

January 27, 2009

BR-Online\_English Translation

**Eritrea at the time of civil war: Young Awet's father gives her and her older sister to an army of freedom fighters as child-soldiers. Carla Guttmann accompanied the director Luigi Falorni during the filming of this gripping drama.**

Eritrea at the time of civil war: Young Awet is raised by nuns until her older sister takes her back home. Awet's ruthless father gives both of his daughters to one of the competing armies of freedom fighters. Awet is quickly exposed to the brutalities of civil war. But her sense for justice and her embroidered "Heart of Fire", a talisman given to her at the end of her time in a monastery, help her find a way out of the terror of war.

The Oscar-nominated director Luigi Falorni filmed "Heart of Fire" with great effort on location. The world-premiere was celebrated as part of the 58th International Film-festival in Berlin on February 14, 2008. Carla B. Guttmann (Director), Nicola Hens (Cinematography), and Nadine Schnappinger (Sound), three students at the Media department at the Bauhaus-University Weimar, are covering the filming for two and half months, starting in July 2007.

The completion of the project proved to be a true test of patience, courage and endurance for the director, the team and the actors from the refugee-camp Kakuma -- continually threatened by the Eritrean secret service, while confronted with the harsh realities of flash floods and other natural calamities. "Making Heart of Fire" thus captures the drama behind the scenes and might possibly be the most difficult film production since Herzog's "Fitzcarraldo".