



Media Announcement

Date: 21 February 2019 - For Immediate Release

SISTERS OF THE WILDERNESS OFFICIALLY SELECTED FOR RAPID LION INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL AND WOORDFEES ART & FILM FESTIVAL

The award-winning *Sisters of the Wilderness film*, was officially selected for the Rapid Lion International Film Festival in Johannesburg and Woordfees Art and Film Festival in Stellenbosch. Both festivals take place in March. The film had a successful International Premiere at the International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR) in January 2019, to a sold out screening of 700 people. Following the premiere the film was rated 16th on the IFFR audience rating list. It won best South African Feature Documentary at the Durban International Film Festival and qualified for an Oscar consideration.

Sisters of the Wilderness is a social impact feature-length documentary, set in the iMfolozi wilderness, South Africa, in the oldest game park in Africa, the iconic Hluhluwe-iMfolozi park. It tells the story of five young Zulu women venturing into the wilderness for the first time on a journey of healing and self-discovery, reminding us that we are all intimately linked to nature.

The film follows the women as they walk in big game country and camp under the stars, totally surrounded by wild animals. Exposed to the elements and carrying on their backs all they need for the journey, they face emotional and physical challenges, and learn what it takes to survive in the wild.

“We want to ‘transfer’ the audience to an ancient place where no barriers separate human and nature,” says creator / producer, Ronit Shapiro, of One Nature Films, whose experience in the iMfolozi wilderness and a meeting with South Africa’s legendary conservationist, the late Dr Ian Player, inspired her to make this film. “A journey into wilderness is an intense experience where one can expect to undergo a personal transformation.”

The film also explores the plight of the primordial iMfolozi wilderness which is severely threatened by an expanding open-cast coal mine on its border, and an intensifying rhino poaching calamity.

Award-winning South African documentary filmmaker, Karin Slater, directed and shot. “I was born in Empangeni and spent my early years, close to the iMfolozi wilderness. I have a deep love and connection to this area. I know what the wilderness has done for me over the years.” says Karin.



Sisters of the Wilderness is the foundation for an outreach and audience engagement programme that will use multiple platforms to re-connect global audiences with nature, and empower young people, especially women.

“In 2018 we launched a programme of free screenings at rural and under-served communities in South Africa. We are looking to collaborate with organisations that operate in areas of education, conservation, women empowerment and wellbeing in South Africa/Africa and beyond; and we are looking for funding and sponsors to support our expanding programme.” says, Ms Shapiro.

“Additionally, we are keen to screen the film at educational institutions, conferences, events, businesses, policy-makers forums etc. and to collaborate with organisations and individuals who are passionate about young people empowerment and leadership development and re-connecting people and nature. Anyone interested can contact us if they wish to get involved.”

Sisters of the Wilderness will be screened at Rapid Lion on:

6 March 18:00 at The Mannie Manim Theatre*

7 March 12:15 at The Mannie Manim Theatre*

*The Mannie Manim theatre in The Market Theatre in Newtown, Johannesburg.

<http://rapidlion.co.za/rapidlion-films-2019-schedule/?filmcategory=3%20Mannie%20Manim&filmdate=2019-03-07>

Sisters of the Wilderness will be screened at Woordfees on:

4 March 12:30 , Pulp Cinema Neelsie

6 March 12:00, Pulp Cinema Neelsie

<https://woordfees.co.za/event/sisters-of-the-wilderness>

Ticket:

https://online.computicket.com/web/event/sisters_of_the_wilderness/1271819881/0/91078624

The Film's Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/254099298>

Electronic Press Kit: <http://www.sistersofthewilderness.com/assets/sisters-of-the-wilderness-epk-v07.pdf>



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For additional information about the *Sisters of the Wilderness* film and social impact programme please contact:

Creator / Producer, Ronit Shapiro **Email:** ronitshapiro@btinternet.com OR onenaturefilms@gmail.com **Skype:** ronit.shapiro **Tel/ Whatapp:** +44 (0)7971 196446

South African Publicist – Sharlene Versfeld – sharlene@versfeld.co.za +27 (0)83 326 3235

NOTES:

About One Nature Films:

One Nature Films is a social impact film production company based in London, UK, founded by Ronit Shapiro in 2011. Our vision is to create engaging high quality films that inspire, connect and make a difference. We believe in the power of film to make social and environmental impact. One Nature Films has a deep-rooted passion for the environment, the natural world and human society. Our name 'One Nature' reflects our belief in the oneness of humanity and the interconnectedness of all things. We strive to be ethical and socially responsible. One Nature, beyond film-making, is a social enterprise focused on the wellness of people and the environment. Our aim is to bring about a positive social impact in any project we develop.

Key Credits:

Film Director & Cinematographer: Karin Slater

Project Creator / Producer: Ronit Shapiro

Executive Producers: Ken and Liz Whitney, Antonia Bothner, Ronit Shapiro

Editor: Anja Bombelli

Composer: Ian Arber

Sound Design & Mix: Stef Albertyn

Grading & Online Edit: Richard Starkey

Production Company: One Nature Films

Social Media Links:

The project's website: www.sistersofthewilderness.com

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Sistersofthewilderness/>

Twitter <https://twitter.com/WildSisters16>

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/sistersofthewilderness/>

<https://www.instagram.com/onenaturefilms/?hl=en>

YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iA7UcUauAkk&t=2s>

Indiegogo 2017 <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/sisters-of-the-wilderness-part-2-social-impact/x/14796140#/>



Indiegogo 2016 https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/sisters-of-the-wilderness-leadership#/
Highlights from the film's sound track <https://m.soundcloud.com/ianarber/sisters-of-the-wilderness-suite-2>

Key Facts / Additional Information:

Format: Feature Documentary

Genre: Women and Wild Nature

Country: South Africa

Duration: 90 minutes

Completed: February 2018

The Social Impact Key Goals:

- Young people empowerment and leadership development, using the power of wild nature. Special focus on women empowerment.
- Re-connect audiences to wild nature and raise awareness to the value of nature to our well-being.
- Help in the efforts to save the rhino, elephant and other endangered species affected by poaching
- Help the efforts to save the iMfolozi wilderness from the threat of unsustainable mining

Key Themes:

Women Empowerment and Leadership / Wilderness / Nature / Human-Nature Interconnectedness / The iMfolozi Wilderness / South Africa / Rhino / Mining

Unique Points:

- An international award-winning director, cinematographer, composer and editor.
- A timely and highly important story which affects all living things and the planet.
- The project is driven by passion and purpose – We Would Like to Make a Difference.
- It's a green environment-friendly production
- The project is led and made by women and feature women as the main characters
- Live music recorded at Abbey Road Studios.