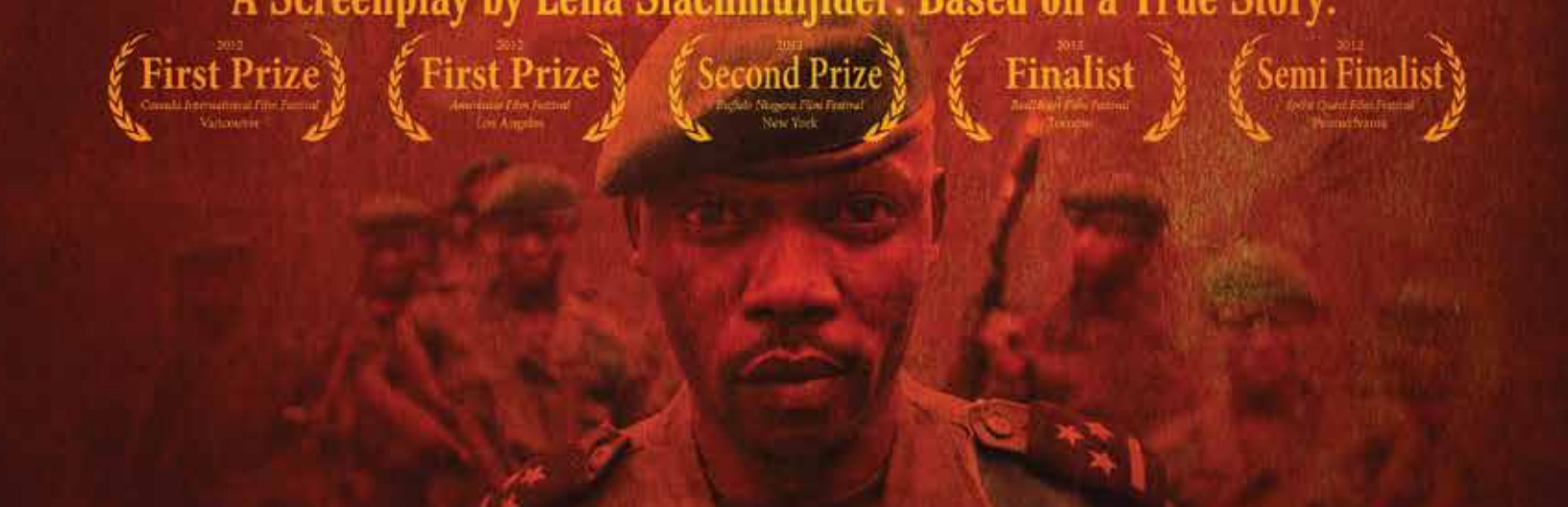




IN A TIME OF HATE, SHE DARED TO LOVE.

RESILIENCE

A Screenplay by Lena Slachmuis. Based on a True Story.



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When a victim of rape in Congo's vicious war realizes she still has something to live for, her courage restores dignity to thousands of others just like her.

SYNOPSIS:

Based on a true story, this inspiring drama celebrates an ordinary person demonstrating extraordinary courage in the midst of tragedy. In an epic story along the lines of *Hotel Rwanda* and *Schindler's List*, *Resilience* puts a human face on the use of rape as a weapon of war as one woman overcomes shame and stigma to create a lifeline of hope for thousands of other women in war-torn Congo.

Masika is the mother of four children, the wife of gorgeous Bosco, a prosperous businessman. This paradise is shattered in 1998, when Congo is invaded. Daniel, a neighborhood boy, is moved by revenge to join the local militia. Masika struggles to rebuild her life. She's rejected by her in-laws, mocked by neighbors, haunted by flashbacks and unable to feed her children. Daniel's initial pride at 'fighting the enemy' soon turns sour as he sees the ugly underbelly of war. When he's ordered to rape, he can't do it.

Masika's uphill march toward healing begins the day she first tells her story, peeling off her shame and guilt. She rediscovers her self-worth as she helps one rape survivor, then ten, then hundreds. But the risks are enormous as she heads into the rebel-filled mountains to assist other rape victims. As the numbers of women seeking shelter and protection at Masika's home grow, they are on the brink of starvation. Masika creates a lifeline when she negotiates a piece of land. Working the land together nourishes the women spiritually, empowering them to shed the stigma of rape and recover the most important thing they lost: their dignity.

Daniel can't take the corruption of war and manages to escape. But his return into civilian life hinges on his ability to take a stand for what is right, even if it means taking risks. Trying to stop the horror is a young strong-minded yet conflicted mixed-race Western woman, battling to let the seemingly indifferent world know of Congo's horrors.

Her breakthrough comes as Masika realizes that breaking the cycle of shame and silence needs to start with her. She boldly tells the world the entire story of that fateful night of Bosco's murder and the gang rapes. The film ends with a proud Masika walking barefoot amidst her field of hope as the words scroll down the screen, "*How many more women will Masika need to help before the violence ends?*"

ABOUT THE KEY ROLES:

Masika's role is a tribute to the power of love to conquer hatred. With a powerful rendition by a mature, profound actor, Masika's journey will resonate with women around the world.

Daniel's role explores the inner struggles of those who are led to rape. How can men do this? The story of a young boy driven by revenge to joining a militia opens a window into the minds of men faced with their hardest choices ever.

Anne's role reveals the challenges of those who try and 'help' and yet face deep challenges as she wavers between fragility and tenacity. When Anne breaks down, it's Masika's courage that will lift her up again.

ABOUT THE SCREENWRITER:

Lena Slachmuislder has lived and worked in Africa for 21 years, including in the Democratic Republic of Congo. She has written radio and television drama and produced documentaries. Inspired by the courage of Congolese women in the face of grueling sexual violence, Lena was moved to take their stories of resilience to a wider audience.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION:

Seeking Financing and Distribution. Filming in South Africa and Canada 2013

**To be part of making this happen, contact Lena Slachmuislder at
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