

10 Films on DVD for

# Health Care in Africa

## Everything's Fine

A Film by Daisy Lamothe



EVERYTHING'S FINE portrays doctor Seydou Konate's everyday routine, working in a small community health care center in Southern Mali, with limited staff and technical facilities and where he is the only doctor for more than 40,000 inhabitants. Without electricity or telephones, isolated by two rivers with no bridges, and a 10-hour drive on a dirt road from the capital of Bamako, doctors like Konate have their work cut out for them as they are challenged to provide quality healthcare for little money.

Through its engaging portrait of this self-styled "bush doctor," who must try to prevent epidemics of cholera and AIDS as well as deal with the all-too-common but no less life-threatening problems of dehydration and diarrhea, EVERYTHING'S FINE offers revealing insights into the challenges of health care in Africa today.

*"Recommended! What makes this film stand out... is the intimacy created through the intertwining of Malian culture."*—**Educational Media Reviews Online**

*"A wonderful, humorous and serious documentary... a beautiful portrait of a village, its people, and its doctor."*—**allAfrica.com**



 **Award of Commendation,  
2007 Society for Visual  
Anthropology/  
AAA Film Festival**

 **Heritage Award Winner,  
2006 Cinéma du Réel**

 **2006 Montreal World  
Film Festival**

78 min | color | 2006  
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$398 ~~now~~ \$298  
**Order #HCA-01**

## Ladies in Waiting

A Film by Dieudo Hamadi & Divita Wa Lusala



Taking in the wives of the unemployed, of unpaid government employees, the Kitambo maternity clinic in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo has to cope with its patients' lack of money. And negotiations are tough between the administration and the women. As long as the bill remains unsettled they are kept at the clinic, which only increases the cost of their stay. And here everything has a price, even a birth certificate. The women's protests against their poor accommodations or their claims that their husbands' pay is overdue can change nothing. The female administrator won't budge an inch. If you've no money, you stay put. "Hold me hostage instead of my wife" offers one man. A long suffering manager, herself at the mercy of the system, must negotiate collateral with them: a celebration dress, a pair of earrings, a suitcase, so they will return and pay in full.



"Hard-hitting, eye-opening expose."—Neil Young, **The Hollywood Reporter**

"*LADIES IN WAITING* channels Frederick Wiseman as it chronicles the bureaucratic dysfunctions of a Kinshasa maternity ward."—**Hot Docs**

 **2010 Berlin International Film Festival**

 **2010 Cinéma du Réel**

 **2010 Hot Docs**

24 min | color | 2009  
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$248  
**Order #HCA-02**

LADIES IN WAITING is an intimate, all-too-human reminder of the ways economic forces play out in even the best-intentioned healthcare institutions in poor countries affecting not only the institutions, but health care workers and patients alike.

LADIES IN WAITING eloquently exposes both the squalid hospital system and the endemic poverty of Congo without, thankfully, pointing fingers, leaving that instead to the viewer.

## State of Mind: Healing Trauma

A Film by Djo Munga



Is it possible for a country overwhelmed by the legacy of genocide to successfully heal? This is the underlying question in this documentary about the use of psychotherapy to talk about loss, forgiveness, and finding new memories to overlay the traumatic older ones.

Psychotherapist Dr. Albert Pesso is invited to a village in the Democratic Republic of Congo where many people suffer from years of post traumatic stress disorder. Dr. Pesso is there to train health practitioners in symbolic interaction, a form of psychotherapy whereby patient's needs are expressed and reflected upon through bodily movements in group settings among others with shared trauma in order to cope with painful past memories. These meetings provide an intriguing insight into how patients of any group therapy session can positively affect one another's treatment.

Munga captures these exercises and candid heartbreaking interviews with the participants.



"*Al Pesso, a Master therapist from the U.S. demonstrates how the language of trauma and recovery transcends language and culture, and that it is possible to install a sense of safety and protection in even the most traumatized individuals. A remarkable achievement.*"

—**Bessel van der Kolk, MD, Director, National Complex Trauma Treatment Network**

 **2010 International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam**

52 min | color | 2010  
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$298  
**Order #HCA-03**



## Donka: X-Ray of an African Hospital


A Film by Thierry Michel



Donka Hospital in Conakry, Guinea—the largest public hospital in the country has over the years accumulated substantial debt that neither the Guinean state nor international agencies will pay. Compelled to develop its financial autonomy, the hospital enforces a pay-as-you-go policy at a high human cost. In this hospital of last resort, families strive to save a child or parent, but without money, there are no drugs and little chance for survival.

The hospital's plight typifies the financial crisis affecting the entire African health sector.

*"In the course of revealing the state of basic services in West Africa... where health care is available only for those who can afford it... DONKA also illuminates the dedication of the few who struggle against the darkness."*—San Francisco International Film Festival

 **Golden Spire Award Winner, 1997 San Francisco Film Festival**

 **Best of the Festival and Best International Documentary, 1997 Hot Docs**

59 min | color | 1996  
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$348 ~~now~~ \$298  
**Order #HCA-04**

## Guinea Worm: The End of the Road

A Film by Sharon Baker

Once prevalent throughout Asia, Africa, and the Americas, Guinea worm now occurs in just 13 countries. The only real obstacle to complete eradication of this disease is not technical, or a lack of money, but war. Presently, 80% of the cases in the world are in Sudan, virtually all in the war ravaged south of the country.

From the strategic planning level involving the World Health Organization to governments' involvement in implementing workable plans for their countries; to the actual field doctors and villagers who are the "last battleground," GUINEA WORM is a case study of a hugely successful, major health initiative at work in the third world.

As it demonstrates how obstacles such as illiteracy and inadequate funding are confronted, GUINEA WORM makes the case for improving health care in underdeveloped nations.



**★★★★[4 out of 4 stars]! Highly Recommended!**  
*An ultimately uplifting documentary about a major public health issue that, unlike so many others, has a positive resolution within sight.*  
—Video Rating Guide for Libraries

28 min | color | 1992  
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$225  
**Order #HCA-05**

## The Bicycle

A Film by Katerina Cizek

A National Film Board of Canada Production



Pax Chingawale pedals his bicycle over 20 km a day visiting often-neglected villagers in southern Malawi on a grassroots campaign against AIDS. Pax is not a doctor or nurse but a retired government auditor who volunteers with Canada's Dignitas International, helping to make life-extending anti retroviral drugs accessible to the world's most vulnerable.

THE BICYCLE is an intimate look at AIDS through Pax's eyes. It is the sobering yet inspirational story of how local communities can join up with global medical experts to battle the world's deadliest pandemic—and win.

 **2006 Margaret Mead Film and Video Festival**

17 min | color | 2006  
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$248 **CC**  
**Order #HCA-06**



## It's My Life

A Film by Brian Tilley

There are 4.7 million South Africans currently infected with the HIV virus and, despite the fact that anti-retroviral medicines allow people with HIV to lead almost normal lives, the South African government has failed to provide them in public hospitals and clinics. More damning, the President of the country, Thabo Mbeki, has consistently questioned the link between HIV and AIDS.



Zackie Achmat, the HIV positive acting chairperson of the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC), has decided not to take anti-retroviral medicines until they are made available by the government in public hospitals and clinics. IT'S MY LIFE follows Zackie as he leads a court battle against the multi-national drug companies to allow the introduction of cheaper, generic drugs, and takes on the South African government for its confusing policies around HIV/AIDS.

*"A disturbing window into the suffering of the HIV-infected South African population as it chronicles the desperate actions of Achmat to change the government's position concerning its health care obligations to its citizens. It delivers a potent message about the roles of government and pharmaceutical companies in the conflict over affordable AIDS drugs."*  
—Journal of Law, Medicine and Ethics

 **Special Award for Human Rights Awareness, 2002 One World International Human Rights Film Festival (Prague)**

72 minutes | color | 2001  
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$248  
**Order #HCA-07**



## Everything Must Come To Light

**A Film by Mpumi Njinge & Paulo Alberton**

A co-production of The Gay and Lesbian Archives of South Africa, and the Out in Africa Gay and Lesbian Film Festival



EVERYTHING MUST COME TO LIGHT tells the unusual stories of three dynamic lesbian sangomas (traditional healers) in Soweto, South Africa.

Articulate and sympathetic, these women share their stories willingly. After leaving their husbands, two of the women were visited by their relatives, who instructed them to take wives. They explored their sexuality as a result of this commandment, and became intimate with other women.

The relationship between the Sangomas and their ancestors, the roles the ancestors play in Sangoma healing powers, and the role they play in shaping Sangoma sexuality are focal points in this documentary.

*"A fascinating documentary. [The film] provides excellent opportunities for discovery and dialogue around southern African culture and history and around intersections between gender and lesbianism, sex roles, and current politics."*—Feminist Collections Quarterly

 **2002 African Studies Association Film Festival**

25 minutes | color | 2002  
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$225  
**Order #HCA-08**

## 6000 A Day: An Account of a Catastrophe Foretold

**A Film by Philip Brooks**

6000 A DAY: AN ACCOUNT OF A CATASTROPHE FORETOLD reveals how the world's top decision makers knowingly failed to prevent the spread of AIDS. It examines the failure of key individuals and governments to act as they allowed an avoidable catastrophe to fester.

Why did the world wait so long to react? This film dissects the key moments in the global response to the AIDS epidemic. Supported by archives and testimonies, 6000 A DAY: AN ACCOUNT OF A CATASTROPHE FORETOLD reveals the indifference and ignorance in the response to HIV/AIDS.



*"Encapsulates the international reaction, or rather the lack thereof, to the AIDS crisis since its discovery, and examines the social, political, and economic barriers that have obstructed a concerted worldwide public health response to the epidemic."*—AIDS Book Review Journal

 **2002 African Studies Association Film Festival**


 **2002 Amnesty International Film Festival**

55 minutes | color | 2001  
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$248  
**Order #HCA-09**

## Song of the Soul: Stories of Hospice in South Africa

**A Film by Janet S. Parrott**



 In SONG OF THE SOUL: STORIES OF HOSPICE IN SOUTH AFRICA six female American health practitioners visit South African hospice programs and engage in cross-cultural conversations about women, terminal illness, and care giving. With an accompanying film crew, they meet patients, caregivers, nurses, physicians, and administrators in both urban-based hospices and a rural program in central South Africa.

40 min | color | 2010  
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$248  
**Order #HCA-10**

The perspectives of the American women increase our understanding of this innovative and successful model to manage progressive, life-threatening diseases, one that is nearly unique in the world of hospice. The women on the trip came away surprised by the successes, frustrated by the challenges, informed by the delivery systems, and inspired by the relentless determination not to fail.

## Ordering Information

Please refer to order numbers on all orders.

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**Previews:** Films may be previewed for purchase consideration by established video libraries.

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