

United Nations in Malawi

The United Nations Joint Programme for Girls Education in Malawi, used the film "Mercy's Blessing" to spearhead a nation-wide awareness campaign about the Girl Child and education 2015.

Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world. Less than 25% of girls finish primary school, less than 5% of girls finish high school and one out of every two girls is a child bride.
(source: kidsrights.nl)



Releasing the Potential of Youth

In schools and informal youth groups, the film is used to raise awareness about the role of youth as protagonists in society. The film stimulates youth to think about the choices they make in life and to channel their energies towards social action.

In some cases, youth have the opportunity to be trained as animators for junior youth groups: engaging with younger peers aged 11 to 14 to help them develop their powers of expression, capacities for moral reasoning, and an ethic of service to others. The program combines study, mentorship and social action.



Visit our website: mercysblessing.com

Mercy's Blessing

Is there always a choice?



MAYFLOWER CREATIONS in collaboration with FILM ASSOCIATION MALAWI and BAMBINO FOUNDATION present
ALLICK CHAVULA HAZEL ROBERTS FEBBIE MZUNGU LINESS BANDA with MUTISUNGE MZUNGU 'MERCY'S BLESSING' music by SHEMU JOYAH and OVERTON CHIMOMBO
sound designer IVAN MIHOČI editors HEINRICH NÜßLEIN LUIS DECHTIAR director of photography SASHA PROCTOR camera assistant LAWAI NJUSSLIN
assistant producer EMILY BAILEY executive producers MARTIJN KERSTEN and MAY TAHERZADEH written and directed by MAY TAHERZADEH



General Information

Mercy's Blessing

*Short film (30 minutes). Narrative Drama. Filmed in Malawi, Africa.
Written and directed by May Taherzadeh.*

The Story

In a rural village in the heart of Africa a teenage boy has a dream: to raise his younger sister and himself out of poverty. But when a twist of fate shatters his hopes, everything seems lost and he is faced with the ultimate choice.

International awards

Mercy's Blessing has won 12 international film awards including *Best Foreign Film* and *Best Director*. It has been screened in over 20 film festivals worldwide. The film director received the *Influential Figure Award* from *Behind Children International* film festival in China for her work in using the film for social action.

Inspiring Courage for Change

Films can be more than entertainment. Films can inspire us, challenge our assumptions, alter our perspective, raise our awareness and focus our energies. *Mercy's Blessing* has proven to be such a film. We invite people, schools and organizations to use the film to inspire courage for change.

Social Action

*"Art can better awaken such noble sentiments than cold rationalizing,
especially among the mass of the people".*

Betterment of the World

Initiatives have started, great and small, in over 100 countries worldwide, using the film *Mercy's Blessing* as a tool in advancing the discourses about human rights, social justice, world citizenship, and the equality of women and men.

Advancing the Girl Child

The film is being used in schools and community settings to challenge entrenched attitudes towards the Girl Child, also appealing to young men to take greater ownership and responsibility of these so called "girl issues".

The film draws attention to keeping girls in school, girl child marriages, teenage pregnancies, rape and transactional sex.

Global Citizen

The film's universal themes of love and sacrifice, hope and despair, remind us of our common humanity, enabling us to further overcome our cultural differences and prejudices.

