



HEART OF FIRE

About the Director - Luigi Falorni

Luigi Falorni was born in 1971 in Florence, Italy. He studied directing at the Cooperativa Schermobianco in Florence for two years and graduated on the merits of his final project, "La Gabbia di Gesso" (1992). He then studied at the Academy of Television & Film in Munich, where he directed and filmed several award-winning documentaries and short films. His final project at the Munich Academy was nominated for an Academy Award – the documentary feature "The Story of the Weeping Camel" (2003). "Heart of Fire" is Luigi Falorni's first feature-film.

BETA CINEMA PRESENTS A BURKERTBARCEISS PRODUCTION OF TVOOFILM "HEART OF FIRE" INSPIRED BY THE BESTSELLING STORY OF SENAIT G. MEHARI IN COPRODUCTION WITH SENATOR FILM PRODUKTION AICHHOLZER FILMPRODUKTION BETA FILM BAYERISCHER RUNDFUNK AND ARTE IN ASSOCIATION WITH FILMSTUDIOS KENYA AND PONTACT PRODUCTIONS STARRING LETEKIAN MICHAEL SOLIMICHAEL SELETILAHUN DANIEL SEYDUM MAKE-UP BREBOD ECKSTEIN COSTUME DESIGNER BRIGITTA LOHNER-HORBES PRODUCTION DESIGNER VITTORIA SOGNO SOUND DESIGNER ANSAR FRIEDRICH FLORIAN KALTENBERGER SOUND MIXER FLORIAN BECK MUSIC BY ANDREA GUERRA EDITING ANJA POHL DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JUDITH KAUFMANN PRODUCTION MANAGER HERMANN MAURER COMMISSIONING EDITORS CLAUDIA GLADZIEJEWSKI DR. HUBERT VON SPRETTI DR. JOCHEN KÜLSCH DR. ARTE MONIKA LORKOWICZ DR. ARTE ANDREAS SCHREITMÜLLER ARTE JOHANNA HANSMAYR DRP DR-PRODUCERS CHRISTOPH MÜLLER JOSEF AICHHOLZER DIRK SCHÜRDORFF SCRIPT BY LUIGI FALORNI GABRIELE KISTER PRODUCERS ANDREAS BARCEISS SYLVEN BURGEMEISTER GLORIA BURKERT BERND BURGEMEISTER DIRECTED BY LUIGI FALORNI

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HEART OF FIRE

A FILM BY LUIGI FALORNI
"THE STORY OF THE WEEPING CAMEL"

INSPIRED BY SENAIT G. MEHARI'S
BESTSELLER



In a land fighting for independence, a young girl soldier refuses to kill...

The ten year-old AWET has spent her entire life in an orphanage, where her naturally fiery temperament readily absorbed the lessons on the sins of oppression and the value of self-worth.

Her hopes for a normal and happy family life are swiftly shattered when after a short and unpleasant stay with her father, a fanatical supporter of the freedom fighters, both she and her older sister FREWEYNI are unceremoniously delivered into the hands of the Jehba – the Eritrean Liberation Front.

Having been taught to fight oppression at all costs, Awet at first willingly chants songs of liberation along with the guerilla group and, too young to bear arms, joins the other children in various support functions around the secret camp. Still, her courageous sense of self-worth quickly puts her at odds with the group's militant commander, MA'AZA.

It's not long before increasingly grave attacks mounted by their sworn enemies, the Shabia, create the necessity of arming even the youngest children with rifles. Although barely able to shoulder the powerful weapon, Awet dutifully learns to load and fire it.

But when the young soldier first sees the enemy dead and realizes that they are just as human as she, Awet makes a solemn oath never to kill. Labeled a traitor by Ma'aza, Awet nevertheless stands her ground and fights the violence in the disarming way that only a child could.

Background & Facts

Throughout the world, about 300,000 children are active as soldiers in government armies, various militias and military campaigns run by local warlords. Millions of children died in action, others wounded, many crippled for life.

In the early 80's, Eritrea was still embroiled in the fierce fight for liberation from their stronger neighbor, Ethiopia, which had begun in 1961. The freedom fighters themselves had split into two warring factions, the Jehba and the Shabia, leaving the violence-plagued country a virtual no-man's land...especially for children.

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