

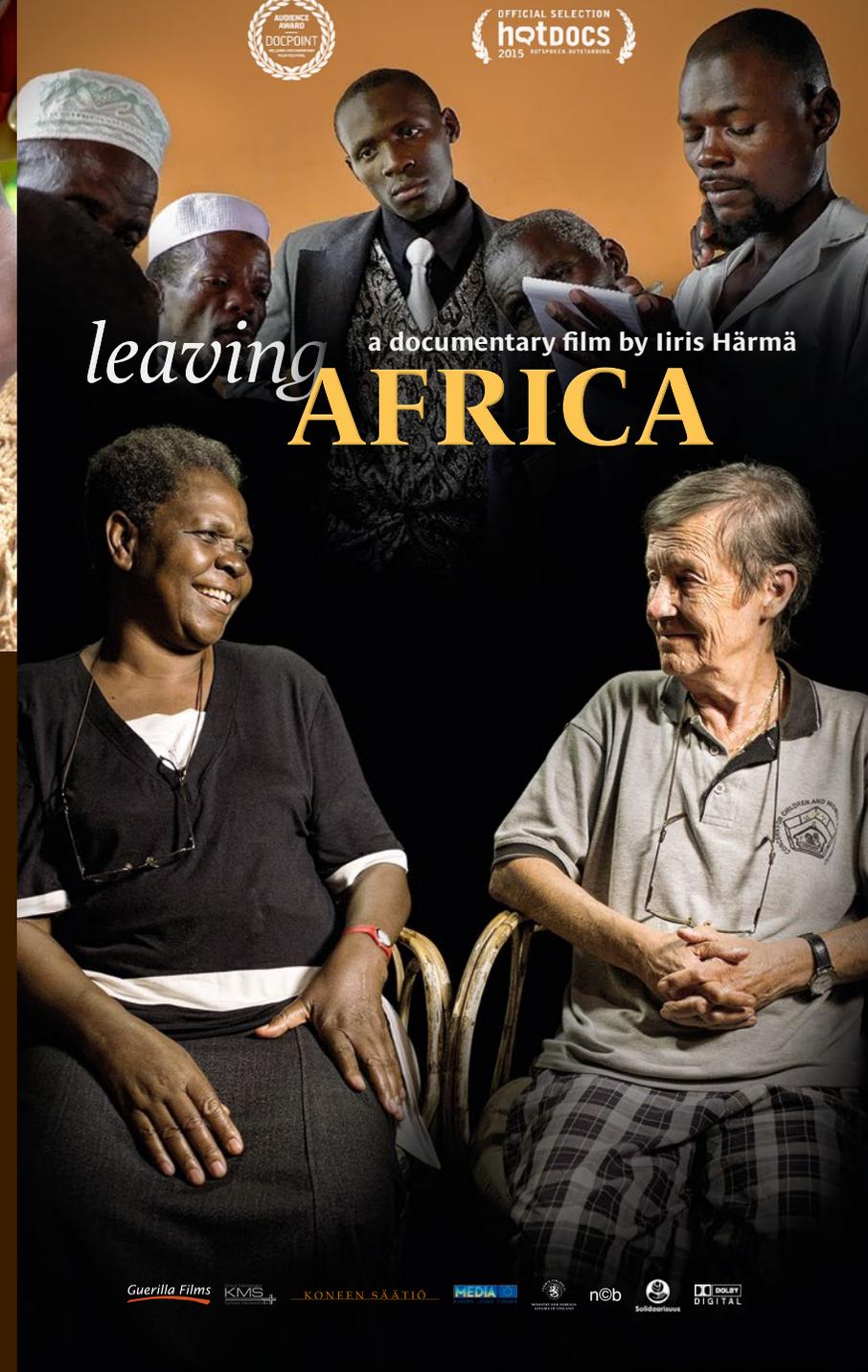
PRODUCTION Guerilla Films, Finland
PRODUCER Visa Koiso-Kanttila
DIRECTOR Iris Härmä
CINEMATOGRAPHER Visa Koiso-Kanttila
EDITOR Niels Pagh Andersen
MUSIC Marcel Vaid
SOUND DESIGNER Janne Laine
GRAPHIC DESIGNER Marko Mäkinen
GENRE Documentary
SHOOTING LOCATIONS Uganda, Finland
ORIGINAL VERSION English, Luganda, Finnish
OTHER VERSION English subtitles, etc.
LENGTH 58'/84'
SHOOTING FORMAT HDV
FINAL FORMAT DCP, HDCAM, Digibeta, DVD
PRODUCTION 2011/2014
DELIVERY DATE January 2015



A STORY ABOUT FRIENDSHIP AND EMPOWERMENT



leaving a documentary film by Iris Härmä
AFRICA



PRODUCER

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Solidaritas

DOLBY

DIGITAL



LEAVING AFRICA

Synopsis

Finnish Riitta, 66 and Ugandan Catherine alias Kata, 63 are closest of friends, like sisters, they even live together. Together they are running sexual health education in Uganda. Kata's children and grandchildren are like family members for unmarried Riitta who has been in Uganda for 27 years. She already passed the retirement age but return to Finland feels daunting as her whole life is in Uganda.

The story begins when Riitta and Kata organize a sexual health and gender equality workshop for religious leaders. Leaders and employees from different religion like Muslims, Catholics and Anglicans take part in it. We follow straightforward and mind-opening discussions about sex and religion and gender roles in marriage.

In the middle of their work Riitta and Kata find themselves trapped in a chain of tricky events caused by an anonymous allegation letter, addressed to the Ugandan Parliament. What happens when the social structures are rotten by corruption, tribalism and homophobia and the faith in fair justice is dispensed? The accusation and blackmailing is destroying Riitta's and Kata's life's work and may leave a bitter legacy.

LEAVING AFRICA is a film about the quest for gender equality in Africa and the world's greatest challenge - mitigating the population explosion. The film reveals also the value, content and challenges of development co-operation

DIRECTOR'S WORD

Iiris Härmä

The gender equality is progressing in small steps. I find that it is extremely important to show the work done for equality matters. I am fascinated by how the religion and sexuality are so closely entangled in this film. It has been interesting to witness the dialogues between religious leaders when they exchange their views on issues around sex and sexuality and then reflect these views on the stories of individual women whose lives are directly affected by these values. Somehow this film is very comforting on a way how it brings people of different faiths together in order to tackle common social problems.



I was also interested to seek answers for these questions: what are the benefits of development co-operation? How does it help the community and what is its significance? What are the motives of the aid workers? I'm very happy that I can examine these issues through the emotional story of very unique and warm friendship of Finnish and Ugandan woman and share the humor and wisdom they have.

Director's Biography

Iiris Härmä (b. 1970 Finland) has been involved in film industry since 1999 and is the other founding member of Guerilla Films Ltd. She has produced and directed several award-winning short and feature-length documentaries that have acclaimed international reputation in various film festivals around the world.

Selected Filmography

- Leaving Africa* (2015)
- The Child of Silent Winter* (2012)
- Look at Me* (2010)
- You Live and Burn* (2007)

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Guerilla Films Ltd

Founded 1999 by **Visa Koiso-Kanttila** and **Iiris Härmä**, Guerilla Film's editorial line is to observe and describe the transformation in the world through humane experiences. The philosophy of Guerilla Film is to adopt experimentation, courage, passion and creativity into filmmaking.