

SEMILLAS DE KIVU

A documentary by **Néstor López** and **Carlos Valle**

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TOLEDO

BASED ON THE BOOK BY CONGOLESE AUTHOR DENIS MUKWEGE



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SYNOPSIS

In Kivu (Democratic Republic of Congo), one of the most violent regions in the world, a group of women arrives at Panzi Hospital after being gang-raped by the guerrillas in the area who control the mineral resources. Their psychological treatment before reintegration confronts them with the dilemma of accepting the babies they have given birth to as a result of the rapes, finding in the question of motherhood a way to resist.



DIRECTORS

Néstor LÓPEZ

Mama - Goya Award Best Short
Documentary (producer)

The Masterpiece - Sundance Special
Price of Jury (producer)

Carlos VALLE

Nacer - Goya Awards Nominee Best
Short Animation (producer)

MUSIC COMPOSER

Arturo CARDELÚS

Buñuel in the Labyrinth of the Turtles -
Annecy 2019 Jury Award
European Film Awards 2019 Best Film

PRODUCTION

FILMAKERS MONKEYS

Mama, The Masterpiece, Anticlímax

AUNTIE FILMS

Nacer, Segundito, La silla de la vida

UNIKO

Unicorn Wars, Psiconautas, Decorado

INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTOR

La Luna Productions



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NÉSTOR LÓPEZ AND CARLOS VALLE

This documentary set in the **most violent area** on the planet according to the UN and one of the worst in the world to be a woman. This place is the **Kivu** region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

It is a documentary that deals with the **recovery of dignity** when it has been **unjustly stolen** from you. We are talking about the second largest genocide in history, with 5 million dead, surpassed only by World War II, but this genocide has not ended. A group of women fight every day to fix this conflict, one of them is **Neema**, our protagonist, only 16 years old, with a 2-year-old baby, whom she had at 14. She lives with 350 other women, and nearby there are more barracks with more women, in total, more than 500 as of today, in something that looks like a refugee camp, with barbed wire, weapons... but no, it is a hospital. There you can find Panzi Hospital, founded by **Denis Mukwege**, a gynecologist who reconstructs the sexes of these women. In 2018, he received the **Nobel Peace Prize**.



We have been working in the Kivu area for **over 6 years**. This is our third project there. We were completely struck by the women of Panzi. They represent **everything we admire** in the human being, the ability to overcome any problem through **work and love**, and that it's always worth living. I believe it is of vital importance that white European men begin to have black, African, and female role models. It is necessary to broaden our references in life to better understand the world. These women are reintegrating themselves. **And this is the only way to resist**. When we spoke with Dr. Mukwege for the first time, he told us that the problem is the disregard of international organizations since a genocide of this magnitude can only be addressed through an International Tribunal, which would be the third in the history of humanity after the Nuremberg Trials and the 1994 Rwandan genocide. Until International Action acts, victory lies in the success of Neema's and the women of Panzi's reintegration.

REFUSING TO LET VIOLENCE HINDER YOUR LIFE IS A FORM OF RESISTANCE.

A young Black woman with short, dark hair styled in small braids is seated in the foreground, looking off to the side with a contemplative expression. She is wearing a light pink, short-sleeved t-shirt. The background is a dense forest with tall, thin trees. In the middle ground, a weathered, dark-colored train car is visible, partially obscured by the trees. The ground is covered in dry leaves and twigs. The overall lighting is soft and natural, suggesting an outdoor setting during the day.

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