

# SHOUTING SILENT

A film by Renee Rosen and Xoliswa Sithole



Documentary, 2002  
50 min, Video, Color  
Subtitled

## Credits

Director	Renee Rosen
Producer	Xoliswa Sithole
Script	Renee Rosen & Xoliswa Sithole
Camera	Natalie Haarhoff
Editing	Sharon Hawkes
Music	Andile Yenana



## Synopsis

*Shouting Silent* explores the South African HIV/AIDS epidemic through the eyes of Xoliswa Sithole, an adult orphan who lost her mother to HIV/AIDS in 1996. Xoliswa journeys back home in search of other young women who have also lost their mothers to HIV/AIDS and are now struggling to raise themselves (and, in many cases, their siblings) on their own. As the filmmaker poignantly shares, "When my own mother died of AIDS five years ago I never thought that I would make and appear in a film where I would revisit the pain. I was already in my twenties and an only child, but the young girls in the film are barely teenagers. Their lives are completely broken being forced into basic survival and raising their siblings - their hopes and dreams deferred, perhaps forever."

Sithole lyrically interweaves their unsettling stories with highly stylized imagery to help convey her own painful memories and document the grim statistics of HIV infection in Africa. These testimonials powerfully demonstrate how entire generations of young people are growing up without their parents and chronicles the devastating impact the AIDS pandemic is having on orphaned children in South Africa. An arresting and timely piece, *Shouting Silent* is also a cinematographic gem that artistically and meditatively captures how these young women are quickly slipping through the cracks of society.

## Festivals

New York African Film Festival  
Washington DC Independent Film Festival, *Grand Jury Prize*  
San Francisco Black Film Festival, *2nd Prize*  
South Africa Documentary Film Festival  
Sithengi Film Festival, Cape Town, South Africa  
Pan-African Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou (FESPACO)

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WMM · 462 Broadway, 5<sup>th</sup> floor · New York, NY 10013 · email: [cinema@wmm.com](mailto:cinema@wmm.com) · [www.wmm.com](http://www.wmm.com)