

# NO FEAR NO FAVOR



Communities fight Africa's poaching crisis  
by protecting wildlife for future generations



Director/Cinematographer: Mirra Bank  
Producers: Richard Brockman, Mirra Bank

A production of Nobody's Girls, Inc. c.2020

# NO FEAR NO FAVOR

## CONTACT

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## SYNOPSIS

*No Fear No Favor* illuminates the wrenching choices faced by rural Africans who live where community meets wilderness—on the front lines of Africa’s poaching crisis. Filmed over several years in Zambia’s vast Kafue National Park, as well as in North Kenya and Namibia, the film follows local women and men who fight the illegal wildlife trade through both cooperative law enforcement and community-led conservation that sustains wildlife, returns profit to local people, and generates new livelihoods.

*No Fear No Favor* reveals that when the connection between poverty and poaching is disrupted - people and wildlife can thrive equally, side by side.





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**MIRRA BANK**  
Director  
Producer  
Cinematographer



Mirra Bank's work has been screened and celebrated internationally. A selection of her previous features include: *The Only Real Game* (Netflix premiere), Best Documentary, NYIFF; American Spirit Award, Sedona Film Festival; *Last Dance* (Sundance Channel), short-listed for an Academy Award, Golden Gate Award, SFIFF; American Film Institute Ten Best Docs of the year; *Nobody's Girls*, (PBS

non-fiction special) Cine Golden Eagle, Chris Award; *Enormous Changes* (ABC Video, BBC, Sky Channel), premiered at Sundance and Toronto, international theatrical release. Bank is a member of the Documentary Branch of the Academy, a MacDowell Fellow, a founding member of New Day Films. She serves on the Advisory Board of the Bronx Documentary Center, and on the Board of Directors of the National Board of Review of

Motion Pictures. She is a past president of NY Women in Film and Television, and currently serves on their Advisory Board.

**RICHARD BROCKMAN**  
Producer  
Additional Camera



Richard Brockman is a physician, writer, and filmmaker. In addition to *No Fear No Favor*, his film producing credits include: Co-producer for both *The Only Real Game* (Netflix) and *Nobody's Girls* (PBS/CPB). Brockman's film writing includes the screenplay, *Good Behavior*, which won awards from The New York Foundation for the Arts, The Texas Film Institute, The South by Southwest Film Festival, and Cynosure. His plays include *Angels Don't Dance*, *5 o'clock*, *Informed Consent* and *Lake Effect*.

His play *Air Rites* is currently in development. His work has been produced off-Broadway in New York, in London, and at regional theaters in the US and abroad. Honors include the NYFA Individual Artist Fellowship in Screenwriting, NYSCA, the Samuel French Best Play Festivals, the 7 Devils Playwrights Conference, Mid-America Theatre

Conference, New Ink Play Festival, the National Winter Playwrights Retreat among others.

# NO FEAR NO FAVOR

## Characters

### SPORT



SPORT is the Founder and CEO of Game Rangers International (GRI). As a teenager he and his family had to flee their native Zimbabwe during Robert Mugabe's rise to power. SPORT served with the British Marines in Cambodia, but his heart remained in Africa. "We have to show people that it's possible to live in harmony, and side by side, with wildlife." SPORT returned to create GRI, partnering with the Zambian government's anti-poaching program to protect Kafue's wildlife. With the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, he established two elephant orphanage programs: the Lilayi Elephant Nursery, and Phoenix Orphanage and Release Project, which serve all of Zambia - "Rescuing every single elephant counts."

### ANETY



ANETY is one of Zambia's armed wildlife police officers, as well as a single mother raising three young girls. In the course of carrying out both anti-poaching field operations and undercover work, ANETY is sometimes arrested along with poachers she has identified. "If people know you are gathering information - they can kill you," she says. One of ANETY'S little girls wants to protect wildlife that fills her with wonder. ANETY tells us, "When she sees a zebra she asks, 'Who has been writing on that animal?' This 8 year-old wants to follow in ANETY'S footsteps. Like ANETY, she wants to make sure it is not just "history that we had elephants, we had all these species..."

### KINGSLEY



KINGSLEY, a longtime elephant poacher whom we meet entering the bush with an AK-47 on his shoulder, describes how he 'hammered' elephants, then disguised himself as a woman to avoid capture en route to market with his ivories. KINGSLEY grew up on his grandparents' farm, struggling to make ends meet - "We are poor... To lack of money, lack of education we go into poaching.... and those ivories can fly." Law enforcement caught up with KINGSLEY, and gave him a choice. In a stunning reversal, he begins work as a Village Scout, guarding baby elephants against poachers at the Phoenix Release facility. He tracks down the wildlife killers he once worked with. KINGSLEY now teaches his 5 children by example that healthy wildlife is the future. Every poached tusk means a dead elephant and a huge loss for Zambia's youth. "I see the profit and the goodness of the animal...in Zambia we have blessings. Your child, you cannot fail."



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## Characters, cont.

### KELVIN



KELVIN, Education Director at Lilayi Elephant Nursery, helped rescue orphaned baby elephant, SUNI. She had been mutilated with an ax by the poachers who killed her mother. Lilayi's staff and vets worked tirelessly to restore Suni to health, but she did not survive. Her brief life was happy: Suni and KELVIN developed a profound bond. "Why did that elephant accept me after she has been harmed by humans?" KELVIN asks. "The elephant accepted. She fully understood what kind of love I had for her." After Suni's death, KELVIN dedicated himself to teaching others, especially children, the value of elephants. He travels to schools by bike, often 60 km a day - "I can manage to reach over 3,000 children per month." He says, "We want to inspire the children so that when they are fully grown up" they will protect Zambia's wildlife. "These animals are the future for our children..."

### PATRICIA



PATRICIA is a Zambian-born community conservation specialist who earned her doctorate from the University of Florida, School of Natural Resources and Environment. She returned home to help rural communities manage wilderness animals and landscapes - while creating opportunities for improved livelihoods. "Wildlife is a critical resource, and people need to have ownership," she says. PATRICIA knows that Africa's burgeoning eco-tourism industry can transform poor communities - "Where people don't have alternatives there is little incentive to look after the wildlife. But where it's used for photographic tourism, where it's generating income - the communities can be the key stewards of that resource." Through strong local partnerships she helps the next generation of African conservation leaders, "So that they are the ones in the driving seat."

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## Additional Film Team

**Maxwell Anderson, Editor**, edited Mirra Bank's award-winning feature documentary *No Fear No Favor*, and co-edited her previous film *The Only Real Game*, featuring Oscar-winner, Melissa Leo. He was an additional editor on the upcoming *Welcome to Chechnya*, from director David France. He started out as production assistant on films by Jonathan Demme (*The Manchurian Candidate*), Gus Van Sant (*Last Days*), Mike Nichols (*Closer*), and Steven Spielberg (*War of the Worlds*). He has worked as assistant editor with Tia Lessin and Carl Deal (*Citizen Koch*), David Felix Sutcliffe (*Adama*), Tanaz Eshaghian (*Love Crimes of Kabul*), and Hava Beller (*In the Land of the Pomegranates*).

**Pamela Scott Arnold, Consulting Editor**, is a distinguished film and television editor whose work has earned her 11 Personal Emmy Nominations and a Dupont Award in Journalism (*Failure to Protect*, Frontline/PBS). She has often edited studies of cultural icons in music, the arts and contemporary American life. A small selection of her credits includes: ACE Award (*Phil Ochs*, American Masters/PBS); Best Feature Documentary, NYIFF (*The Only Real Game*/Netflix, by Mirra Bank); *The Age of Aerospace* (TV Mini-Series documentary); *Hitmakers: The Changing Face of the Music Industry* (TV Movie documentary); *Chicagoland* (TV Mini-Series documentary); *American Masters: Atlantic Records: The House that Ahmet Built*, a PBS 2 hour program about Atlantic Records co-founder Ahmet Ertegun.

**Eugen Bräunig, Archival Producer**, graduated with a degree in visual communication from the Berlin University of the Arts. He is both an accomplished short filmmaker - *There Are No Strangers Here*, Short Film Corner, Festival de Cannes 2016 - and an archival researcher and producer. Recent credits include: *Soundbreaking*, (PBS) Nominee, Grammy® Award - Best Music Film, 2018; *This Happened*, (MSNBC) 2018-19; *Sex, Lies and the Candidate, On Account of Sex, Secret War, Secret Deals; American Style*, (CNN) Official premiere, Tribeca TV® Festival, 2018; *Larry Charles' Dangerous World of Comedy*, (TV Series documentary) 2019; *21st Century Vogue*, 2019; *Material World*, 2019; *Born to Be Wild*, 2019; *War Boots to Work Suits*, 2019.

**Peggy Stern, Consulting Producer**, is an Academy Award-winning producer and director whose work in film and new media explores personal stories that reflect larger cultural, political and societal issues. In 2005, Stern and animator John Canemaker won Academy Awards for *The Moon and the Son: An Imagined Conversation*, a 28-minute animated short based on Canemaker's own life, and that of his immigrant grandfather. She and Canemaker have just completed the short animated film *Hands*, based on a story by Sherwood Anderson. Peggy's films have been shown on U.S. and international television and have won honors at festivals around the world, including the Cine Golden Eagle, a Golden Hugo and the National Geographic Earthwatch Film Award.

**Ken Takeuchi, Sound Design and Mix**, Senior Audio Engineer at OnoSound, NYC, is an innovator of 5.1 surround sound techniques. He has a long career in music and documentary sound design. His award-winning credits include: *Great Performances* (TV Series); *Harold Prince: The Director's Life*, 2018; *Sondheim! The Birthday Concert*, 2010; *Out of My Head*, (Documentary) 2017; *Live from Lincoln Center*, (TV Series) 2014-2016; *Joshua Bell: Seasons of Cuba*, 2016; *Sinatra: Voice for a Century*, 2015; *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street - In Concert with the New York Philharmonic*, 2014.



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## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

*No Fear No Favor* began with my concern about the alarming loss of species throughout our world, and my need to discover some working solutions to this problem that we have created. The stakes could not be higher. The 2019 UN Global Assessment reports that more than a million species are now threatened with extinction.



I drew on my strong relationships with environmental groups - in particular with **The Nature Conservancy** - to gain access to programs that sustain wildlife and habitats in southern Africa. Here, the many threats to the natural world include unregulated development; explosive population growth; severe drought due to climate change; unsustainable land use; neglect of sensitive ecosystems; the collusion of some government officials with international poaching cartels.

The \$20 Bn/year black market trade in trafficked wildlife is among the most visible problems Africa faces. While several documentaries have done a good job of investigating the illegal ivory trade, I sought out people who have joined the fight to disrupt that system close to home. I began by following the work of Zambia's anti-poaching unit in the Kafue wilderness and moved on to spend time with veterinary and orphan elephant rescue programs. Working as a spare, two-person crew, using lightweight HDV cameras in areas that were mostly off the grid, we entered the world of women and men who live among, and work with, endangered African wildlife.



My goal was to answer the question: "What can reverse the dynamic, so that Poachers become Protectors -- so that wildlife is worth more alive than dead? As we filmed in Zambia, Namibia, and North Kenya the answer emerged through the stories of our key characters. Anety is a single mother who works as a wildlife police officer; Kingsley is a former poacher who now protects orphaned elephants; Kelvin is the father of three small children who teaches the value of wildlife to schoolchildren living near the Kafue wilderness; Patricia is a UK and USA-trained

PhD. who returned to Zambia to help start community-led conservation in her home country.

# NO FEAR NO FAVOR

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Such local stakeholders - throughout the region - are natural partners in conservation. They have the greatest interest in sustaining local ecosystems, and rightly should benefit from them. I knew that where African wilderness is unprotected, elephants, rhinos, pangolins, and many other species, face decimation. But the big discovery for me was that, along with reliable law

enforcement, the most effective deterrent to wildlife crime is community engagement and benefit. Where natural areas are managed by Community Conservancies, wildlife rebounds. The profits of ecotourism - and other green enterprise - empower rural communities so that they become the enemies of poaching. And in each of the three countries where our film is set, Community Conservancies significantly expanded livelihoods -- particularly for women and girls.



*No Fear No Favor* took me on a hopeful journey.

I was able to bring back a story that is virtually unknown in the US - and one that I was eager to tell - of how communities can reclaim their wilderness heritage for future generations. And of how essential wildlife is to human well-being.

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Language: English

Run Time: 65:30

Aspect ratio: 1.78:1

Sound: 5.1 Surround Sound and Lt Rt Stereo

Screening formats: DCP, BluRay, ProResLT, DVD

## TRAILER / CONTACT

Trailer, 01:42

<https://vimeo.com/431117918>

Full film available on request -

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High resolution stills available for download -

<https://www.mirrabankfilms.com/s/No-Fear-No-Favor-Stills.zip>





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## CREDITS

Written and Directed by Mirra Bank

Produced by Richard Brockman & Mirra Bank

Edited by Maxwell Anderson

Cinematography and Location Sound—Mirra Bank

Additional Camera—Richard Brockman

Consulting Producer—Peggy Stern

Consulting Producers—Kristen McGary & Amy McGary, Screen Lloyd, LLC

Consulting Editor—Pamela Scott Arnold

Featuring in Zambia—

Kingsley Munsyamba, Elephant Protection, EOP/Former Poacher

Sport Beattie, Founder and CEO, GRI

Anety Milimo, Wildlife Police Officer, DNPW (Formerly ZAWA)

Patricia Mupeta, Strategy Director, TNC

Remco Dykstra, Technical Advisor, GRI

Liz O'Brien, Senior Advisor, GRI

Sylvain Hawawini, Wildlife Veterinary Project Manager, GRI

Kelvin Chanda, Education Officer, GRI

John Carter, GRI/Elephant Connection Project

Theo Olivier, Kafue Release Facility Manager, EOP

Lasick Kapeshi, Head Keeper, Kafue Release Facility, EOP

Featuring in Kenya—

Tom Lalampaa, CEO, Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT)

Josphine Ekiru, Peace Building Officer, NRT

Featuring in Namibia—

Erik Xaweb, Manager, Tsiseb Conservancy

Magreth Tanise and residents of Tsiseb Conservancy

Archival Producer and Clearance Supervisor—Eugen Bräunig

Consulting Archival Producer—Rebecca Losick

*continued on next page*

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## CREDITS, cont.

Zambia Drone Footage—  
Tyrone McKeith and Phil Jeffery, Jeffery & McKeith Safaris  
Zambia Fixer-Coordinator—Anita Balletto, A-Z Solutions  
Zambia Air Transport—Rupert Carss, Staravia

Namibia Dunes flying—Pasquale PV Scaturro  
Namibia Locations—Peer Roos  
Namibia Transport/Logistics—Jaco van Vuuren, Allround Namibia  
Namibia Unit Manager—Ribeiro Teixeira

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End Credit Design—Maxwell Anderson

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Transcription—Samantha Kahrar

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Accounting—Lutz & Carr, LLP

Post Production Facility—Goldcrest Post NY  
Colorist—Ken Sirulnick, CSI  
DI Assist—Jordan Thompson-DeSon



Graphic Design and Animation—  
Amit Sethi, A Mighty Film Design

Audio Post Production Services—  
ONOMATOPOEIA, Inc.  
Sound Mixer —Ken Takeuchi

Music By Oovra Music



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## GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

### **The Nature Conservancy**

Bill Ulfelder

and

Caroline King

David Banks

Matt Brown

Cori Messinger

### **Investigative Reporting Program/Berkeley Journalism**

Founded by Lowell Bergman

Dawn Porter

Kerry Smith

Gary L. Bostwick

John Else



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FUNDING AND PRODUCTION SUPPORT

**NYSCA**  
**NY WOMEN IN FILM & TELEVISION**  
**ANDREW SABIN FAMILY FOUNDATION**

NO FEAR NO FAVOR WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE NY STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS WITH THE SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR ANDREW CUOMO AND THE NY STATE LEGISLATURE.

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