

PRESS PACKET



today we saw the **FACE OF GOD**

A documentary film about human connection in the face of devastation

DAISY MAY FILMS PRESENTS A FILM BY MERCEDES KANE

"TODAY WE SAW THE FACE OF GOD"

INSPIRED BY **"WALKING IN BROKEN SHOES"** BY SUSAN MAGNUSON WALSH

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY CHICAGO UNIT **TERRY JUN** DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY HAITI UNIT **RYAN ATENHAN** ORIGINAL MUSIC BY **FRED KRON**

EDITED BY **ROSE DAVIS** LOCATION SOUND BY **RYAN ATENHAN** SOUND MIX BY **FORWARD MOTION MEDIA**

TITLE DESIGN BY **MIRANDA WILIMCZYK** PRODUCED BY **MERCEDES KANE** CO-PRODUCED BY **ELIZABETH FRUTH**

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SINCE 2006, SUE WALSH has led numerous medical teams to the remote village of Gramothe, Haiti. There, they have helped thousands of Haitian residents receive the simple care and attention often taken for granted in Western civilization. With only 2.5 doctors per 10,000 inhabitants, easily treated ailments can quickly lead to death

for those unfortunate enough to live in the poorest country in the Western hemisphere. Through their non-profit organization Little by Little, Sue and her husband Brian have led a grass-roots effort to not only alleviate the suffering of these villagers, but to advance their wellness long-term.

In January of 2010, Sue and a team of 23 volunteers set off on what should have been an ordinary medical mission. They had no way of knowing the devastation that would inevitably come. On the final evening of the mission, the team treated their last patient, gathered their supplies and set off towards their sleeping quarters. As they arrived, they felt a jolt of panic as the world began to shake

and tremble violently beneath them. Within hours, the entire team was unexpectedly thrust into the center of one of the worst natural disasters in modern history.

The documentary film, *Today We Saw the Face of God* transcends viewers from their comfortable homes into the poverty-stricken world that Haitians navigate daily. As the team journeys back, they recount the harrowing reality of being first responders in an

unprecedented medical crisis, the impact the experience has had on their lives and what it means to return to Haiti, one year after the catastrophic earthquake.

A surprisingly hopeful look into a tragedy that shook the world, *Today We Saw the Face of God* is a true testament to the power of human connection in the face of unimaginable suffering.



Sue Walsh, above with patients at the clinic in Haiti.

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Today We Saw the Face of God Letter from the Director Mercedes Kane

Ever since my sister-in-law, Sarah, decided to go to Haiti on a medical mission with the non-profit group Little by Little, I have been listening with open and attentive ears to her stories of the people of Haiti and the country's ongoing struggle with poverty, corruption and overall devastating conditions. As I learned more about the plight of Little by Little, as well as their Haitian partner, Mountain Top Ministries, I could not help but feel there was a story there that had to be told, and an awareness that needed to be spread. Even before Sarah embarked on her journey with "Team 7" in January of 2010, her and I spoke of one day creating a film about the country and the missions that have helped so many.

Just as Sarah and her fellow team members were completing their weeklong mission, a catastrophic earthquake struck Haiti, resulting in unimaginable damage and injuries. Immediately following the earthquake, these 23 volunteers became first responders at a nearby hospital. Before they arrived the hospital had limited supplies, one doctor and a handful of nurses. Without their help and determination there's no doubt many of those injured would have suffered indefinitely, or met a fate far worse then that in which they were already facing.

Of course, upon hearing the news back in America, our family was sick with worry and saddened by the destruction the earthquake had caused. I had never felt such anxiety, grief or helplessness, and could not begin to imagine what Sarah and the other volunteers were going through on the front line of the wreckage. When the team finally returned home I was so relieved for her, our family and the other families involved, but the pained sensation of despair remained. We had our loved ones back, but how many others were still suffering to no end in Haiti?

Sarah shared her stories with us – some uplifting, and others rich with a horror I could barely wrap my head around. She was shaken by the experience, but certainly not broken. In fact, she ached to return as soon as she could. She fell in love with the people there, who, despite conditions most Americans cannot even fathom, are full of joy, gratitude and an undying devotion to their loved ones.

It was hearing Sarah's recollection, as well as those at a family counseling session sponsored by Little by Little, that really inspired me to bring these stories to life for a wider audience to see and experience.



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Crew Bios



MERCEDES KANE

PRODUCER / DIRECTOR

Mercedes Kane has an MFA degree in Independent Film and Digital Imaging from Governors State University. Her thesis film, *Hearts of Hope* took home the award for "Best Student Documentary" at the Illinois International Film Festival in 2009.

Other film experience includes roles as associate producer and first assistant director on the feature film *Chicago Heights* (2008), named One of the Best Art Films of 2010 by Roger Ebert. Mercedes also works as a producer for Kindle Communications in Chicago, IL.



RYAN ATENHAN

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
SOUND MIXER

Ryan Atenhan graduated from Full Sail University with a BA in Entertainment Business and an Associates degree in Recording Arts. Currently, he is the creative director and co-owner of Forward Motion Media.

Ryan specializes in audio engineering and producing commercial and film productions. Recent films Ryan has been involved in are *Melody and the Old Sock*, *Date Across America* and *Who is Steve Schubert*.



TERRY JUN

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Designing multimedia, graphics and concept art for more than a decade, Terry's expertise spans a myriad of disciplines. Now behind the camera, those skills are being utilized in a synergetic way to effectively close the gap of the storytelling

experience. A graduate of the University of Illinois at Chicago with an Industrial Design degree, Terry currently owns TMJ Studios. Recent projects include *Melody and the Old Sock* and *The Ghosts*.



ROSE DAVIS

EDITOR

Rose Davis is a graduate of Columbia College and is currently working as a freelance editor in Los Angeles. She recently finished co-editing the documentary *The Curators of Dixon School* and was acted as lead editor *Today We*

Saw the Face of God.



ELIZABETH FRUTH

CO-PRODUCER

Elizabeth Fruth has degrees from Loras College (BA in Media Studies) and Governors State University (MFA in Independent Film and Digital Imaging). Her recent work includes editing the award-winning film, *Hearts of Hope* and two films about Dr.

Martin Luther King's work in Chicago, *The New Battle* and *King in Chicago*.



SANGHOON LEE

PRODUCER, MARKETING & DISTRIBUTION

Sanghoon Lee, a Korean national, moved to the USA in 1999 to attend the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where he pursued his MFA in Filmmaking. He has been working as a director, producer and cinematographer in the independent film community in

the US since 2003. As a producer he has completed a feature documentary, *Edit*, and two dramatic features – *Second Moon* (distribution title: *Art of Love*) and *Chicago Heights* (distribution title: *The Last Soul on a Summer Night*). He is currently working as Producer and Cinematographer on *Hogtown*, an independent feature film project.



MELISSA WESTLEY

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

Melissa Westley graduated with a degree in Media Studies from Loras College and currently works as a meetings planner for a nonprofit group in Madison, WI. She has provided production assistance on a variety of media projects including corporate vid-

eos, documentaries for HBO & The Hallmark Channel, and a concert special for NBC.

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FULL CREDIT LIST

DIRECTOR / PRODUCER

Mercedes Kane

CO-PRODUCER

Elizabeth Fruth

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Terry Jun

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY, HAITI UNIT

Ryan Atenhan

EDITOR

Rose Davis

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Elizabeth Fruth

ONLINE EDITOR

Terry Jun

POST-PRODUCTION ASSOCIATE

Michael Gharidini

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Ryan Atenhan

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ADDITIONAL HAITI FOOTAGE COURTESY OF:

Bound By Haiti, LLC

Wayne Rowe, Outreach International

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Little by Little

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NBC Chicago

Sharon Zurek

Chris Kane

Joe Collins

Lauren Howey

INSPIRED BY the book, *Walking In Broken Shoes* by
Susan Magnuson Walsh

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Forward Motion Media and TMJ Studios

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