



**WOMEN
ARE
HEROES**

A FILM DIRECTED BY JR



SEMAINE
DE LA CRITIQUE
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-SOCIAL ANIMALS-
PARIS

Studio 37

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WOMEN ARE HEROES

A FILM DIRECTED BY JR

27.11 PRODUCTION presents a film by JR

WRITERS JR / Emile Abinal

DIRECTORS OF PHOTOGRAPHY Patrick Ghiringhelli / JR / Dan Lowe & Anthony Dickenson

SOUND Philippe Welsh

EDITOR Hervé Schneid (A.C.E.)

ADDITIONAL EDITOR Anne-Sophie bion

ORIGINAL MUSIC Massive Attack / Patrice Bart Williams / Jean-Gabriel Becker / Outlines

DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION François Hamel

DIRECTOR OF POST-PRODUCTION Mélanie Karlin

PRODUCERS Juliette Favreul Renaud / Agathe Sofer

COPRODUCTION COMPANIES 27.11 PRODUCTION / ARTE France Cinéma / DUM DUM FILMS / SOCIAL ANIMALS / STUDIO 37

WITH PARTICIPATION OF Canal + / ARTE France

FRENCH DISTRIBUTION REZO FILMS / STUDIO 37 - 2010



CONCEPT

The film *Women Are Heroes* transports you to Africa, Asia and South America. French artist JR takes you to places you may fantasize or hear about on television when some dramatic event occurs, but which are far from the usual touristic spots. Working undercover, he transforms streets, buildings, shantytowns, favelas and entire villages into art galleries, forcing viewers to see art that they might not otherwise encounter.

His motive for taking us so far afield is to raise some fundamental issues.

Women Are Heroes talks about women who sometimes walk side by side with death and often embrace life, moving from tears to laughter. They are generous women who own nothing, but are willing to share, women who have painful pasts and want to build bright futures. Searching for what is common in their gaze, we come closer to what is universal: the human factor.

As a contemporary artist who grew up with Internet and digital images, JR experiments different cinematographic techniques and creates his own way to tell stories.



STRUCTURE

Action takes place in 3 continents and main countries: Brazil, Kenya and Cambodia. The film starts in the Brazilian favela, where we see JR's huge posters and reactions of the women on these. They tell their stories. Then we go to Kenya and again, in a context of disorder and riot, see how women deal with life there. Finally, Cambodia shows us the violence of expropriation, through women's eyes and interviews.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The film *Women Are Heroes* enables me to keep the promise I made to the women who participated in the project "to take their story around the world". This is what they asked me in the shantytown of Kibera as well as in the favela of Morro da Providencia.

With my film, I wanted to pay tribute to women whose dignity is underlined by posting their portraits on the walls of their village and of the whole world. When I met them, women expressed their difficulties in a world dominated by men. In front of the camera, they shared their nightmares, but they also offered their joy and their energy ...

Women Are Heroes has been filmed in places only featured by the media when « an event » happens. When I went there, it was not to amplify the message of the media, nor to contradict it, but to show a reality hidden by the outlook for something sensational. And it is in the context of an ignored normality that the women of these places take the initiative and invite the media to show what they have built, not what they have suffered.

CHECK IMAGES + VIDEOS www.jr-art.net /// <http://28millimetres.com/women>

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