



A DROP IN THE OCEAN

A DOCUMENTARY BY REFLEX FILM

A DROP IN THE OCEAN

A movie about dreams. What happens if we pursue them, what is demanded by the single individual and what are the consequences by putting your life at disposition for helping other people?

We create documentaries which challenge the viewer. They are movies which question our prejudices and view upon other people and the world we live in.



THE CHOICE

We have followed Sofia, a charismatic and determined young woman. Her dream is to help people who haven't had the same goods and conditions as she herself has had in Sweden. Sofia decides to make a difference. She makes a choice: Together with a friend, another young woman, she moves to one of the most dangerous areas in South Africa due to a high rate of crimes. They attempt to provide a better future for a group of children and youngsters by building a school to them. It's her inspiring travel that we have documented. The story attempts to plant a seed in the viewer that we all can make a difference even though it may feel as a drop in the ocean.

BACKGROUND



After having been studying for a period in Cape Town, Sofia and her friend decide to pause their lives to help poor children in Khayelitsha, the biggest township in the city. The two friends are deeply affected by the reality of the children in the South African townships, by all the poverty and despair. They decide to collect money for a better future, so at least some of the children in Khayelitsha can get a better life.

A photograph of a Swedish flag flying from a balcony. The balcony has white wooden railings and two flower boxes filled with red and white flowers. The background is a lush green garden with various plants and trees.

SWEDEN

Back in Sweden the two friends work hard to collect the necessary money to realize their common dream of making a difference. They lay the foundation for the NGO organisation CTO - Contribution to Opportunities - to create a professional frame for their common goal.

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CAPE TOWN

Finally, they land in Cape Town and their new life can begin. They are staying with Bradley, a white South African man whom they met during their first stay.

Living in Cape Town is far from their idea of how it should be before they departed from Sweden. They feel overwhelmed by meeting with the heavily criminalized South African culture. Before departing, they hadn't made a realistic conception of how their life would be in South Africa. In meeting with corrupt bureaucracy, their naive idea of how to fulfill their dream crumbles.

The frustrations among the friends grow and it gets more and more clear that Sofia and her friend don't have the same goal for their common dream. And their friendship is on the verge of a breakdown, when Sofia and their roommate, Bradley, get romantically involved with each other.



BREAK-UP

The friends agree to take a break from each other. Sofia's friend flies back to Sweden for a surprise visit during Christmas but just after having knocked on the door to her family's place, her world falls apart as she is told that her little brother committed suicide the very same day she left

from South Africa. The two friends face a very difficult and turbulent time. Despite their deep friendship, the grief, the unresolved tension and the distance between them turn out to be too much for them to handle.



CRISIS

Now Sofia is left all alone in Africa. She has not even started to live her dream of making a difference before everything crumbles around her. Loneliness and disillusion invade her. She misses Sweden and her family back home more than ever before.



OPPORTUNITIES

However, Sofia is made of solid material. Instead of giving up and returning to secure Sweden, she decides to pull herself together. In the middle of her chaotic situation, she meets the former gangster Mapanya, a black South African experienced in NGO work.

Mapanya is a very complex person, born and raised in the township Gugulethu in Cape Town. He was in prison for 17 years of his life. Since he was released, he has worked

with offering young criminals an alternative to a life of drug abuse and crime.

They agree to work together and to realize Sofia's new vision for the CTO: She aims to establish a NGO organisation with the purpose of helping and mentoring local initiatives and organizations which help children and youngsters get out of crime and drug abuse.



NEW DREAM



Sofia and Mapanya work hard and engaged for this new goal and they develop a friendship and a deep respect for each other. They manage to establish contact to many of the socially challenged young people in the township Gugulethu, where they also establish their office. They start to teach the young people how to take responsibility of their own lives. It is a demanding job, they constantly struggle with the funding.

Sofia happily works 10 hours a day, but her work tears on the relationship to Bradley, her boyfriend, who can't understand why Sofia works as she does and, on the top, in the most dangerous township in South Africa.

Sofia choses to break up with Bradley and is alone again in South Africa. This time, however, with a new dream and a strong belief that her contribution to the world isn't just a drop in the ocean.



SOFIA

In four years, we have been following Sofia's journey. From being a naive young woman in Sweden to the mature and determined woman she is today in South Africa. It started out as a dream of helping and has turned into a life, an everyday, where she helps and inspires other people to do as her: To follow your heart and dare to believe that just a drop in the ocean can make a difference.

VISUALLY

Visually, "A Drop in the Ocean" is partly narrated through a smartphone camera and a GoPro camera, with which Sofia has documented her life when we were absent. We have recorded with Sony FS7, shot in Slog2, so the image can be graded smoothly. The physical distance has become a way of narrating the story as we alternate between a private story in the first person perspective and a documented and constructed story in the third person perspective, which will be supported by a narrator's voice.

We have interviewed Sofia and her closest associates, followed her hard work in the different townships and her interaction with the local communities. Further, we have used "fact tellers", local people who tell hard facts about Cape Town and the surrounding townships to the camera. As an extra element, we use the wild and unique nature of Cape Town to underline the intense emotions on Sofia's journey.





REFLEX FILM

Reflex Film is a production company whose primary goal is to make movies about being human in all its aspects. Reflex Film were established by Ernesto Piga Carbone and Rune Nygaard, whose focus is small independent and documentary movies about the world we live in. they tell stories about people, their dreams, hopes and prejudices. The aim is for Reflex Film to create documentaries that challenge the viewer, to question our opinions and prejudices towards, for example; people, the world or beliefs. We challenge ourselves with each project to achieve aesthetic visual expression while keeping the story in focus.



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