

Press information for the 90 min documentary „In Search...“

(02.03.20)

Logline

A courageous and determined young woman who talks about her experiences going through Female Genital Mutilation and the need to undergo a reconstructive surgery on her genitals.

Synopsis

A journey to womanhood...

As a young girl growing up in a rural village in Kenya, Beryl thought that all women in the world have to be "circumcised" by going through Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) at a young age; therefore she went through the ritual at tender age as a rite of passage. Little did she know about the effects of FGM/C.

Many years later she learns about a rather new reconstructive surgery that promises to give back what was lost once. In her author-driven documentary "In Search..." she explores the emotional dilemma by talking to other women who went through similar experiences. Beryl is trying to find out whether she should undergo this surgery, a journey into the unknown for a second time: "Will I be making another terrible mistake?" or "Am I ready to face my trauma?" are the questions that drive this authentic and emotionally quest into the very self of a young woman.

CREDITS:

Director: Beryl Magoko

Cinematographer: Jule Katinka Cramer

Editor: Fani Schoinopoulou BFS

Producer: Beryl Magoko & Jule Katinka Cramer

Sound: Malin Schmid, Johannes von Barserswisch

Sound Design: Tim Elzer

Music: Fatoumata Diawara, Matthias Wittwer, Lennart Saathoff

Production: Kunsthochschule für Medien Köln / Academy of Media Art Cologne

Funding: Film und Medien Stiftung NRW

Worldwide distribution: Rushlake Media GmbH

"In Search..." will be shown in **German cinemas from 6.2.20** (International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM) – distributed by [Arsenal Tübingen](#) .

Awards

"In Search..." received the following awards:

3.11.18 **Audience award "Leipziger Ring"** at **DOK-Leipzig** (Internationales Leipziger Festival für Dokumentar- und Animationsfilm).

21.11.18 **Best Student Documentary** at **IDFA Amsterdam** (International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam)

14.4.19 **Audience award** at the "**International Women's Film Festival Dortmund | Cologne**"

February 2019 "**Besonders wertvoll**" by **FBW**

https://www.fbw-filmbewertung.com/film/in_search

18.5.19 „megahertz Student Award“ at DOK.fest München.

25.5.19 „New Talent Award“ at Docs Barcelona.

6.6.19 **“Beste Dokumentation (Eberhard-Fechner-Preis)”** at **“Studio Hamburg Nachwuchspreis”**

21.6.19 **“Nestor Almendros award for courage in filmmaking”** at **Human Rights Watch Film Festival** (New York)

28.06.19 **"AWARD of the “STZ – Leserjury”** at the German Documentary award (Deutscher Dokumentarfilm Preis) / SWR Doku Festival in Stuttgart

21.09.19 **„Grand Prix Documentaire“** at **FIFFS** (Festival International du Film de Femmes de Salé /Morrocco)

11.10.19 **“GRAND PRIX DU DOCUMENTAIRE ALLIANCE CINE CARAIBES”** at **Festival International du Film des Droits Humains de Guadeloupe, Monde En Vues.**

30.10.19 **„Ganadoras del Voto del Público 2019 - Documenta“** at **directed by women / Muestra Internacional de Cine de Zaragoza realizado por Mujeres** Festival (Zaragoza/Spain)

3.11.19 **„Doku-Biber“** at **Biberacher Filmfestspielen** (Biberach/Germany)

6.11.19 **“XV PANORAMA INTERNACIONAL COISA DE CINEMA” - Menção Honrosa (Honorable Mention)**

8.11.19 **SI STAR@FILMZ-Audience AWARD** at **“Filmz – Festival des deutschen Kinos”** (Mainz / Germany) -

16.11.19 **“Best Documentary”** at **“AFRIFF – AFRICA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL”** (Lagos/Nigeria)

21.12.19 **“The Grand Prize“** (Dr. Said Yaktine) at **AFIFDOK** (Khouribga/ Morrocco)

2.2.2020 **„Special Mention“** at **BIDF – Budapest International Documentary Festival** (Budapest/Hungary)

28.2.2020 **“Sonderpreis”** at **SI STAR Filmpreis** (Berlin/Germany)

29.2.2020 **„Mention Speciale“** at **Film Festival Femme Afrique** (Dakar/Senegal)

For her longstanding filmic analysis with the topic of FGM/C Beryl Magoko received two additional awards:

On 13.11.18 **„Großen Kunstpreis der Freunde der KHM“** (Academy of Media Arts Cologne)

On 26.11.18 „Förderpreis des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen für junge Künstlerinnen und Künstler“

More information:

<http://insearch.magoko.net/>