, Lisa has pushed the boundaries of forging creative advocacy with global development and has an extensive portfolio of work that spans the globe. Some of her well known work includes *Love, Labor, Loss* on obstetric fistula in Niger, *Youth Zones* on the impact of war and natural disasters on young people in Liberia, Lebanon, Colombia, Northern Uganda and New Orleans, USA. *It's About the People* on voluntary medical male circumcision in Tanzania, and *Mother's Cry*, a poetry-based video on climate change.

In addition to her filmmaking activities, Lisa is considered a leading advocate for the inclusion of creative communities in global health advocacy. As a teaching artist for young artists, Lisa embeds socially conscious performing artists in her filmmaking distribution and activism efforts. Lisa has collaborated with Grammy-nominated artist Zap Mama to create "The WOMAN Tour" — a three-week nationwide initiative of film screenings and musical performances to increase awareness of women's issues. Lisa was also co-founder with soul singer Maya Azucena - MDGFive.com, a new media site which unites artists and activists for maternal health. Recently she worked with Grammy-winning musician and actor Common and Tanzanian hip hop icon, Fid Q, on a film profiling an innovative HIV prevention program targeting young African men. She also is the personal filmmaker for Ms. Lauryn Hill's private events. In 2014, she launched a new initiative called "I Sell the Shadow" that aims on building meaningful and sustainable partnerships between creative professionals and international agencies. Under this initiative, she has curated high level events at the United Nations with socially conscious artists for the UN's High Level Meeting on Youth, High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS, the Launch of the World Youth Report, the ECOSOC Youth Forum, the International Day of Youth and other events. Because of her expertise in filmmaking and global development, she has been asked to participate as an annual judge for the Population Connection Youth Filmmaking Initiative and the Every Footstep Counts Video Contest for Positive Action for Children Fund (PACF) in association with MTV/Staying Alive Foundation, the International AIDS Society and Keep a Child Alive. She is currently completing a short film on the role of artists in meeting the UN Sustainable Development Goals for Under Secretary General, Thomas Gass and the SDG Advocacy Group.

Lisa also applies her creative expertise with international conferences, curating the first ever Bhutan International Film Festival, the Women Deliver Cinema Corners in Copenhagen, Denmark (2016), Kulala Lumpur, Malaysia (2013) and Washington, DC (2010) and the Union World Conference on Lung Health.

Lisa also has experience with broadcast television. She was chosen as one of 25 filmmakers for the prestigious CPB/PBS Producer's Academy and the National Black Programming Consortium's New Media Institute, is a two time producer for WGBH's Lab Open Call and is a 2008 recipient of a New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) grant and a Paul Robeson Fund for Independent Media Grant. In May 2009, she won a Boston/New England Emmy® Award in the "Outstanding Advanced Media Interactivity" category for her short film, "Bi-Racial

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Hair."

Lisa has ventured into VR/360 filmmaking through her involvement as a participating artist in the 2016 Art a Hack and the 2016 POV Digital Media Labs.

Currently residing in Brooklyn, NY, Lisa continues her work as a teaching artist for Urban Word NYC, a free after-school program for young writers and poets and also conducts digital storytelling workshops in various countries. She also is a widely revered speaker, writer and facilitator of a workshop around "Narrative Justice."

FILMOGRAPHY:

"NEXT LEVEL MYANMAR" (2018)

Videographer/Editor

- Documenting via photographs and social media videos, the Next Level USA program in Myanmar. NEXT LEVEL is an initiative of the U.S. Department of State, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Meridian International Center. Its mission is to use hip hop music and dance to foster crosscultural creative exchange in diverse communities.

"HEROINES OF HEALTH" (2017)

Director/Producer/Camera/Editor

- A short film profiling three women leaders in global health from India, Kenya and Indonesia. Trailer premiered at World Health Assembly 2017. For GE Healthcare.

"#CREATE 2030" (2016)

Director/Writer/Producer/Camera/Editor

- A short video promoting the role of artists in meeting the UN Sustainable Development Goals featuring well known socially conscious artists such as Ray Angry, Laolu Senbanjo, Zap Mama, Bilal, Toni Blackman and others. For the Office of Under Secretary General Thomas Gass and the SDG Advocacy Group.

OBVERSE CREATION MUSIC, INC. (2015-2016)

Director/Producer/Camera/Editor

- Worked as a personal filmmaker for Ms. Lauryn Hill.

"URBAN WORD NYC ANNUAL TEEN POETRY SLAM" COMMERCIALS (2003-2016)

Director/Producer/Camera/Editor

- Two 30-second PSAs featuring Urban Word Slam Team members, promoting young people to sign up to slam at NYC's largest annual youth poetry slam and the general public to buy tickets. Produced for Time Warner Cable.

"MOTHER'S CRY" (2015)

Director/Producer/Camera/Editor

- A independent, short poetry-based video on climate change featuring renowned youth poet, Savon Bartley. Premiered during the UN General Assembly on Slate Magazine: "The Deeply Moving Video on Climate Change that Every World Leader Should See" and has screened in over 30 international film festivals, winning Best of

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Fest of the San Francisco Green Festival and Special Jury Mention at the CMS VATAVARAN International Film festival, touted as Asia's largest green film festival.

“ULTIMATE MED INTERSHIP” (2015-2016)

Director/Producer/Camera/Editor

- Two short videos highlighting the high school and college Ultimate Medical Internship in India program. For outh Futures International, National Academy of Future Physicians and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

“IT'S ABOUT THE PEOPLE” (2015)

Director/Writer/Camera/Editor

A short film that portrays an innovative HIV prevention program in Tanzania. Narrated by Oscar/Grammywinning musician and actor, Common and Tanzanian hip hop icon, Fid Q. For USAID, PEPFAR and Jhpiego.

“MISCONCEPTION” (2014)

Line Producer (UN segment)

- A Participant Media feature length documentary by Oscar-winning director Jessica Yu, that explores the way population trends impact people's lives. Premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival. Nominated for Best Documentary Feature at Tribeca Film Festival

“PODER!” (2014)

Director/Writer/Camera/Editor

- A short docu-drama that tells the real life story of two indigenous girls in Guatemala who challenged their local officials to make their community more girl-friendly. For Let Girls Lead. Winner of Best Documentary Short and Best Director Awards at The World's Independent Film Festival (TWIFF) 2014.

“MFISTULA: FROM PHONE LINE TO LIFE LINE” (2013)

Director/Producer/Camera/Editor

- A short film that profiles the CCBRT Hospital in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, that utilizes mobile phones to help identify and provide free transportation for women in remote areas living with a horrific childbearing injury called obstetric fistula. For UNFPA's Campaign to End Fistula.

“GIVE PEACE A CHANCE” (2012)

Director/Producer/Camera/Editor

- A music video with Sierra Leone superstars Bajah and the Dry Eye Crew to promote peaceful elections in Sierra Leone. Video was screened at various political rallies and promoted by the EU Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) led by Chief Observer Richard Howitt.

“WHEN PEACE COMES” (2012)

Director/Writer/Editor

- A short journalistic film that explores gender perspective on DDR (disarmament, demobilization and reintegration) and post conflict recovery. Narrated by Paul Blackthorne. For UN Women.

“IN IT TO SAVE LIVES” (2011)

Director/Producer/Camera/Editor

- A short film that tells the story of how governments and communities in Kenya and Swaziland have embraced

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voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC) to turn the tide of the HIV epidemic in their countries. For AIDStar One, USAID and PEPFAR.

“YOUTH ZONES” (2010)

Director/Producer/Camera/Editor

- An advocacy video and poetry initiative profiling youth in emergencies (filmed in Northern Uganda, Liberia, Lebanon, Colombia and New Orleans.) For UNFPA and Women’s Refugee Commission.

“NOT YET RAIN” (2009)

Director/Producer/Camera/Editor

- An advocacy video on unsafe abortions in Ethiopia and the impact that the country’s recent change in legislation has on maternal mortality rates. For Ipas.

“BI-RACIAL HAIR” (2008)

Director/Producer/Camera/Editor

- A short film produced under the WGBH Lab that explores racial tension through the words and reenactment of 13-year old Zora Howard’s poem of the same name. Broadcasted in February 2009 on Independent Lens.

“WE WILL NOT DIE LIKE DOGS” (2008)

Director / 2nd Editor

- A one-hour documentary film profiling four African AIDS activists from Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia. Broadcasted nationally on PBS with the National Black Programming Consortium’s “AfroPop” series and online with SnagFilms.

“SEEDS OF MALAWI” (2006)

Director/Producer/Camera/Editor

- A short film that explores food insecurity and the impact it has on Malawi’s AIDS orphans and infected adults. For Family Health International (FHI)

“LOVE, LABOR, LOSS” (2005)

Director/Producer/2nd Camera/Editor

- A 15-minute Advocacy Video profiling women in Niger, West Africa affected by obstetric fistula. With sponsorship from UNFPA, Global Health Council, EngenderHealth, International Center for Research and Women, Feminist Majority Foundation, One By One, and Women’s Dignity Project.

“SETTLING IN SEATTLE” (2003)

Director/Producer/Editor

- An advocacy video profiling four refugee youth from Sudan, Kosovo, Iraq and Vietnam who face challenges relating to language, schooling, foster care and employment after resettling in the Seattle area. For IRC.

EMPLOYMENT:

RELIEF INTERNATIONAL

Program Director

Kosovo/Albania, 1999-2000

Managed the overall operations in Albania and Kosovo during the 1999 refugee crises. Managed international

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and local staff and volunteers, managed media placement, submitted grant proposals to donors.

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL HEALTH

Program Assistant

Boston, MA, September 1996 – May 1998

Managed several global health projects for Boston University's School of Public Health's Center for International Health. Submitted proposals, project reports, developed budgets, and liaised with field staff, consultants and professors.

FESTIVAL/COMMUNITY SCREENINGS AND PRESENTATIONS:

- **CONFERENCES:** 4th World Conference on Media and Mass Communications in Bangkok, Thailand, 2018, TEDxJNJ Big Data Conference, 2016; National Youth Leadership Forum on Digital Media, Film and Journalism, 2016-2017; Global Health Corps Fellows Training, 2014- 2017; Unite for Sight Global Health Conference, 2008-2018, APHA Global Health Film Fest, 2015; Switchpoint, 2015;; Global Health Council, 2006-2011; Social Good Summit, 2010; Women Deliver 2010, 2013,2016; National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine, 2005-2015; National Advocates for Pregnant Women Conference 2006, APHA 2006, Global Kids Annual Conference 2006; NYC Grassroots Media Conference 2005.
- **UNIVERSITY SCREENINGS:** Harvard University, Yale University, UCLA, USC, UC Berkeley, Columbia University, Smith College, Claremont College, Colorado State University, University of North Carolina, Duke University, Lehigh University, McGill University, Rutgers University, New Jersey City University, Wellesley University, Wisconsin College of Medicine, Boston University, Oberland University, Central Connecticut College, University of Texas School of Public Health, Baylor School of Medicine, Smith College, Albert Einstein School of Medicine, Georgetown University, and others.
- **FILM FESTIVALS:** ISNTD Festival, 2018, CMS VATAVARAN International Film festival, 2017, San Francisco Green Fest, 2017;, Kuala Lumpur Eco Film Festival, 2016; BedStuy PopUp Cinema Film Festival, 2016; East New York Film Festival, 2016; Planet Connections Film Festival, 2016; Human Rights Film Festival of Barcelona / NYC / Paris , 2016, "In A Perfect World" Film Festival, 2016, Social Impact Media Awards (SIMA), 2016, The World International Film Festival, 2014, Kansas City Film Festival 2012, We the Peoples 2008, 2009, UK Film Festival, 2008, Reel Sisters Film Festival 2008, Jackson Hole Film Festival 2006, 2007, Hip Hop Odyssey International Film Festival 2007, Seattle's Amnesty International Film Festival 2006, Jackson Hole Film Festival 2006,
- **UNITED NATIONS EVENTS:** Delivered closing remarks for UN DPI's Youth Led Briefing on Climate Change, 2015; curated artist performances for UN Secretary General's Every Woman, Every Child event, 2015; curated artist performances for UN Foundation's #SolutionSummit event, 2015; curated artist performances for 20 year anniversary of World Programme for Youth (WPAY), 2015; curated artist performances for opening of ECOSOC's Youth Forum, 2014; curated artist performances for Launch of World Youth Report, 2014;. screened "PODER!" Trailer at Interagency Meeting on Youth, 2013; screening of "YOUTH ZONES" at UN High Level Meeting on Youth, 2010; screening of "YOUTH VOICES" at UN High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS, 2010; screening of "Love, Labor, Loss" at Beijing +10 United Nations Conference, 2005; curator of UNFPA's Family of Woman Photography Exhibit, 2014.

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- WORKSHOPS: Curated CSW 60 “Young Climate Activists in Dialogue: A Poetry Workshop” on women's empowerment and sustainable development with Sierra Club, 2016; curated CSW 59 poetry workshop for 150+ young girls for the UN Women and World YWCA Pre Conference for Young Women and Girls, 2015; facilitated “Changing the Global Health Narrative” and Digital Storytelling Workshop for EPES International in Santiago, Chile, 2015; mentored young poets in a “Reels and Rhymes” workshop which fused film screenings and spoken word poetry around pressing global issues (ongoing).
- CAPITOL HILL BRIEFINGS: Representative Carolyn B. Maloney Capitol Hill Briefing 2004.

PUBLICATIONS:

- Population Connection (www.popconnection.org) “When A Film Becomes a Lifeline”
- Women's Enews Commentator (<http://womensenews.org>) “Guatemalan Girls Tell Own Story in Film ‘¡PODER!’”
- Huffington Post Special Contributing Writer (www.huffingtonpost.com/lisa-russell) · “The Role of the Artist is to Make the [Maternal Health] Revolution Irresistible” · “Keeping My Soul Right: Making Global Health Films on Women and Girls” · “World Premiere of PODER! Ignites Girls-Focused Film, Poetry and Workshop Initiative” · “Why Creativity Matters: Engaging Artists in the Post 2015 Development Agenda”
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's Impatient Optimist Blog (www.impatientoptimists.org) “Behind the Scenes of “In It to Save Lives”

HONORS AND AWARDS:

ART-A-HACK

- Participating artist in the 2016 Art a Hack which brings together artists and programmers to make art with technology. In the KINECTVR group which involved creating a 3D environment in Unity for an innovative VR project.

CMS VATAVARAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

- Special Jury Mention for “Mother's Cry”

SAN FRANCISCO GREEN FESTIVAL

- Winner of “Best in Fest” for “Mother's Cry”

SOCIAL IMPACT MEDIA AWARDS (SIMA)

- Finalist for the 2016 Creative Video Award for “Mother's Cry”

THE WORLD INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL (TWIFF)

- Best Director and Documentary Short Film Awards for “PODER!”

BRANDEIS GLOBAL YOUTH SUMMIT

- Recognition for educating and inspiring the delegates to the 2013 Brandeis Global Youth Summit on the Future of Medicine.

32nd ANNUAL BOSTON/NEW ENGLAND EMMY AWARDS

- Winner in the “Outstanding Advanced Interactivity Media” category for “Bi-Racial Hair” with WGBH Lab and

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NBPC.

CPB/PBS Producer's Academy

- Chosen as one of 25 filmmakers to participate in prestigious Producer's Academy at WGBH.

NATIONAL BLACK PROGRAMMER'S CONSORTIUM NEW MEDIA INSTITUTE

- Chosen as one of 25 filmmakers to participate in PBS training institute on new media applications.

FISTULA FOUNDATION's Tesfa Ineste Committee

- 2006 honoree for outstanding service in raising global awareness about victims of fistula.

INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN'S Imagining Ourselves Online Exhibit

- Best of Film winner, 2006 · Film Festival Co-Curator, 2007

EDUCATION:

Masters of Public Health (MPH) in International Health, Boston University, 1998

Bachelors of Arts (BA) in Cultural Anthropology and Pre-Med, University of California, Santa Barbara, 1991

FILM and NEW MEDIA SKILLS:

Experience shooting in HD/SD formats, editing on Avid Media Composer, Final Cut Pro and Adobe Premiere. HTML programming, compressing video for web streaming, and social media content including blogs, wikis, widgets, and social networking. Can program 3D environments in Unity and produce VR content.

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