



goodpitch
EUROPE 2018

THE GIRL IN THE MIRROR

PRESENTED AT
GOOD PITCH EUROPE 2018

TONE GRØTTJORD-GLENNE & AYAN YUSUF



Ayan: Hello, my name is Ayan and I'm part of the Impact Team for the film, and this is Tone, the director of The Girl in the Mirror.

Tone: When I was a child, every once in a while, the neighbour girl would knock on our door in the mornings, wanting food. My mum would let her in, fed her, and send her back home to her abusive parents. This memory still stays with me.

My story is not unique, we know that one child in every classroom lives with sexual abuse. Why is it so hard for us all to see, believe and act?

On average it takes 17 years before people speak about their abuse, the majority of the people who are ready to tell their story are already over 30.

What if we could tell this story from the perspective of a young person - what could that unlock?

But to ask a young person to carry such a story, is a huge responsibility, and would it even be possible?

We sought help at Statens Barnehus, in the police department, and after months of building trust, they said, listen Tone, we had a girl here that we could never forget. Maybe she would speak to you. She has just turned 18. We can introduce her to you.

That girl was Emilie. I was strongly moved by Emilie's gentle and kind personality. Her quiet strength and her strong urge to own her own story. After many conversations we decided to make a film together, to follow Emilie into adult life as she is trying to make her voice heard, to find her place in life. To understand Emilie you need to know to know her backstory.

Emilie was raped by her stepfather from the age of 6. Only 12 years old, she told her classmate what her stepfather forced her to do at home. He was sentenced to 6 years in prison. Emilie was heavily traumatised and was moved into foster care. Her mom, trying to protect her three other children, made the decision to move, hoping to be able to start all over again.



They live apart for five years. Just before Emilie's 18th birthday her mum calls her and asks if Emilie wants to move back home again. But mum had never told Emilie's younger siblings, why their biological father was in prison or why Emilie had been away for all these years. Thinking it would be for the best of everyone, once again Emilie is silenced.

In the film Emilie is trying to find her identity, as a young woman, as a daughter, a sister and citizen. We stay close to her in every frame, trying to grasp how it feels to be Emilie - and now it is our turn to listen to her.

GIRL IN THE MIRROR TRAILER:

<https://vimeo.com/291247332>

PW: goodpitch

Over the course of the film we see how Emilie slowly manage to start a conversation with her mother about their secret past. Together they decide to tell her half siblings, what their father did to Emilie.

The courage it took for Emilie, and for her mother, to break her family taboo is tremendous and shows the strength that Emilie has as a character and the hope that lays within her story.

Ayan: Emilie bravely chose to be a part of this film to make a difference. We will not let her down. Our film and the tools we are creating will make it easier for adults and children to talk about abuse.

In Norway our impact campaign partners include, UNICEF, Statens Barnehus and the University of Southeast Norway and will be put into action from November 2019. The campaign includes a theatrical release, community screenings, and school screenings. Our most ambitious contribution is the creation of an international digital platform offering the tools that every single kindergarten, middle and high school teacher needs in order to act when faced with abuse. There were so many adults around Emilie that had the possibility to see her and ask her if something was wrong. Yet, no one did.

Emilie's own teacher wishes she had had the training and tools she needed to make the vital intervention. So we have created them.

THE PITCH



We are currently piloting our educational journey for teachers and teacher-students at the university, and the feedback is overwhelming. So, how can you help?

We need €60,000 to finish the film and we are looking for broadcasters, distributors and other partners that can share Emilie's story in their countries. We need partners to help us develop Educational Storytelling further for other relevant professions - just as we have done for teachers. We need a tech-company to help us develop the design and user friendliness of the platform. We are also looking for partners to help us reach more universities and workplaces around the globe.

And to pull this off we are looking for funders. We need to find €400,000 and a lot of LOVE.

Tone: Thank you so much for listing, we are looking forward to hear your ideas and thoughts - so we can make the biggest impact possible.

Good Pitch

ON THE DAY



WHO WAS AT THE TABLE?



Tine Fischer, CPH:DOX, Denmark

Has offered to screen the film at the festival in March if complete. Also run a financing forum for films in post-production and would like to invite the film there. They run a distribution company in Denmark to 50 cinemas, where a recent campaign on a film called "Violence", on domestic violence, took place and would like to share this campaign with the film team.

Rochelle Leah Bernstein, Child Safety Pledge, Unites States

Offered to share the film with her network in the US, including RAINN - the largest sexual assault organisation in the US, and Darkness to Light - who work on policy and education.

Jacqui Hunt, Equality Now, UK

"Sexual violence is invisible in terms of governance". The film should help with prevention, and can be taken to policymakers and to people to make a difference. We need to have the film in other languages and to pitch it to other funders.

Tetiana Sykes, EuroChild, Belgium

The complexity of dealing with trauma resonates with EuroChild. Offered to help raise awareness, promote the film to national partners and explore the possibility of doing an awareness campaign.

Margje de Koning, IKON / EO, The Netherlands

Interested in showing the film on Dutch TV and building a campaign around it as well as to extend its platform in The Netherlands.

Aud Aamodt, Statens Barnehus, Norway

"We know it is controversial to use a young person in a film, but in order to change something we need to be brave. We gave Emilie the opportunity to tell her own story. This is important for education purposes for all people facing the taboo of sexual abuse."

Runi Børresen, University South of Norway

Proud that the University is part of this. Students will find this to be a useful tool. The film raises awareness on how sexual abuse is a global public health problem and a violation to an individual's human rights.

Egle Budreviciute, AISA, The Netherlands

AISA can help with providing a platform for community discussion and education. They offered to include the film in a lecture series combined with events and storytelling. They can organise a session with universities that they can collaborate with and with other partners to discuss this issue

AUDIENCE MICROPHONE



Emilie, Film's Protagonist

Thanked the audience and explains why she needs to be a voice for those (who have suffered from sexual abuse) in the same situation.

Peter Elting, Stenden University, The Netherlands

Have a network of active citizenship and international teachers. Is interested in the educational programme and will share it with other universities around the world.

Jenny Ornborn, Swedish Film Institute, Sweden

"This film can teach adults about tackling sexual abuse." Offered to connect the film team to partners and companies in Sweden.

Happy Mwende Kinyli, Mama Cash, The Netherlands

We are interested in funding and putting the film team in touch with the Rahi Foundation in India, which tackles sexual abuse in communities.

Andy Jones, Radio Film, UK

He is a governor of a primary school in the North of England, which is part of a group of seven schools. He knows people like Emilie and wants to pilot the educational programme in his schools network and share it with police psychologists and at university teacher trainings.



Tetiana Sykes
@TetianaSykes



Very privileged to speak on behalf of @Eurochild_org at the #GoodPitch Europe 2018.

Thank you, Emilie, for your courage and inspiration. Thank you @TheDocSociety for making voices like Emilie's heard.



Missing Children EU
@MissingChildEU



Very touched to hear about the story of Emilie, the protagonist in the documentary Girl in the mirror at #goodpitch that follows Emilie dealing with the sexual abuse of her stepfather between the ages of 6-12. Child sexual abuse happens everyday and everywhere @TheDocSociety

11:13 AM - 1 Oct 2018

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ON THE DAY



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CONTACT



Good Pitch Europe 2018

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The Girl in the Mirror

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