



They Are We

A film by Emma Christopher, Ph.D.
An Icarus Films Release

“An inspiration.”

—United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

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LOGLINE

Anthropologist's film unites a family split by the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

SYNOPSIS

In Central Cuba, members of the Gangá-Longobá community have kept their African heritage alive. Despite decades of brutal enslavement, revolution and religious persecution, they have retained a collection of distinct songs and dances.

Working closely with the community, anthropologist Christopher documented these and then set out on a single-minded quest: she spent years showing footage of these ethnographic songs and dances to thousands of people across Sierra Leone and seeking recognition.

Eventually, in an isolated village without road access, a man looked in wonder as he watched a recording of the songs and said, "*They are we!*"

The man and his community recognized the songs and dances clearly despite the passage of 200 years. Joyous music and dance and thoughtful, dignified interviews bring the reunion of the men and women living in Cuba with their family members in Sierra Leone for the first time since slavery tore them apart.

SELECTED FILM FESTIVALS

Official Film, United Nations Remembrance of Slavery Day 2015
Best Documentary, Bare Bones Film & Music Festival Oklahoma 2014
Best Documentary Feature, DocMiami International Film Festival 2014
Best International Film, Bronze Lens Film Festival of Atlanta 2014
African Diaspora International Film Festival 2014 Washington D.C. 2014
New York African Film Festival 2014
African Diaspora Film Festival New York 2014
San Diego Black Film Festival 2014
Texas Black Film Festival Dallas 2014
Africa In Motion Scotland African Film Festival 2014
London Latin American Film Festival 2014
Island of Music Festival Vancouver 2014
Celebration ATL 2014 Atlanta 2014
Capital City Black Film Festival Austin 2014
Just Festival 2014, Edinburgh 2014
Helsinki African Film Festival 2014
Festival International du Film Panafricain Cannes 2014
Ethnografilm Film Festival Paris 2014
PanAfrican Film Festival Los Angeles 2014
Smithsonian National Museum of African Art 2014

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Dr. Emma Christopher is an academic historian, writer and anti-slavery campaigner who is on the faculty at the University of Sydney and currently holds a five-year Australian Research Council Fellowship. She has previously held fellowships at Yale University and Monash University, and has worked extensively in West Africa. Her first book, *Slave Ship Sailors and their Captive Cargoes*, was hailed as “the most important book on the Atlantic slave trade in a very long time”; her second book, *A Merciless Place*, jointly won the Ernest Scott Prize for best book in Australian history and won the Kay Daniels Prize for best book in Australian colonial history. Her new book, *The Devils at Hotel Africa*, about a slave ‘factory’ at Cape Mesurado, Liberia, is coming soon. *They Are We* is her first feature film.

IN THE PRESS

“Fascinating!” —*Indiewire*

“A movie that changed lives before it was even released.” —*Havana Times*

"A breezily uplifting saga of people who did much, much more than just survive."
—*Straight Movies*

“A riot of gorgeous colors and joyous sounds.” —*Straight Movies*

“They are all of we” —*Filmfest DC*

“An inspiration... This is indeed [a] victory over slavery” —United Nations
Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

Online PressRoom

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FILM CREDITS

Film Title:	<i>They Are We</i>
Country of Production:	Australia
Year:	2014
Running time:	77 minutes
Director:	Emma Christopher
Cinematographers:	Javier Labrador Lansana Mansaray
Sound Editor:	Damian Rubiera
Editor:	Joanna Montero
Producer:	Emma Christopher
Co-Producer:	Sergio Leyva Seiglie



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