

The Cut

A documentary (43 min) on Female Genital Mutilation/Female Genital Cutting (FGM/FGC)
by Beryl Magoko

‘Whoever has seen these girl’s faces through Magokos eyes, will never forget them’
(Töns Wiethüchter in 'humanistischen Online-Magazin Diesseits.de' - 19.2.13)



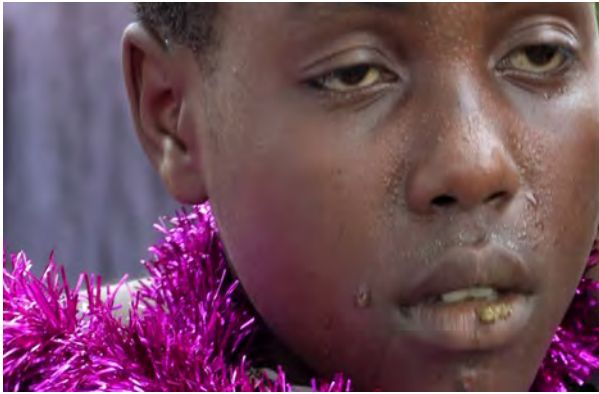
In autumn 2010, Beryl Magoko started her diploma film (Kampala University Film Class) on the sensitive issue of female genital mutilation (FGM) in her home village in Kuria/Kenya. The familiar environment as well as intense research made it possible both to create an intimate ambiance and to get exceptionally close to participants – proponents and opponents of the deeply entrenched tradition: Young girls, elderly women, circumcisers and a number of activists - mostly supported by the church.

The authentic interviews, intertwined with pictures of preparing and executing the ritual as well as activist’s actions to end FGM, generate such a breath-taking atmosphere that it becomes impossible to escape from.



Although FGM was illegalised and officially banned in Kenya in October 2011, the government is still struggling to properly enforce the law. The resistance of many ethnic groups that continue this deep-rooted tradition is still too powerful. Too strong is also the pressure on the girls, who fear to find no husband and consequently decide to be circumcised. Hence it may take a long time until FGM will end in Kenya.

With her film, Beryl Magoko impressively conveys the pressure of Kuria’s society, so the audience is able to witness the girls’ hopelessness, however without stereotypically condemning their culture. This is also particularly accomplished due to Beryl’s her own dramatic experiences and thus knows exactly what to talk about.



‘The film offers a very personal und intimate insight of FGM from the perspective of a person concerned. It magnificently describes the helplessness of the girls, the pressure of a society and authentically collects voices and pictures of an age-old practice: Pictures of Pain, helplessness and fear.’ (Töns Wiethüchter, loc. cit.)

‘The Cut’ is available in English, German and French. A version in Kiswahili is in process. The interviews of the protagonists are subtitled and the commentary is spoken in the respective language.

Up to December 2014 ‘The Cut’ had been screened at 25 international festivals in Africa, Europe and the USA and received eight awards.

More information, press material and a trailer can be found here:

<http://thecutdocumentary.wordpress.com>

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