

# Forgotten Sex Slaves Comfort Women in the Philippines

Documentary, HD, 46 minutes, Tagalog/English with English subtitles

A film by: Björn Jensen

Production: Ginger Foot Films, 2015

Country: Germany



## Press Kit



Ginger Foot Films

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During the Second World War thousands of women in Asia were forced to work as prostitutes for Japanese soldiers. Some of them were still teenagers. They were raped, often beaten and abused. The Japanese called them “ianfu” or Comfort Women. After the war the survivors struggled to continue with their lives, hiding what many considered to be a “shame”. After having been silent for more than 50 years they have started to tell their stories. Until today, they are waiting for an adequate compensation and official acknowledgment of their victimization. They are in their Eighties and Nineties now and time is running out for them.

This intimate, touching film tells the story of nine *comfort women* in the Philippines and follows their efforts to find justice before they die.

Authors: Björn Jensen, Crisanta Alcaraz-Jensen, Bettina Ehrhardt –Editor: Alexander Laudien –  
Music: Jörg Winkelmann – Director & Producer: Björn Jensen - Production: Ginger Foot Films



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## LOGLINE

Documentary portrait of victims of Japanese rape camps in the Philippines during World War II, who are still fighting for official recognition, adequate compensation and an apology.

## BACK STORY OF THE FILM

“Forgotten Sex Slaves” is the first international documentary on the issue of Comfort Women in the Philippines. The project was pitched at several festivals and markets, including GZDOC in Guangzhou, Latin Side of the Doc, Mexico City and Asian Side of the DOC Kuala Lumpur. The film has been completely self financed with a crowd funding campaign and in-kind contributions. No TV station or film fund supported the production of this film. It took several years to be finished.

## BIOGRAPHY OF THE DIRECTOR

In over 25 years, Björn Jensen worked as supervising producer, executive producer and consultant on dozens of documentary and feature films, many of them award-winning. Credits include “Quiet Days in Hollywood” with Hilary Swank, “Montreal Symphony” (winner best Canadian documentary at FIFA), “Under the Ice” (winner best documentary at Kuala Lumpur Festival), “Scientists Under Attack” (winner 11 international festival awards) and many more. He holds a Master Degree in German and English Literature (MA) and an International Business MBA and is board member of several film associations. Björn worked for 15 years as Head of Production for the production company [Kick Film GmbH](#) before he founded Ginger Foot Films in 2007.

With Ginger Foot Films he offers consulting services to documentary and feature film producers in the areas of development, financing, production and distribution. For [German Documentaries](#) Björn Jensen organizes delegations of German independent documentary producers to international festivals and markets. He is consultant for the distinguished market [Sunny Side of the Doc](#) for the Asian market and the Chinese production company [China Film Assist](#). As treasurer he is member of the board of directors of [AG DOK](#) (the largest association of independent film professionals in Germany), member of the advisory council of German Films, member of the tax expert committee of the German Cultural Council, member of the evaluation committee of Bild-Kunst, member of the friend's association of Munich University of Television and Film and member of the friend's association of Dok.Fest Munich. Björn moderates panel discussions and pitchings. He co-developed the Asian-European training initiative [DOCROADS](#), teaches at film schools in Europe and Asia and holds regularly international workshops in production, financing and pitching.

Forgotten Sex Slaves is his first longer film as a director.

## COMPANY PROFILE

Ginger Foot Films is an International Media Consulting and Film Production company. Since 2007 we offer consulting services to documentary and feature film producers in the areas of development, financing, production and distribution. Based on years of experience in setting up numerous international productions we will help you to develop your story for an international audience, prepare you for pitching sessions and assist you in setting up calculation and financing plans, which meet the requirements of national film funds as well as international co-production treaties. We can help you to finance your films by providing access to international co-production partners, TV stations and distributors.

## CREDITS

This film is dedicated to the courageous women,  
who shared their stories with us

The original drawings have been done by  
Lola Remedios Felias

The song "It's so hard to be a Comfort Woman"  
was written and performed by  
Lola Pilar Frias

with  
(in order of their appearance)

Lola Pilar Frias  
Lola Hilaria V. Bustamante  
Lola Virginia Villarma  
Lola Simeona N. Ramil  
Lola Carmencita Ramel  
Lola Narcisa Claveria  
Lola Anastacia C. Cortez  
Lola Benita Alaganza  
Rechilda A. Extremadura  
Lola Ortencia Martinez

and many more

Interviews	Crisanta Alcaraz-Jensen
Cinematographer	Björn Jensen
Editor	Alexander Laudien
Composer	Jörg Winkelmann
Sound Mixer	Björn Jensen
	Gino Abarintos
Narrator	Joel Olano
Re-recording Mixer	Dario Manns
Original Drawings	Remedios Felias
After Effects	Dario Manns
Title Design	Adrian von Sparr
Color Grading	Dario Manns
Translations	Crisanta Alcaraz-Jensen
Production Assistants	Nicolas von Hänisch
	Johannes Scherzinger
	Anna Seeßlen
	Claudia Seibl
	Rafael Selzer
	Adrian von Sparr
Promotional Trailer	Anna Seeßlen
Social Media	Claudia Seibl
Driver	Jay-R
	Noli Neyra
Legal Advice	Christian Füllgraf

Insurances	Caninenberg & Schouten
Assistant Director	Crisanta Alcaraz-Jensen
Authors	Björn Jensen
	Crisanta Alcaraz-Jensen
	Bettina Ehrhardt
Director	Björn Jensen
Producer	Björn Jensen

#### THE PRODUCTION WOULD LIKE TO THANK

Rechilda A. Extremadura

Alcaraz Family  
Bettina Ehrhardt  
Evelyna Galang  
Armin Moritz  
Dr. Walter Ziegler

LILA-Pilipina  
Gabriela Philippines  
Asian Women's Fund  
Die Medienakademie  
Holiday Inn Ortigas, Manila  
Audio Network, Jean Paul Ditmarsch  
Footage Farm Ltd., Gintare Kriauceliunaite

#### CROWD FUNDING FINANCERS

Ronald Apple  
Deborah Bowman  
Ava Darling  
Jacqui Hocking  
Ulrike Landt  
Jörg Langer  
Sonja Malinka  
Jennifer Vaughn  
Carol Welch

Music composed and performed by Jörg Winkelmann  
courtesy of Alcaraz Musikverlag, © 2015

Public Domain Footage: "This is the Philippines"  
U.S. Army / Internet Archive

Original drawings: Remedios Felias  
courtesy of LILA-Pilipina

Photographs: courtesy of LILA-Pilipina

The film is available on  
[www.onlinefilm.org](http://www.onlinefilm.org)

A  
GINGER FOOT FILMS  
Production



In co-operation with  
bce films & more GmbH

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## TECHNICAL DETAILS

HD, 46 minutes, stereo, 16:9  
Year of production: 2015  
Language: English and Tagalog (Filipino)  
Versions: English narration and English subtitles, German subtitles  
Screening formats: DCP, Blu-Ray

## TRAILER AND ONLINE SCREENER

The trailer of "Forgotten Sex Slaves" is available here:  
<https://vimeo.com/124329187>

The online screener of the film (HD with English subtitles) is available here:  
<https://vimeo.com/119540615>

To receive the password, please contact us under this email: [jensen@gingerfoot.de](mailto:jensen@gingerfoot.de)

## STILLS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

To receive stills and photographs or the password for the online screeners, please contact us under this email: [jensen@gingerfoot.de](mailto:jensen@gingerfoot.de)

## WEBSITES

Film website: [http://www.gingerfoot.de/forgotten\\_en.html](http://www.gingerfoot.de/forgotten_en.html)

Password protected online screener: <https://vimeo.com/119540615>

Password protected online screener: <https://filmfreeway.com/project/forgotten>



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