

RISE AND DREAM

A C F C A documentary film



ABOUT THE FILM

Parents everywhere want the best for their children. Mothers and fathers work hard to support their kids, trying to give them the opportunity to reach their potential, helping them to “Rise and Dream.”

That optimism is clear in this story of 13 teenagers living with the challenges of poverty in a volatile region of the Philippines.

When the teens volunteer to learn the music traditions of their culture for a once-in-a-lifetime concert, the task is more difficult than they first imagined. Playing the instruments with precision is nuanced, the rehearsal schedule is demanding, and then there’s school and work.

As some of the best Filipino folk musicians sign on to open for the kids and the expected attendance for the show triples in size, the pressure mounts. The story follows the teens through their music practice and into their neighborhoods and homes. The kids approach the challenges of poverty with dignity and embrace religious diversity among a population of Christians, Muslims and other religious backgrounds.

The perseverance of the teens as they prepare for the concert is inspiring, but the triumph of the teens and their families in their everyday lives invites us to a new understanding of people living in poverty.

ABOUT CFCA

“Rise and Dream” is produced by Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA). The teens and families featured in the documentary are participants in CFCA’s sponsorship and scholarship programs.

CFCA is a Kansas City-based nonprofit organization that brings support and hope to children, the aging and families who struggle to overcome poverty. The Philippines is one of 22 countries where CFCA works.

Founded in 1981, CFCA serves more than 300,000 children and elderly from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds. Through the support of primarily U.S.-based sponsors, CFCA provides basic life necessities such as food, education and health care, and offers opportunities for families to become self-sustaining.

CFCA hopes that the film will serve as an inspiration for all those working for positive change and unity in our world today. For more information about CFCA, please visit hopeforafamily.org.

CONTACT US

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TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Run time: 98 minutes

Rating: Unrated

Language: English and some
Filipino with English subtitles

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BERNADINE COLISH • editor

Bernadine Colish has edited a number of award-winning documentaries.

Most recently, *Herb and Dorothy* (2008) won the Audience Award at the Silverdocs, Philadelphia and Hamptons film festivals, and *Body of War* (2007) was named Best Documentary by the National Board of Review. *A Touch of Greatness* (2004) was nominated for an Emmy Award. *The Buffalo War* (2001) won a Golden Gate Award for Best Environmental Film at the San Francisco International Film Festival.

Additional credits include *The Tiger Next Door*; *Absolute Wilson*; and for PBS: *Ella Fitzgerald: Something To Live For*; *Muslims*; and *Beyond the Motor City*.

PAUL PEARCE • executive producer

In his leadership role as director of global strategy with CFCA, **Paul Pearce** is responsible for the organizational structure and direction of overseas programs.

Paul has traveled to the Philippines yearly since 1998, observing the strength, talent and perseverance of the poorest segment of the population. The documentary film project “*Rise and Dream*” grew in part from the profound effect the people living in such harsh conditions made on Paul.

The Filipino spirit in Zamboanga, a city in the southern Philippines where the film takes place, radiates joy and song, despite the oppressive and violent realities the people face every day. Paul feels that the film and its music represent a celebration of the freedom CFCA helps its sponsored children and their families achieve. This is Paul’s first producing credit on a feature-length documentary film.

LORETTA SHEA KLINE • producer

Loretta Shea Kline brings her storytelling and journalism skills to her position as producer on “*Rise and Dream*.”

Loretta joined CFCA in 2000 as publications editor and was named communications director in 2006. A graduate of Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, she has worked in communications for nonprofit organizations and as a journalist in the secular and Catholic media.

Before joining CFCA, Loretta was a reporter with *The Catholic Key*, the newspaper of the Kansas City-St. Joseph Diocese; a freelance correspondent for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*; editor/reporter for the *St. Louis Suburban Journals*; and worked in public relations for the Girl Scout Council of Greater St. Louis. This is her first documentary and her first producer credit.

JUDY-ANNE GOLDMAN • director/producer

Judy-Anne Goldman combines her experience in film production and journalism as director and a producer for “*Rise and Dream*.” In film and video, Judy-Anne has worked on theatrical and independent films, network movies and miniseries.

As a journalist, Judy-Anne’s experience includes staff positions and freelancing for print and online publications, including *The St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, *The Kansas City Star*, *The Malibu Times* newspaper and magazine, *Architectural Digest* and the *St. Louis Journalism Review*, among others. She received a master’s degree from the University of Missouri’s School of Journalism in 2007, which included an internship producing multimedia content for *The Washington Post*.

Judy-Anne is multimedia manager/producer for CFCA. This is her first documentary feature.



Left to right: Loretta, Paul, Michele, Barclay and Judy-Anne

BARCLAY MARTIN • composer

Kansas City-based singer/songwriter Barclay Martin has been a recording artist since 2000. He has invested his talent and passion in support of CFCA and other charitable causes.

For “*Rise and Dream*,” Barclay traveled to the Philippines several times as guest music director for the concert documented in the film. He worked with and learned from the Filipino musicians and teenagers who are featured in the documentary.

In his role as composer for “*Rise and Dream*,” Barclay wrote 11 songs and additional music for the film score. This is his first time as composer for a feature-length film.

MICHELE BATLINER • associate editor

Michele Batliner serves as multimedia editor for Christian Foundation for Children and Aging. A graduate of the University of Central Missouri’s film and broadcasting program, she worked as an intern for the production department at KMOS-TV. Michele also studied film theory and video production in the UK at Buckinghamshire Chilterns University. She brings her editing skills as well as her storytelling ability as associate editor on *Rise and Dream*.

Since joining CFCA in 2008, Michele has traveled to Guatemala and Chile to help document the 8,000-mile solidarity walk of CFCA President and Co-founder Bob Hentzen. She works with multimedia team members around the world to help tell the stories of families living in poverty.

Rise and Dream is Michele’s first feature-length documentary.

JUDY-ANNE GOLDMAN • director/producer

As CFCA's multimedia manager/producer, Judy-Anne brings the inspiring stories from CFCA families around the world to life. Judy-Anne helps lead an international team of communications professionals to showcase CFCA families in videos, photography and online content.

**DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

At the core of “Rise and Dream” is a gift. Executive Producer Paul Pearce and others involved in the film wanted to offer a concert to a special community in the southern Philippines where music is a daily answer to the question of survival. Not only do the people of this community have poverty to deal with, they live in the midst of a conflict zone.

Paul and I and most of the core film crew work to end the cycle of poverty through an international nonprofit organization, Christian Foundation for Children and Aging. CFCA works with people of all faiths in 22 developing countries. Our work is full of stories — stories of tremendous strength, courage and love.

We learn so much from the people we serve. They inspire us.

During the making of this film, the teens and their families were constant sources of insight. Ainee's comments were wise beyond her years. She said that even though she faced difficulties in life, “There's a new way or a new day to face. Like a new song.”

The teens and their families' strength showed through in their humor, too. Rex gave us a tour of his house. After showing us the one small room where the five family members sleep on the floor each night, he turned to the camera with a giggle, saying, “Kinda big, right?”

A favorite quote from the film comes from a comment made by Abbas, a father of a CFCA sponsored child. Abbas designed and led the construction of the concert stage. While talking about his life, his thoughts and philosophies, this statement was resounding: “I believe, in every human being, sometimes your talent is hidden.”

Abbas and his wife Jeannie have eight children. Their parenting is loving and full of joy, despite not always having enough to feed their family. One day during the concert preparation, Jeannie said, smiling widely, “We don't always have enough to eat, but we always have laughter!”

The concert was created to say “Thank you” for the lessons of enormous effort and resiliency families living in poverty teach us.

When Paul thought of giving music as a gift, he couldn't stop there. He decided to film the concert and document the lives of the 13 teens who volunteered to learn to play traditional Filipino instruments and serve as the headlining act for this once-in-a-lifetime concert. Sharing this story and these extraordinary families on film is our gift to the world.

Our goal for “Rise and Dream” is to share a very different view of poverty than most people perhaps expect to see. It's the understanding that poverty is a condition; it doesn't define who we are.

From CFCA's 30 years of working in economically challenged communities, we continually have seen people working hard and surmounting their circumstances by using their talents, abilities and commitment to giving their families a better life.

Our hope is that audiences will connect with the film's stars – the teens – and take away a motivating inspiration to join their effort, as Mahatma Ghandi said, “to be the change you want to see in the world.”

PAUL PEARCE • executive producer

As CFCA's director of global strategy, Paul is responsible for all overseas organizational structures and program direction. He monitors the fiscal effectiveness of benefits and programs provided to sponsored individuals and leads a team that travels extensively to evaluate CFCA projects around the world.

**Q&A WITH EXECUTIVE PRODUCER PAUL PEARCE****What was the inspiration behind making “Rise and Dream?”**

The idea was to capture how people living in poverty can be an inspiration for the rest of the world, through their perseverance and hope despite their daily survival struggles. Many times people living in poverty are treated as if they are in a great abyss, with nothing but their need to offer the rest of the world. We wanted to make a film that dispelled this myth. We wanted to challenge ourselves and others to truly give the poor a voice — to give them the microphone for once and let them share what they think and feel.

Why did you choose the Philippines and the Zamboanga community in particular as the location for the concert?

We chose to feature the community in Zamboanga because not only do they have poverty to deal with, but they live in the middle of a conflict zone in the southern Philippines. This conflict zone is one of the oldest active conflicts in the world, second only to the war in Sudan. Zamboaguenos are proud of the community that they strive to create in a diverse and economically suffering region. We wanted to take the audience for this film to the front lines where the struggle for unity is larger than the struggle for division. We wanted to offer this particular community a special event in the concert and give a diverse group of young persons a chance to tell their story.

What was the biggest challenge in the production of the movie, be it the script, principal photography or during the post-production stage?

I think connecting the audience emotionally to an ensemble cast of 13 youth presented a healthy challenge. We are really happy with the result. Part of the story is that all of these youth are worthy of our encouragement and support, and there are millions just like them around the world.

What was your favorite part about the process of making this film?

We began to see the beauty of these young people and parents that we got to know come alive on screen. I can't tell you how many times we have reviewed scenes, and I am moved every time. The dignity of these families and the craft of filmmaking were beginning to transport us, and that was exciting.

Who would you say is “the audience” for this film? Do you want to reach everyone possible, or any particular type of filmgoer?

I think there is a broad audience for “Rise and Dream.” Those who want to see that the human spirit is alive and well, and is continuing to overcome countless obstacles in the world will be drawn to “Rise and Dream.” Those who care about families living in poverty, I think, will really be encouraged by watching this film. Persons who care about education and young people who doubt if education is worth the hassle here in the United States, I think, will be inspired by these Filipino youth. Parents who want to help their own children to see how other kids around the world live, work and study hard will find the film to be a great resource. I think those interested in music and its ability to keep cultural significance alive will take heart in the film.

What would you say to someone on the street to compel them to see your film instead of the latest blockbuster playing at the local megaplex?

If you want to get some hope about the world, see our film.

What did you and the film team learn through the process of making “Rise and Dream?”

Throughout the process we had the honor of learning and experiencing the ancient grace of the Filipino people that is kept alive today in the impoverished masses, the folkloric musicians and the philosophers of a proud people.

What is your advice to other nonprofits wanting to share their stories through feature documentary films?

I encourage them to seek a story that represents their core values, beliefs and uniqueness as a nonprofit. That way, viewers can come to know their mission to a reasonable depth and discover nonprofits that line up with their own value systems.

Does CFCA have any other videos or documentaries in the works?

We do. Bob Hentzen, president and co-founder of CFCA, just completed a nearly 8,000-mile walk from Guatemala to Chile. We are working on a 20- to 40-minute short film that captures this incredible testament of love and solidarity for families living in poverty.

We also have a series of short pieces that we create throughout the year that are available on our website, www.hopeforafamily.org, or our CFCA YouTube and Vimeo channels. We release new videos on a monthly basis. Our goal is to invite persons into the CFCA worldwide community of compassion and service through authentic coverage and storytelling. Each year, approximately 1,000 sponsors travel with us overseas to meet the children they sponsor. We believe video can enable folks who don't have the opportunity to travel overseas to come to know these families on the other side of the sponsorship relationship.

The film is very motivating. After seeing it, how can someone get involved and help other kids like the youth in this movie?

They can sponsor a child or young person waiting to enroll in our program. If a person is moved by what they see in the film, I encourage them to go to www.hopeforafamily.org where we have about 1,000 youth waiting for a sponsor. We can't offer these educational and other life-changing opportunities without people stepping forward. It really happens one by one. We are trying to get the resources of this world in motion in favor of families living in poverty, in true partnership with them. Sponsorship is a commitment, but it is a doable commitment.



Left, Paul performs with CFCA President and Co-founder Bob Hentzen. Right, Paul talks with cast members Abbas and Barclay before the concert.

PRODUCED BY

Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA)

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Paul Pearce

PRODUCER

Loretta Shea Kline

DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER

Judy-Anne Goldman

EDITOR

Bernadine Colish

CINEMATOGRAPHER

John Nosack

COMPOSER

Barclay Martin

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Michele Batliner

ADDITIONAL EDITING

John Nosack

**FEATURING
(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER):**

Ainee Lim
Annaliza Espartero
Christian Llanes
Christian Mandi
Harold Banguis
Lorie Ann Gidacan
Mark Tillah
Miguel Perez
Rex Caspe
Ryan ("Ouch") Ballon
Ryan Sumicad
Wengie Magallon
Xarina Fae Acuña
and their families

**ALSO FEATURING (IN ORDER
OF APPEARANCE):**

Paul Pearce
Barclay Martin
Albert Sumicad
Mario Lim
Edwin Magallon
Juvy Magallon
Claribel Acuña
Eleazar Acuña

Julietta Lim
Felix Ballon
Leticia Tillah
Bernardo Tillah
Abbas Bidin
Maribel Mandi
Rose Estrellas
Roy Llanes
Rizza Jeane Llanes

**TRADITIONAL MUSIC
INSTRUCTORS:**

Popong Landero
Christine Lim
Mario Lim

**CONCERT PERFORMERS (IN
ORDER OF APPEARANCE):**

Claretian Young Performing Artists of Lamitan
Mebuyan Peace Project
Popong Landero Organization
Kalumon Performing Ensemble
Joey Ayala
The CFCA Scholars
Barclay Martin

**CAMERA OPERATORS AT
CONCERT:**

Ralp Subebe
Manuel "Boy" Araneta
Raul Andalis
Lee Meily
Ulysses Makiling

LIVE SOUND ENGINEER

Donjie Almedra

LIVE CONCERT RECORDING

John Story

**POST PRODUCTION
COORDINATOR**

Emily Brandjord

GRAPHICS/TITLE DESIGN

Edward Watson

SOUND

Re-Recording Mixer
Peter Levin

SOUND EDITOR

Barbara Parks

AUDIO POST FACILITY

Splash Studios, NYC

**ADDITIONAL SOUND
ENGINEERING**

John Story

ADDITIONAL SOUND MIXING

Noel Selders, Bazillion Pictures

COLORIST/ONLINE EDITOR

Jon Fordham

ONLINE FACILITY

Frame:Runner NYC

ADDITIONAL CAMERAS:

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Raul Andalis

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Nelmar Palalon
Mildred Bonhardt

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Carlos Casas

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NEWSREEL FOOTAGE

Courtesy of ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation

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The families of the CFCA-Zamboanga community
CFCA-Zamboanga staff and volunteers
The Aeta, Bajao, Dumagat and Subanan communities

CFCA staff in Antipolo, Legazpi, Manila and Quezon
CFCA sponsors
The city of Zamboanga
To all those in the Philippines who so kindly contributed to the concepts of the concert and the film

MUSIC

"(They Long To Be) Close To You"
Written by Burt Bacharach and Hal David
Courtesy of WB Music Corp. o/b/o New Hidden Valley Music Company (ASCAP) and Casa David LP

"Raindrops"
Written and Performed by Barclay Martin

"The Wheel"
Written and Performed by Barclay Martin

"Soldiers of Peace"
Written and Performed by Barclay Martin

"One by One"
Written by Barclay Martin
Performed by Barclay Martin Ensemble

"Rise and Dream"
Written and Performed by Barclay Martin

"Miracle"
Written by Barclay Martin
Performed by Barclay Martin Ensemble



LINKS

BBC News Philippines profile:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-15521300>

CFCA journalist fact sheet:

<http://www.hopeforafamily.org/AboutUs/ForJournalists.aspx>

CFCA's work in the Philippines:

<http://www.hopeforafamily.org/OurWork/Philippines.aspx>

How sponsorship works:

<http://www.hopeforafamily.org/GetInvolved/Sponsor.aspx>

CFCA Scholarship Program:

<http://www.hopeforafamily.org/scholarship>

CFCA history:

<http://www.cfcausa.org/AboutUs/WhoWeAre/FoundersStory.aspx>